

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1235 Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Athas Tsongalis
Deidre Kosky	

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	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 7:01 PM. Chair Leith asked those present to observe a moment of silence for Paxton resident and long time Paxton Selectboard member Frederick Goodrich.

I. Public Hearing

Tammy Tod, Rutland resident, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 18, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 18, 2013.

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing held on March 18, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Member Clute abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1234th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 18, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on March 18, 2013

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held March 18, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Member Clute abstaining.

- C. Approval of the 297th Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 2, 2013

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

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held April 2, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Member Scheinfeldt abstaining.

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 took a moment to report on the April 8, 2013 Special Town Meeting in Holden, and to mention the ballot vote in Holden on April 11, 2013.

Chair Leith told the School Committee the next meeting of the School Committee is back to being on Monday, April 22, 2013. He also reported that MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher should be available to address the WRSDC that evening, to speak about the Open Meeting Law and School Committee member ethics. Chair Leith will confirm that Mr. Koocher will present to the School Committee on April 22nd.

Chair Leith read into the record the April 3, 2013 email he received from Joseph Sullivan, a copy of which had been included in the April 5, 2013 Superintendent's Report (attachment 3).

Chair Leith read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

B. Student Representatives (Emily Lindberg, Emily Tomczyk)

Student Representative Emily Lindberg happily reported high school seniors have 26 days left of school. She also reported on the successful production of *On the Town* the weekend of April 5 – 7, 2013. There will be an “open mic” event on May 3rd and fundraising for Power Positive continues, with a “Penny War” underway.

Student Representative Emily Tomczyk reported students who will be taking AP exams are now registering for these exams, noting the high cost charged to take these exams. She also reported on the new security measures at the high school, explaining buzzers, camera(s), and new exterior door handles (small knobs) have been installed.

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

Management Subcommittee Chair Leith reported on the March 27, 2013 meeting of this subcommittee.

Management Subcommittee Chair Leith reported he will be writing a letter/summary evaluation for Interim Superintendent Gasbarro, highlighting Interim Superintendent Gasbarro's four plus months in that position. Chair Leith invited School Committee members to contact him with any suggestions/comments they might want included in the document.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – 1160
Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics

(M. Watson)

(N. Plourde)

Chair Leith read aloud Section 4 of the amended policy. “as private citizens” will be added to bullet four of Section 4.

7:25 PM Member Pelczarski left the table.

There was some discussion of the policy.

7:27 PM Member Pelczarski returned to the table.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – 1160
Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics, as amended.

(M. Watson)

(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leith took the opportunity to explain that all subcommittees, with the exception of the Business/Finance Subcommittee which stays seated for warrant signing purposes, will disband after the April 30, 2013 elections in three of the Member Towns until the May Organizational Meeting of the School Committee.

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

Education Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting and he does not expect the next meeting will be posted until the new School Committee is seated.

- 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 Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported this subcommittee met before the start of this meeting. District Treasurer James Dunbar was in attendance at that meeting for review and discussion about the District's cash flow, and how the obtaining of RANs (Revenue Anticipation Notes) and BANs (Bond Anticipation Notes) is handled. Subcommittee Chair Remillard reported that at the request of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, the Treasurer is going to investigate the possibility of moving towards Member Towns making more frequent assessment payments (perhaps four times a year v twice a year). At Member Imber's inquiry, Member Kelley spoke about her motion that is on the School Committee meeting agenda and reported to the School Committee that she would not be bringing that motion before the full School Committee for action, as a result of the meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the discussions with and explanations by Treasurer Dunbar.

7:40 PM Student Representative Tomczyk left the table.

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon informed the School Committee he will begin to give the Committee updated cash flow information, beginning with his April 2013 report.

7:41 PM Student Representative Tomczyk returned to the table.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported this subcommittee had met in Sterling on April 3rd and plans to meet next in Paxton on May 1st. She also let the Committee know that between April 30th and May 22nd (transition period for the School Committee) posts for the School Committee blog can be approved by Member Jackson, Member Mills, and/or Member Cipro. Member Watson questioned if the subcommittee can meet in light of local elections in three of the five Member Towns being held the end of April. Most in attendance seemed to agree there should be no issue with the

remaining members of the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting on May 1st, a meeting open to the public, even if it is not considered an “official meeting” of a School Committee subcommittee.

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 to the full School Committee comments about proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement brought to her attention by Rutland resident John Rokicki.

7:47 PM Municipal Representative Lavigne joined the meeting.

There was brief discussion if the schedule for town meeting warrants being set and closed is by law or if it is an individual town decision. In light of the short timeframe before the first Member Town Annual Meeting on May 6, 2013, the Committee agreed to act on amending the proposed amendments and, if approved by the full School Committee, having District Counsel deliver (electronically) the amended amendments to the Member Towns as soon as possible.

Motion: To amend the proposed amendment to Section 1.2 of the Regional Agreement as follows, retroactive to March 18, 2013:

1.2. ALLOCATION OF PROPORTIONAL WEIGHTED VOTES FOR MEMBERS AND TOWNS.

The total voting value for members from each town represented on the Wachusett Regional District School Committee shall be in proportion to the population of the member town compared to the total population of all member towns combined. Population data shall be the latest annual official Town census, as certified by the Town Clerk of each of the member towns. The calculated total voting value for a member town shall be equally divided amongst the **elected and/or appointed** members from the member town to determine the assigned weighted voting factor for individual committee members of the member town.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Kelley read aloud the proposed new Section 17.7 “Each maintenance agreement shall have a provision for the emergency use of school buildings and an annual maintenance audit upon renewal.”

Motion: To delete “upon renewal” from the proposed new Section 17.7 of the Regional Agreement, retroactive to March 18, 2013.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
James Mason

Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

District Counsel McCabe will be notified of these two changes and will be asked to provide the Member Towns with the edited proposed amendments.

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 this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but he may schedule a meeting for April 22, 2013, immediately before the regular School Committee meeting.

I. Building Committees

8:05 PM Member Harris left the table.

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the results of the Special Town Meeting in Holden on April 8th. The next meeting of the Mountview Building Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

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

Chair Leith reported the final paperwork for green repair projects at the Paxton Center School has been signed and will be sent to the Town of Paxton for processing.

8:07 PM Member Harris returned to the table.

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), 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 Jackson – SEPAC – *Wind Beneath My Wings* nominations are open until April 30th

Member Jackson – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Watson – Mayo Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Kelley asked about school choice numbers, which Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will provide to the School Committee after the deadline to apply to choice to a Wachusett school has passed (April 12, 2013).

Several members had questions about the *Financial Operations Review* report provided by MASBO. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported that District administration will be thoroughly reviewing the recommendations contained in the report and will act accordingly. It was agreed that this report should be remanded to the next Business/Finance Subcommittee for review and follow through. Member Mills expressed his thanks to the Central Office staff for work with MASBO on the *Financial Operations Review*, as well as their cooperation working with the District's auditors. Member Scheinfeldt noted for the record positive comments and remarks made by MASBO, contained in the *Financial Operations Review* report. Following consideration of Member Kelley's suggestion that the *Financial Operation Review* report be remanded to the Business/Finance Subcommittee, Members Mills and Scheinfeldt expanded that suggestion that the next School Committee could consider using the MASBO report as a basis for review of the District's financial operations and upon this review specific topics might be remanded to any of the four standing subcommittees, as appropriate. Member Sciabarrasi suggested professional development for finance office staff might be beneficial for all.

Member Harris spoke about the Town of Holden's requests to the state auditor and to the other four Member Towns about the state conducting an audit of the District. There was some discussion about such an audit and who would be responsible for costs associated with such.

Member Kelley wondered if Director Scanlon could ask the District's K – 8 Facility Manager to investigate what would be involved and what would it cost for schools to convert to natural gas.

Member Imber thanked Interim Superintendent Gasbarro, Director of Operations McCall, and Thomas Prince School Principal Cringan for moving forward with STEAM at TPS and for all their efforts.

At Member Pelczarski's request, Attachment 11 of the April 5, 2013 Superintendent's Report (WRSD Foreign Language Data) was discussed. Member Plourde added commentary about the report and spoke about the importance of foreign language being offered to students.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$78,934 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School
(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve reducing the Town of Princeton's FY13 assessment by \$59,487 and authorizing the District Treasurer to notify the Town of Princeton of this reduction.

(R. Imber)
(M. Sciabarrasi)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Vice-chair Cipro requested that follow up about fees charged to WRHS students not be forgotten. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will provide information about these fees in his next Report.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

- 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.

(J. Mason)
(M. Watson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent