

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #297

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Deidre Kosky
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Sarah LaMountain
Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Lance Harris	Robert Pelczarski
Steven Hammond	Norman Plourde
Robert Imber	Robert Remillard
Stacey Jackson	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Erik Scheinfeldt	Athas Tsongalis
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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:

There were no Student Representatives present.

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Leith called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Members were provided with a revised meeting agenda (attachment 2). Chair Leith announced that the meeting was being taped, but was not being shown live, due to technical difficulties.

Member Jackson asked if a motion could be made to allow the public to speak at this special meeting of the School Committee. Chair Leith

explained the Committee would need to take a roll call vote to revise the meeting agenda, further explaining that a vote in favor would be to uphold the ruling of the School Committee Chair, a public hearing not being on the agenda, and a vote against would allow the agenda to be revised and a public hearing added to the agenda.

Motion: To uphold the ruling of the Chair of the School Committee with regard to the Revised Agenda for WRSDC Special Meeting #297 (attachment 2).

Before the Committee voted on the motion, Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search Hammond read an April 3, 2013 letter received from Superintendent finalist Casey Handfield (attachment 3). Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond announced he had also received notice from Superintendent finalist Paul Schlichtman that he was withdrawing from consideration.

Chair Leith stated that if a public hearing is to be allowed, that public hearing would be open after agenda item II (Violation of Open Meeting Law). Chair Leith re-explained that a vote in favor would mean no public hearing, a vote opposed would allow a public hearing.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
Steven Hammond
James Mason
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

William Clute
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Robert Remillard
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Abstained:

Duncan Leith

Motion failed 6-11-1

II. Violation of Open Meeting Law

Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources, read an Open Meeting Law violation complaint (attachment 4). Following Director Sullivan's address to the School Committee, Chair Leith explained the School Committee would be asked to vote to forward the Open Meeting Law violation complaint to the Office of the Attorney General for investigation. Some discussion ensued.

Motion: To forward to the Office of the Attorney General the complaint of a violation of the Open Meeting Law brought before the Wachusett Regional School District Committee by Director of Human Resources Susan H. Sullivan.

(S. Hammond)
(C. Cipro)

Member Watson read a prepared statement (attachment 5).

Vice-chair Cipro read a prepared statement (attachment 6)

Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 7).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
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.

III. Public Hearing

At 7:28 PM Chair Leith invited members of the public to address the School Committee, noting the public hearing would be limited to 30 minutes.

Jason Hilton, Holden resident, parent of student in Holden school, District teacher addressed the School Committee.

Maureen Floryan, Holden resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 8).

Jackie Murphy, Co-chair, SEPAC, addressed the School Committee.

Mark Bibace, Holden resident, addressed the School Committee.

Christina Smith, Jefferson resident, addressed the School Committee.

Harriett Fradellos, Co-chair, SEPAC, addressed the School Committee.

At 7:47 PM Chair Leith closed the public hearing.

- III. Motion: To approve Dr. Darryll McCall as a finalist for Superintendent.
(S. Jackson)
(R. Pelczarski)

Member Jackson read a prepared statement (attachment 9).

Member Bazinet read a prepared statement (attachment 10).

Discussion ensued. Vice-chair Cipro clarified for the record comments she read from her prepared statement.

Chair Leith read a statement prepared by Member Tsongalis (attachment 11).

8:05 PM Member Harris left the table.

Chair Leith concluded reading Member Tsongalis' statement and discussion continued.

8:08 PM Member Harris returned to the table.

Motion: To call the question.

(R. Imber)

Motion died due to lack of a second.

8:12 PM Member Mason left the table.

Director of Human Resources Sullivan confirmed that she has presented her Open Meeting Violation complaint to the Management Subcommittee at the meeting of that subcommittee on March 27, 2013. Discussion continued.

8:14 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Member Plourde read a prepared statement (attachment 12).

Vice-chair Cipro addressed the School Committee.

Many members of the School Committee participated in discussion.

Considering that both finalists brought before the School Committee by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Superintendent Search have withdrawn their interest in the position, Members Jackson and Pelczarski withdrew the motion on the floor.

At Chair Leith's request, Pat Correira of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees addressed the School Committee, and answered a few questions posed by members.

Member LaMountain provided for the record letters of support for Dr. Darryll McCall (attachment 13). Member LaMountain read a letter of support from Bobby Hatstat, WRHS Class of 2004 (attachment 14).

At Member Mills' inquiry, there was discussion about what the next steps would be and where does the School Committee and the Superintendent search stand at this time. Chair Leith answered, stating it seems like the consensus would be for the School Committee to wait until after the upcoming local elections, when the new School Committee will be seated. There was general agreement with Chair Leith's statement.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
Cynthia Bazinet
William Clute
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.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp