

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1162 Monday, March 23, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	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

Committee Members Absent:

Melinda Coyle

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

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 7:41 PM. Chair Watson explained the agenda of the regular meeting had been altered, moving action required on the adoption of the FY10 Appropriation to IV.A. She explained this revised agenda would require a vote of approval by the School Committee.

Motion: To accept the agenda of the Regular Meeting #1162, as revised.
(R. Imber)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
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)

7:43 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1161st Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on March 9, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 9, 2009.

(J. Sova)

(M. Pantos)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held March 9, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Plourde and Zaharee abstaining.

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on March 9, 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 March 9, 2009, not to be released.

(S. Conrad)
(M. James)

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

Abstained:

Thomas Ackerman
Norman Plourde
Marcie Zaharee

(The motion passed 15-0-3)

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. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Adoption of the *FY10 Appropriation* in the amount of \$74,135,623 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden:	\$20,098,146
Paxton:	\$ 5,038,758
Princeton:	\$ 4,666,103
Rutland:	\$ 7,349,517
Sterling:	\$ 9,320,460

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported on the meeting of that subcommittee conducted immediately before the Annual Budget Hearing this evening. He reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee endorses the School Committee adoption of the *FY10 Appropriation*, as presented.

Motion: To adopt, as presented, the *FY10 Appropriation* in the amount of \$74,135,623 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden:	\$20,098,146
Paxton:	\$ 5,038,758
Princeton:	\$ 4,666,103
Rutland:	\$ 7,349,517
Sterling:	\$ 9,320,460

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Member Sherman spoke to the motion. He extended appreciation to District employees for their understanding of the financial situation the District finds itself in this year. Other members of the Committee were given the opportunity to speak to the motion.

7:50 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

Many members offered comments, shared opinions and asked questions.

Chair Watson re-read the motion. She explained the vote must be by roll call and must secure a two-thirds vote of the Committee, 13 in favor, to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
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)

Motion: The School Committee reaffirms the District's goal to further reduce Member Town assessments prior to Annual Town Meetings, in the aggregate to FY09 levels, subject to available funding.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Hammond)

Members were given the opportunity speak to this motion.

Chair Watson explained the vote must be by roll call and must secure a two-thirds vote of the Committee, 13 in favor, to pass.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
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:
Robert Carter

(The motion passed 17-1)

8:25 PM Member Pelczarski left the meeting.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson thanked members for addressing the task of the Superintendent's evaluation. A vote on the evaluation is expected to be on the April 27, 2009 School Committee meeting agenda.

Chair Watson noted that the Town of Holden has a special town meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009; therefore, subcommittee chairs should avoid scheduling meetings that date.

B. Student Representatives

All three Student Representatives contributed to this meeting's update, reporting on many topics, including the spring sports season, March 21st "Saturday school," extended days will begin March 30th and run until April 16th, college acceptances are being posted outside the Guidance Office, high school students' awareness of the District's budgetary problems, a prom dress drive at the high school, follow-up to Rachel's Challenge presentation. A brief comment was made about a recent Massachusetts Association of Student Councils meeting. Comment was made about the benefit vs detriment of a Proposition 2 ½ override, following remarks made in the public addresses during the Annual Budget Hearing.

Member Sherman shared that he had attended a recent musical performance at the high school and he let the Committee know that it "was wonderful."

8:32 PM Student Representative Keara Aquino left the meeting.

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 March 16th meeting of the Management Subcommittee, at which time that subcommittee's portion of the Superintendent's evaluation was completed. Chair Watson has referred two policies (5000 series) to District Counsel McCabe for an opinion.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the March 18th meeting of the subcommittee. Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan attended that meeting to discuss enrollment at that school. The Superintendent provided a status report on his goals, which the subcommittee reviewed. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet has called a meeting of the subcommittee for 6:30 PM on April 13, 2009, immediately before the regular School Committee meeting. The Education Subcommittee's portion of the Superintendent's evaluation will be finalized at that meeting.

- 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 on the March 16th meeting of this subcommittee, where the Superintendent's evaluation was addressed. The subcommittee also met briefly before the start of the Annual Budget Hearing. The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet with the Budget Advisory Task Force on Thursday, March 26th, at 7:00 PM at the Central Office.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman requested that Chair Watson write letters of thanks to the District bargaining units thanking the employees for their consideration of the District fiscal uncertainties. Chair Watson responded she would be glad to prepare such letters, if deemed appropriate by the full Committee, which all agreed it was.

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

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported on the meeting of this subcommittee which took place immediately before the Annual Budget Hearing this date. The Superintendent's evaluation was the agenda item. Subcommittee Chair Cipro told that the business of this subcommittee has been completed for this year. Subcommittee Chair Cipro did mention that the subcommittee has asked about the history of the "8th Grade Career Day," which Director of Human Resources Sullivan explained.

- 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 will meet April 29, 2009 for what could be its final meeting. He then gave a report on recent activity at the high school.

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)

Central Tree Middle School – Michael Pantos attended a Spaghetti Supper at CTMS on March 19th.

Wachusett Regional High School – Duncan Leith – March 18th

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Carter inquired about principals being promoted from within the District. Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the Leadership Academy, at the request of Member Nunnari. Member Carter asked about the filming that is being done about in classrooms to show highlights of the implementation of the literacy initiative.

8:58 PM Member Pantos left the table.

8:59 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

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

There was no new business to come before the Committee.

- X. Executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session

Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee there would be no need for an executive session.

- XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)

(M. Pantos)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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