

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1236 Monday, April 22, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Stacey Jackson
Colleen Cipro, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
William Clute	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Robert Imber	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	James Mason
Julianne Kelley	Robert Remillard
Deidre Kosky	Erik Scheinfeldt
Sarah LaMountain	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 7:06 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1235th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 9, 2013

Chair Leith asked that the minutes be corrected by adding “retroactive to March 18, 2013” to the motion found on page 6 of the DRAFT minutes (*Motion: To amend the proposed amendment to Section 1.2 of the Regional Agreement as follows, retroactive to March 18, 2013*) and to the motion found on page 7 of the DRAFT minutes (*To delete “upon renewal” from the proposed new Section 17.7 of the Regional Agreement, retroactive to March 18, 2013*).

Member Mills asked that the minutes be corrected by adding the following language to the paragraph addressing the MASBO *Financial Operations Review* report, found on page 9 of the DRAFT minutes: *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.*

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on April 9, 2013, as corrected.

(L. Harris)

(K. Mills)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held April 9, 2013 were approved, as corrected, by consensus.

- B. Approval of the minutes of the executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 9, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held on April 9, 2013.

(R. Pelczarski)

(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Colleen Cipro
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Motion passed 10-0-2.

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 suggested to the Committee that in light of the fact that only twelve members of the School Committee were in attendance, it might be prudent to reschedule Glenn Koocher's addressing the School Committee on the Open Meeting Law and School Committee ethics. Member Watson pointed out that there were individuals in the audience who may have come to the meeting to hear the Open Meeting Law and School Committee ethics presentation. Chair Leith had a message left for Mr. Koocher and he will leave the decision whether to address the School Committee at this meeting or reschedule to a future meeting in Mr. Koocher's hands.

B. Student Representatives (Emily Lindberg, Emily Tomczyk)

Student Representative Emily Lindberg reported on the count down for high school seniors. She also reported that on April 23rd the high

school student body will wear Boston sports team apparel or red and blue clothing, in support of the victims of the recent incident in Boston. Tickets for the junior prom are now on sale.

Chair Leith asked those present to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Boston marathon bombing.

- 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 this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy – 1160 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School Committee Member Ethics**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(N. Plourde)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- 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)

Because neither Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Remillard nor Vice-chair Scheinfeldt was present, there was no report for the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

- 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 that the remaining members of this subcommittee will meet at the Paxton Center School at 7:00 PM 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)

There was a very brief discussion about the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement and the language to be included on Annual Town Meeting warrants.

- 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 met before the start of this School Committee meeting. He reported this subcommittee will meet again on April 25, 2013, to address the Open Meeting Law complaint.

- I. Building Committees

- 1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported the next meeting of the Mountview Building Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

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

Completion of the three Green Repair projects is coming to the end.

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 – April 25, 2013, Technology in Special Education workshop

Members Jackson and Mills – Davis Hill Elementary School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Leith prepared a letter of commendation for Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro April 22, 2013, which he read aloud (attachment 2).

Motion: To accept Chair Leith's letter of commendation for Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro April 22, 2013.

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde

Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Member Watson noted that if District administration is planning to make a PowerPoint presentation at upcoming Member Town Annual Meetings, the Town Moderators need to be notified of such in advance. At Member Watson's inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that after announcing Thomas Prince School would be a "STEAM school," approximately 100 applications to "choice" to Thomas Prince School had been received; he further explained that the school had approximately 39 available seats. Central Office staff is in the process of collecting and tabulating acceptances and declines for these seats, and Interim Superintendent Gasbarro will keep the School Committee apprised as this process moves forward.

A member asked about principals being able to purchase instructional materials now, in preparation for the start of school in the fall. It was explained that there are no FY13 funds available for such purchases, but that ordering these materials during the summer, using FY14 funds, is doable.

Member Mills thanked Interim Superintendent Gasbarro and WRHS Principal Beando for providing information on student fees.

At Member Mill's inquiry, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon spoke about and explained negative balances that show on spreadsheets included in his report. The freezing of the FY13 budget was discussed, and the inability to act on the transfer of funds at this meeting, due to low attendance, was pointed out. Brief comment was made about providing Member Towns with an explanation for the reason the District would want to change the number of times the towns made assessments payments to the District, changing from twice a year to quarterly assessment payments. Member Watson opined that might be a topic for consideration by the Collaborative Budget Task Force, which is scheduled to meet April 23, 2013.

The estimated cost for and who would be responsible for the cost related to an audit conducted by the State was brought to the table for discussion.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro thanked outgoing School Committee members (Duncan Leith, Colleen Cipro, Cynthia Bazinet, Steven

Hammond, Michelle Sciabarrasi, Athas Tsongalis) for their service to the students of the District, and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent.

Member Harris asked the status of the Open Meeting Law complaint, which Director of Human Resources Sullivan explained at Chair Leith's request.

7:45 PM MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher joined the meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$39,569.42 from the Special Education Tuition appropriation to the Instructional Supplies, Equipment, and Technology appropriation for the purpose of covering increased costs in Special Education Contracted Services
2. To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$5,240.60 from the Special Education Tuition appropriation to the Operations & Maintenance appropriation to cover increased costs for general repairs
3. To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$16,920.78 from the Special Education Tuition appropriation to the Operations & Maintenance appropriation to cover increase costs for snow plowing and sanding
4. To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$31,500. from the Special Education tuition appropriation to the Operations & Maintenance appropriation to cover the costs of mulch and swing mats for school playgrounds

School Committee action to authorize the transfer of funds was deferred, due to lack of sufficient School Committee members present (two-thirds vote of full School Committee (14 votes in favor) required).

Motion: To authorize the Interim Superintendent to execute and deliver the Project Scope and Budget Agreement dated April 22, 2013 between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority, and any amendments thereto, for the Mountview Middle School on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District

and to bind the Wachusett Regional School District to its terms and conditions,

and, to authorize the Interim Superintendent to undertake the Project Scope and Budget Agreement and consummate all transactions contemplated by the Agreement and to make final binding decisions on behalf of the Wachusett Regional School District with respect to the Mountview Middle School Project described in the Project Scope and Budget Agreement

(M. Watson)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

Susan Sullivan addressed the School Committee, thanking outgoing Chair Duncan Leith for his 25 years of service on the School Committee.

Interim Superintendent presented Chair Leith with a small token of appreciation from the Central Office staff.

Chari Leith read aloud *Twenty-five years of Random Thoughts on WRSDC membership* (attachment 3).

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Motion: That the School Committee express thanks to Duncan Leith for his many years of service to the Wachusett District and offer best wishes upon his retirement from the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

(M. Watson)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Duncan Leith

Motion passed 11-0-1.

Chair Leith asked for volunteers willing to represent the School Committee at upcoming Annual Town Meetings. Member Clute will represent at the May 6, 2013 Paxton Annual Town Meeting and Member Imber will represent at the May 14, 2013 Princeton Annual Town Meeting. Chair Leith asked Holden, Rutland, and Sterling representatives to advise who will represent the Committee at their Annual Town Meetings.

Chair Leith introduced MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher, who extended best wishes to Chair Leith, from MASC. Mr. Koocher agreed to address the School Committee at a future meeting, after the May town elections, when attendance at a School Committee meeting should be better.

- 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)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Steven Hammond
Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent