

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1233 Monday, March 11, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
Lance Harris	Kenneth Mills
Steven Hammond	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Imber	Norman Plourde
Stacey Jackson (7:40 PM)	Robert Remillard
Julianne Kelley	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Deidre Kosky (7:04 PM)	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Erik Scheinfeldt
William Clute	Athas Tsongalis

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Kelley Gangi, Director of Curriculum
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

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 7:02 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Leith read aloud the Guidelines for Public Hearing.

7:04 PM Member Kosky joined the meeting.

Heather Larson, Paxton resident and Dawson Elementary School teacher, read a prepared statement (attachment 2). Following the statement read on behalf of WREA members, members of the School Committee were given the

opportunity to comment on the public address. Many School Committee members thanked the teachers for attending the meeting, and some School Committee members encouraged teachers to attend their town's Annual Town Meeting in May. When the Public Hearing concluded, Chair Leith thanked teachers for their input.

II. Secretary's Report

Chair Leith asked the Committee's indulgence in changing the order of the agenda, to allow Student Representative Emily Lindberg to address the School Committee as early in the meeting as possible, as she will be leaving the meeting after she updates the Committee.

Student Representative Lindberg told the Committee that the boys' hockey play off game was underway at the time of the meeting. She also reported on the girls' basketball successful season, ending in the March 9th loss to Holy Name in a final game. WRHS seniors have 47 days left of school, Winter Carnival has been rescheduled to March 16th, and Emily reminded the Committee of the Positive Power walk/run on Saturday, March 30, 2013.

7:30 PM Student Representative Emily Lindberg left the meeting.

- A. Approval of 1232nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 25, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on February 25, 2013

(L. Harris)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held February 25, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Member Mason abstaining.

- B. Approval of 296th Special Meeting Minutes Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 2, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held on March 2, 2013.

(R. Pelczarski)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held March 2, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Kosky, Remillard, and Sciabarrasi abstaining.

Minutes of the February 12, 2013 executive session II and the February 25, 2013 executive session will be reviewed and approved in executive session at the conclusion of this School Committee meeting.

III. 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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Leith thanked Members Mason and Tsongalis for their efforts obtaining the donation of two \$500 gift cards from Staples.

Chair Leith briefly reported on the March 4, 2013 meeting of the Holden Selectboard, which several Holden School Committee representatives attended. Chair Leith read aloud a March 5, 2013 letter from Holden Selectboard Chair Anthony Renzoni to Auditor Suzanne Bump (attachment 3).

Chair Leith reminded the Committee that the next time the School Committee meets will be Monday, March 18, 2013, beginning with the Annual Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM in the Media Center at the high school, followed by the regular School Committee meeting.

B. Student Representatives

Report given earlier in the meeting.

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 reported there was no quorum for a meeting on February 27, 2013, but he will be scheduling a meeting in the near future, as there is one policy being considered for amending.

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 on a meeting held February 28, 2013. There was some discussion by School Committee members about the status of adult night classes being offered at Wachusett

Regional High School. This new program is being investigated by District and high school administration.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP6631
Policy Relating to Pupil Services Non-Discrimination

(C. Bazinet)

(R. Imber)

Education Subcommittee Chair Hammond read aloud the amended policy.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 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)

Business/Finance Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee had met just before the start of this regular School Committee meeting. FY14 budget documents that had been reviewed by the Business/Finance Subcommittee were distributed to members of the full School Committee (attachments 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Director of Business and Finance Scanlon addressed the School Committee, reviewing the five budget documents.

7:40 PM Member Jackson joined the meeting.

Following Director Scanlon's review, discussion ensued.

Motion: That District administration develop two additional FY14 budget scenarios:

- 2.5% increase
 - Minimum increase necessary, without cutting teachers
- (L. Harris)
(J. Kelley)

Chair Leith took the opportunity to remind members that a School Committee vote on the budget will require a 2/3 vote of the full School Committee to pass (14 votes in favor).

Discussion continued, with most members in attendance participating in the discussion.

Amendment to Motion on Table: To direct District administration to develop a third FY14 budget scenario:

- To increase the FY14 budget to cover curriculum, professional development, and materials to support the math program, to address issues brought before the School Committee during public hearing
- (S. Hammond)
(L. Harris)

Discussion continued. When asked the projected cost of restoring library aides, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro stated the estimated expense would be \$306,000 to restore full time library aide coverage (includes benefits) or \$86,000 to provide half time library aide coverage (no benefits). Discussion went on.

8:17 PM Interim Superintendent Gasbarro left the table.

Discussion around the motion on the table continued.

8:21 PM Interim Superintendent Gasbarro returned to the table.

8:22 PM Member LaMountain left the table.

8:25 PM Member LaMountain returned to the table.

Roll call vote on amendment to motion on the table:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That District administration develop three additional FY14 budget scenarios:

- 2.5% increase
- Minimum increase necessary, without cutting teachers
- To increase the FY14 budget to cover curriculum, professional development, and materials to support the math program, to address issues brought before the School Committee during public hearing

(L. Harris)
(J. Kelley)

The motion was read aloud. Some discussion about the motion on the table took place. The motion was re-read.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain

Motion passed 14-2.

- 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 this subcommittee has its next meeting scheduled in Sterling on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, at 7:00 PM.

- 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)

Motion: That the School Committee approve and recommend to the Member Towns the proposed amendments to **Section 1** of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement.

Motion: That the School Committee approve and recommend to the Member Towns the proposed amendments to **Section 9** of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement.

Motion: That the School Committee approve and recommend to the Member Towns the proposed amendments to **Section 14** of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement.

Motion: That the School Committee approve and recommend to the Member Towns the proposed amendments to **Section 17** of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement.

Members of the School Committee were provided with Attorney McCabe's March 7, 2013 letter and proposed language to amend the Regional Agreement (attachment 9).

8:50 PM Member Remillard left the table.

Some members expressed they would want time to review the proposed amendment language and asked if action on the four motions could be deferred to the next meeting. Ad Hoc

Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement Chair Kelley reminded members that the Member Towns are preparing to close their warrants, and are waiting for language the School Committee wants included on the Annual Town Meeting warrants.

8:53 PM Member Remillard returned to the table.

Motion: To table action on the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement to a time certain, March 18, 2013.

(L. Harris)

(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

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 March 7, 2013 meeting of this subcommittee was canceled due to weather. He further reported that this subcommittee had met in executive session on March 9, 2013 to conduct preliminary interviews of candidates. This subcommittee will continue interviewing, in executive session, on Thursday, March 14, 2013, and Saturday, March 16, 2013.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported that informational sessions about the Mountview project are being held in Holden schools.

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

At Chair Leith's inquiry, Director Scanlon reported the anticipated completion dates for these projects is the end of April.

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)

Member LaMountain – Chocksett Middle School

8:56 PM Member Mason left the table.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Mills asked how parents who have applied for full-day kindergarten for their children are notified of their status. Director McCall responded by reporting email notifications have been sent to all parents informing them that all applicants for full-day kindergarten have been accepted into those classes. If by chance this changes due to parents deciding to not enroll their children in a full-day kindergarten program and the numbers at a particular school drop and a full-day kindergarten classroom needs to be reduced, there would be a need for a lottery. Director McCall will send a clarifying email to parents explaining how such a situation would be handled.

9:00 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math), and also spoke about expanding the concept to STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math). He reported that he and Director of Operations McCall had met with Thomas Prince School staff on March 11th, to discuss this concept and the proposal being brought before the School Committee.

Motion: To endorse the theme-based STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) curriculum at Thomas Prince School
(N. Plourde)
(J. Kelley)

Voice vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Superintendent spoke briefly about the new gender identity regulations, and what is required v what is in the guidelines, a copy of which had been included in his March 7, 2013 Report.

School Committee members were reminded they need to complete online Conflict of Interest training and were asked to provide a copy of their certificate of completion to the Central Office.

VI. Public Hearing

Maureen Floryan, Holden, addressed the School Committee.

Lisa Call, Sterling, addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Mills asked the status of the MASBO *Financial Operations Review* final report. Director of Human Resources Sullivan reported the draft report has been proofread by District staff and has been sent back to John Crafton of MASBO. It is hoped the final report will be received soon.

At Member Bazinet's inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported he has a meeting with the ABA union president and the SEIU representative on March 13, 2013.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That the Management Subcommittee look at the By-Laws for the purpose of determining if any changes should be recommended to the full committee before the next member elections

(N. Plourde)

(L. Harris)

Concern was raised about the timeline in the motion, noting that Member Town elections are in May, which may not leave sufficient time for review of the By-Laws by the Management Subcommittee by that date.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
Lance Harris
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde

Opposed:

Duncan Leith
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Kenneth Mills
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Motion failed 6 – 10

Following consideration, it was decided that a similar motion will be brought before the School Committee at the next meeting, without the inclusion of “before the next member elections.”

Motion: That the School Committee strongly endorses the final project proposed by the Mountview School Building Committee

(K. Mills)

(S. Hammond)

Member Mills read a prepared statement (attachment 10). Member Watson noted that the Education Subcommittee has already voted endorsement of the Mountview Middle School project.

Voice vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Deidre Kosky

Motion passed 15-0-1

Motion: That the School Committee formally accept the gift of two \$500 gift cards from Staples, Inc.

(M. Watson)

(R. Pelczarski)

Voice vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously

- IX. Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, not to return to public session

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, not to return to public session

(S. Hammond)

(L. Harris)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
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
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp