

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1161 Monday, March 9, 2009

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Michael Pantos
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad (7:17 PM)	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Thomas Ackerman	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Marcie Zaharee

*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 Representatives Present:*

Keara Aquino  
Hillary Blakeney  
Greg Savageau

*Guests Present:*

Mary Cringan, Principal, Thomas Prince 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 7:04 PM.

Public Hearing

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

I. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1160<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on February 23, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 23, 2009.

(J. Sova)  
(D. Leith)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 23, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Carter, Pantos and Sherman abstaining.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on February 23, 2009

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held February 23, 2009, not to be released.

(D. Leith)  
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
John Nunnari  
Colleen Cipro  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Mark James  
Duncan Leith  
Robert Pelczarski  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter  
Michael Pantos  
Michael Sherman

(The motion passed 10-0-4)

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 Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan, who addressed the Committee, reporting on the many activities and achievements enjoyed by the Thomas Prince community.

7:17 PM Member Conrad joined the meeting

Following Principal Cringan's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Following the Q & A session, Chair Watson thanked Principal Cringan.

7:27 PM Principal Cringan left the meeting.

Chair Watson paid tribute to Princeton Town Administrator Dennis Rindone, who recently passed away. Member Imber informed the Committee that a memorial service will be held at the Heritage Bible Chapel on Brook Station Road in Princeton on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM.

Member Leith paid tribute to former Sterling School Committee representative Lisa Jenkins, who recently passed away.

Chair Watson informed the Committee that the Organizational Meeting, always scheduled after the last Member Town election in May, will be held Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

Chair Watson called members' attention to attachments 5 and 6 in the Superintendent's Report, materials distributed at the February 17, 2009 MASC meeting. Chair Watson had reported on this meeting at the prior School Committee meeting.

7:30 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Watson and Business Manager Peter Brennan had attended a town hall style meeting, hosted by area legislators, at South High School in Worcester on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chair Watson will prepare a report on this meeting for School Committee information.

New School Committee Member Orientation, to be conducted by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher, will take place on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the Central Office. All School Committee members are welcome to attend.

Chair Watson reminded members of the Annual Budget Hearing to be held immediately before the March 23<sup>rd</sup> regular School Committee meeting. Chair Watson informed the Committee that the agenda for that regular School Committee meeting will be amended to allow the School Committee to take action on the adoption of the FY10 Appropriation early on at the regular meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Members were given an up-to-date posting of School Committee, Building Committee, subcommittee and Special Education Parent Advisory Council meetings (attachment 2).

7:32 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

B. Student Representatives

All three Student Representatives contributed to this meeting's update, reporting on many topics, including a drama department production, the "50 day senior countdown," the upcoming annual Massachusetts Association of School Councils meeting, the 54<sup>th</sup> Wachusett Science Fair, DECA participants qualifying for nationals, a "Penny War" fundraiser, very good attendance at "Saturday school" on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the conclusion of the winter sports season and the start of the spring sports season.

Member Carter asked about student and staff attendance on March 7<sup>th</sup>, which the Superintendent was pleased to report was very good. He commented that teachers are to be commended for their support of school being in session on two Saturdays. Chair Watson expressed thanks to students, parents and staff for cooperation shown.

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 informed the Committee that the time of the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Subcommittee has been changed to 6:30 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

7:40 PM Keara Aquino and Greg Savageau left the meeting.

Chair Watson reminded members she is collecting Superintendent evaluation paperwork. Member Bazinet has developed a template for subcommittee chairs' use.

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

On February 25th the Education Subcommittee met with Tom Pandiscio to begin its evaluation of the Superintendent. The subcommittee will meet again on March 18<sup>th</sup> to review the Education Subcommittee's narrative. Also on the March 18<sup>th</sup> agenda will be a presentation by Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan.

- 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 announced the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, immediately following the Management Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee will address the Superintendent's evaluation at that meeting.

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet with the Budget Advisory Task Force on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

1. Amended Policy – AP4650 **Policy Relating to Business/Finance**  
***Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer*** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy –  
AP4650 **Policy Relating to Business/Finance** ***Wachusett Regional***  
***School District Treasurer*** – waiving the reading.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

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

Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*  
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

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

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported on the March 3, 2009 meeting of this subcommittee, at which time they met with the Superintendent to address his evaluation. This subcommittee will meet again on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately before the Annual Budget Hearing and the regular School Committee meeting.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported the Audit Advisory Board has not recently met.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith said the Building Committee met briefly on March 4, 2009. A meeting has been posted for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

- 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)

Stacey Jackson – The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will meet on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Davis Hill Elementary School.

Rob Pelczarski – commented on Paxton Center School's 91% student

attendance in school on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Robert Carter – Davis Hill Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Jackson asked the Superintendent the plan if there are additional snow days. The Superintendent would recommend continuation of extended days to make up time.

Member Cipro is looking for clarification about the Rutland full-day kindergarten operation (some Glenwood students were selected to enroll in the Naquag full-day classroom). In order to share clarification about this new program, the Superintendent will have a press release prepared and distributed to the local newspapers.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$3,661,456 2.80 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note of the District dated March 17, 2009 and payable June 17, 2009, to TD Securities at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$6,078.02.

Further Voted: that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Note, as executed prior to the bidding for the Note, is hereby confirmed.

Further Voted: that in connection with the sale of the Note, the preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement dated February 27, 2009, and a final Official Statement dated March 5, 2009, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a material events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Note for the benefit of the holders of the Note from time to time.

Further Voted: that the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be

determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(M. Sherman)

(J. Nunnari)

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to the motion.

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  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*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

Member Bazinet inquired if the District will be participating in the youth risk behavior survey. Deputy Superintendent Locke explained administration has discussed this survey, but no decision has yet been made to participate or not.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

(S. Hammond)  
(R. Pelczarski)

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  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova

*Opposed:*

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp