

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1159 Monday, February 9, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	Marcie Zaharee
Stacey Jackson	

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Melinda Coyle
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representative Present:

Greg Savageau

Guests Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Principal, Glenwood Elementary School

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1158th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on January 26, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 26, 2009.

(R. Carter)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held January 26, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Conrad, James, Pantos and Zaharee abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson introduced Glenwood Elementary School Principal Anthony Gasbarro, who addressed the Committee, giving an overview of the many programs and activities taking place at Glenwood Elementary School. A question and answer session followed Mr. Gasbarro's address.

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment 3 of the Superintendent's Report and spoke of the MASC Joint Meeting/forum scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 17th. Any members interested in being registered to attend were asked to contact Rebecca Petersen.

Chair Watson reminded members of the new member orientation that will be given by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher on Saturday, March 21st, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Central Office. All School Committee members are welcome to attend.

7:21 PM Mr. Gasbarro left the meeting.

7:21 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

- B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Greg Savageau listed the many activities taking place at the high school, including Winter Carnival on February 7th, a series of

assemblies will be held on February 13th focusing on *Rachel's Challenge*, high school report cards will be distributed February 11th, the hockey team is undefeated, the drama department will be performing the third play of this year, various fundraisers are being conducted by students.

7:23 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, M. Coyle, R. Imber, D. Leith, M. Pantos, N. Plourde, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson reported on the February 3rd meeting of the Management Subcommittee. At that meeting, the subcommittee interviewed Superintendent Pandiscio in connection with his performance evaluation. The subcommittee will meet again on March 16th.

7:25 PM Greg Savageau left the meeting.

1. Amended Policy – AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Amended Policy – AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. Amended Policy – AP1410 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation New Member Orientation**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1410 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation New Member Orientation**, waiving the reading.

(J. Sova)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

4. Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**, waiving the reading.

(M. Zaharee)

(R. Pelczarski)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde

Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

5. Amended Policy – AP5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, Selection**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP5221 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Promotion, Recruitment, Selection**, waiving the reading.

(M. Pantos)
(M. Zaharee)

Vote:
In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

6. Amended Policy – AP1500 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Definition of Policy and Regulations**– first reading

Chair Watson explained that the Management Subcommittee is recommending additional amended language, including:

#1, sentence 2 to read: *Policies provide the parameters within which the District functions and create the governance structure for school district decisions.*

#2, sentence 2 to read: *As appropriate, and/or upon request, District administration shall make known to the Wachusett Regional District School Committee and the general public those administrative decisions, procedures and regulations that convert policy into action.*

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1500 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Definition of Policy and Regulations**, as read with additional amendments.

(M. Pantos)

(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, M. Zaharee)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet told that the January 28th subcommittee meeting had been canceled due to weather. The subcommittee will meet next on February 25th, at which time the Superintendent's evaluation will be an agenda item. Chair Watson reminded the Committee that all School

Committee members are welcome to attend subcommittee meetings, especially when the Superintendent's evaluation is on the agenda.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, D. Leith, M. Pantos, J. Sova)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee will have a brief meeting on February 12th, beginning at 7:00 PM, to be followed by a meeting with the Budget Advisory Task Force, posted to begin at 7:30 PM.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, N. Plourde)

Community Outreach Chair Cipro told the next meeting of this subcommittee will be February 23rd at 6:30 PM, immediately before the School Committee meeting.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

The Audit Advisory Board has not recently met. AAB Chair Conrad does not expect to call a meeting until sometime in the spring.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- I. Building Committee

- 1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith told the January 28th meeting was canceled due to weather. The Building Committee will meet on March 4th to approve bills and tend to other outstanding paperwork. Building Committee Chair Leith reported on the final projected-related work being done. Chair Leith reminded the Committee of the field house dedication ceremony that will take place before the start of the boys' basketball game on Monday, February 16th.

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (C. Bazinet), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson)

No School Council reports were given.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Carter's request, the Superintendent reported on meetings he's had with bargaining unit representatives in response to his request for consideration of a salary freeze.

At Member Zaharee's request, the Superintendent reported on parental reaction to "Saturday school."

Roger Hatch (DESE) and David Bunker (Executive Office of Education) will be presenting at a meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools on February 10th. The Superintendent and Business Manager Peter Brennan will be attending the MARS meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$336,471 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Naquag Elementary School

(R. Imber)

(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The Committee's attention was called to attachment 4 of the February 5, 2009 Superintendent's Report (attachment 2). The Superintendent gave an overview of what other schools charge for athletic fees. The Superintendent confirmed that the proposed increases would be effective beginning with the fall 2009 athletic programs.

Motion: To approve an increase in student athletic fees, as presented.

(M. Sherman)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

VI. Public Hearing

No members of the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools