

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1231 Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	James Mason
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris (7:40 PM)	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Robert Remillard
Robert Imber	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson (7:54 PM)	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Julianne Kelley	Athas Tsongalis
Deidre Kosky (8:28 PM)	Margaret Watson
Sarah LaMountain	

Committee Members Absent:

William Clute

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Emily Lindberg Emily Tomczyk

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

Chair Leith called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Members were provided with copies of the Corrected Agenda for the regular School Committee meeting (attachment 2).

I. Superintendent Search Focus Group

Chair Leith turned the meeting over to Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search Chair Hammond, who gave a report on the superintendent search process to date, and what can be expected moving forward. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond introduced Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee, who was at the meeting to conduct the School

Committee focus group in connection with the superintendent search. Mr. Koocher explained the purposes of focus groups and asked members for their input and suggestions to some speaking points he would share. The Committee's participation would be free flowing and informal. Most members of the Committee offered suggestions, expressed what they are looking for/hope will be taken into consideration when candidates are screened, and spoke to the points offered by Mr. Koocher. As the focus group was concluding, Chair Leith told Committee members to contact Mr. Koocher or Pat Correira at MASC if they had additional comments and/or questions.

7:35 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

On another topic, Mr. Koocher confirmed that he or another representative from MASC could be available to meet with the School Committee to explain the new superintendent evaluation process.

Chair Leith thanked Mr. Koocher for his participation and Mr. Koocher left the meeting.

7:37 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

II. Public Hearing

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

III. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1230th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 4, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on February 4, 2013

(S. Hammond)
(J. Mason)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held February 4, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Imber, Pelczarski, and Sciabarrasi abstaining.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that if there are questions regarding the report of the Director of Business and Finance, members should contact the Interim Superintendent; if there are questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Presentation by Nancy Hasselmann, Supervisor of Food Services

Chair Leith welcomed Mrs. Hasselmann, who was introduced by Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan. Director Sullivan cautioned the School Committee to keep questions and comments focused on Mrs. Hasselmann's presentation and food services provided in the District, and that previously shared confidential information should not be raised.

7:40 PM Member Harris joined the meeting.

Mrs. Hasselmann addressed the School Committee and showed a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 3). Members were also provided with a handout titled *Food Components and Vegetable Subgroups Using USDA Foods for Massachusetts* (attachment 4).

7:54 PM Member Jackson joined the meeting.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Hasselmann's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Chair Leith thanked Mrs. Hasselmann for addressing the School Committee.

B. Student Representatives

Emily Lindberg reported that Wednesday, February 13th, would be a half day of school due to professional development. She also reported that school vacation week was approaching, student valentines would be posted around the high school by members of the Student Council, the Business National Honor Society induction ceremony took place on February 12th, and this year's Soles4Souls shoe drive has concluded and was another success. Emily Tomczyk reported this year's Winter Carnival was canceled due to weather. She also announced a 5K walk/run in support of melanoma research will be held Saturday, March 30th.

C. Management Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, C. Cipro, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Chair Leith reminded members the Management Subcommittee is scheduled to meet at 5:00 PM on February 13th.

1. Deleted Policy – DP5263.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Bonus Incentive Pay** –second reading
(J. Mason)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

8:08 PM Student Representatives Emily Lindberg and Emily Tomczyk left the meeting.

- D. Education Subcommittee (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, L. Harris, R. Imber, K. Mills, R. Pelczarski, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported the Education Subcommittee meeting scheduled for February 11th had been canceled. He will re-schedule the meeting in the near future.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (R. Remillard, Chair, E. Scheinfeldt, Vice-chair, W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, D. Leith, J. Mason, M. Sciabarrasi)

Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee had convened just before this School Committee meeting and three school principals addressed the subcommittee and showed PowerPoint presentations (attachments 5, 6, 7). Presentations were made by Nancy Fournier, Central Tree Middle School; Dixie Herbst, Naquag Elementary School; and Siobhan Dennis, Glenwood Elementary School. Business/Finance Chair Remillard reminded members that copies of the principals' presentations to the Business/Finance

Subcommittee can be found in Dropbox. The final three principal presentations will be made beginning at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 25, 2013.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, M. Sciabarrasi, Vice-chair, L. Harris, J. Kelley, J. Mason, K. Mills, A. Tsongalis, M. Watson)

Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported the February 13th meeting of this subcommittee had to be canceled due to quorum issues. She asked that members of the Community Outreach Subcommittee advise her which evenings during the week might be better to meet, rather than Wednesdays.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (J. Mason, R. Remillard)

No report was made.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley reported that the public hearings in the five Member Towns have concluded. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley referenced comments made/input received during these public hearings and noted that this information had been included as an attachment in the February 8, 2013 Superintendent's Report. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley called members' attention to the eight motions that had been included on the agenda for this meeting, which require School Committee action. At Member Harris' inquiry, Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley confirmed that once the School Committee acts on these motions, District Counsel will prepare the motions for inclusion on Member Town Annual Meeting warrants. The School Committee will have the opportunity to review the motions prepared by District Counsel before they are sent to the Member Towns.

Motion: District Counsel to review and rewrite Section 1 based on motions passed.

(J. Kelley)
(S. Hammond)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley spoke to the motion.

Vote:
In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Downsize School Committee to 12 members (Holden 4; Rutland 2; Sterling 2; Paxton 2; Princeton 2) with a weighted voting system.

(J. Kelley)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

At Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley's request, Member Hammond spoke to the motion on the table and to the next two motions that will be brought before the School Committee. Member Hammond referenced his proposed School Committee size analysis, which had been provided to the School Committee earlier. Some members asked questions, which Member Hammond answered.

8:28 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Member Hammond's explanation and School Committee members' questions continued. Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 8). The motion on the table was re-read.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Steven Hammond

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Athas Tsongalis

Motion passed 12-7.

Motion: Downsizing schedule is to reduce half the number of open seats rounded up each election until town meets required number of seats. Should a member resign and that town is still above the required number of seats, that seat will be eliminated immediately.

(J. Kelley)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Each member's voting weight will be calculated on a yearly basis as of May 1st of any given year in accordance with the Member Town's annual census. Should a member resign and the position will not be replaced due to downsizing, the weight of votes will be recalculated immediately.

(J. Kelley)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To amend Section 9 to include the following:
When requested by a representative of Member Town's government, an electronic version of budget documents will be furnished at no charge.

The motion was discussed, with some members suggesting possible friendly amendments. Discussion ensued. Motion on the table was re-read, without being amended.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Cynthia Bazinet
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 17-2.

Section 14.1 AMENDMENTS

Motion: Replace first sentence of paragraph with the following:
The Wachusett Regional School District Agreement shall be reviewed every three (3) years by the Committee.

(J. Kelley)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills

Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Robert Pelczarski
Margaret Watson

Motion passed 13-6.

Section 14.2 AMENDMENTS

Motion: Replace the “Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education” in the first sentence with the following: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(J. Kelley)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Section 17 LEASE OF SCHOOLS

Motion: Add the following new paragraph:

17.7 Each maintenance agreement shall have a provision for the emergency use of school buildings and an annual maintenance audit upon renewal.

(J. Kelley)
(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leith took the opportunity to thank the five members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement for their hard work.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search (S. Hammond, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, R. Imber, D. Leith, R. Pelczarski, R. Remillard, M. Sciabarrasi, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported the focus group sessions have now been completed. The next meeting of this ad

hoc subcommittee will be scheduled within the next several weeks. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reminded the School Committee of the superintendent search timeline: deadline for applications is March 4, 2013, anticipating the appointing of the next Superintendent of Schools on April 9, 2013.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee has met twice since the last School Committee meeting. She reported on the February 5th and the February 11th meetings of the Mountview Building Committee. Member Watson let the School Committee know there will be a presentation to the School Committee about the Mountview project, to be made by Mountview Building Committee Chair Paul Challenger, on Monday, February 25, 2013.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee (D. Leith)

Chair Leith had nothing to report at this time. Chair Leith agrees with Member Kelley's comment made at the last School Committee meeting, advising and reminding that Green Repair projects need to be closed out when the projects are completed.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (A. Tsongalis), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Jackson, K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (L. Harris/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (S. Hammond/E. Scheinfeldt), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute/R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (C. Bazinet/M. Sciabarrasi/A. Tsongalis), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (J. Mason)

There were no School Council reports made.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported on the very positive meeting he, Darryll McCall, and Joseph Scanlon had with area police chiefs and officers on February 11, 2013. Four of the five Member Towns, plus West Boylston, and the State police were represented at the meeting. The general consensus

was that local police and the school district want to and plan to work together. Principals have been asked to complete “school safety audits,” which Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will report on to the School Committee.

9:23 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

Member Scheinfeldt asked the status of the Financial Operations Review conducted by MASBO the end of November. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported the DRAFT report has been received and is being reviewed and proof read by District staff. Upon completion of the reviews by District staff, the DRAFT report will be sent back to MASBO for production of the final report. He is hopeful this final report will be received by mid-March.

Because of the recent blizzard, the February 9th Annual School Committee Retreat was canceled. Chair Leith and Interim Superintendent Gasbarro are looking to re-schedule this annual event and for members’ preference for an alternate date. By a show of hands, it was determined the 2013 Annual School Committee Retreat would be held Saturday, March 2, 2013, 9:00 AM to 12 noon, in the Media Center of Wachusett Regional High School.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept the donation of science equipment to the Wachusett Regional School District, from Frey Scientific Corporation, coordinated by Rutland parent and resident Jon DiVito.

(A. Tsongalis)

(J. Mason)

Member Kelley wanted to publically thank Mr. DiVito for his efforts and to thank the Town of Holden for its willingness to find short term storage space for this science equipment, if that had been needed.

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard

Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

IX. New Business

Member Tsongalis told the Committee that Member Mason had taken it upon himself to offer to seek donations of school supplies from local vendors, an effort that Member Tsongalis joined. To date, Big Y Market, Staples, and Walmart have offered to donate supplies or money.

Member Watson mentioned a recent letter School Committee members had received by email from the ABA Program Assistants union president. Chair Leith told that the Management Subcommittee will be looking to amend School Committee Policy 1160, which may address Member Watson's questions and concerns.

- X. To go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, and pursuant to General Laws Chapter 39, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss a complaint against a public official and possible discipline, not to return to public session, unless the public official elects to have the matter discussed in open session.

Motion: To go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, and pursuant to General Laws Chapter 39, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss a complaint against a public official and possible discipline, not to return to public session, unless the public official elects to have the matter discussed in open session.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro

Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Erik Scheinfeldt
Athas Tsongalis
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent