

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1237 Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Scott Brown	Matthew Lindberg
William Clute	James Mason
Thomas Curran	Kenneth Mills
Matthew Ehrenworth	Robert Pelczarski
Lance Harris	Norman Plourde
Robert Imber	Tiffany Ralli
Stacey Jackson	Robert Remillard
Julianne Kelley	Erik Scheinfeldt
Deidre Kosky	Christina Smith
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Margaret Watson

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:

None

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

Chair Harris called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:23 PM. Chair Harris read into the record Guidelines for Public Hearing.

I. Public Hearing

Matt Ruppert of Paxton read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1236th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 22, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on April 22, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(K. Mills)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held April 22, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Brown, Curran, Ehrenworth, Kelley, Kosky, LaMountain, Lindberg, Mason, Ralli, Remillard, Scheinfeldt, Smith, Witkes abstaining.

- B. Approval of the minutes of the executive session of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 22, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the School Committee held on April 22, 2013.

(J. Mason)
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
William Clute
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Motion passed 7-0-13.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Harris 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 Harris thanked the School Committee for electing him to serve as Chair for the coming year. Chair Harris read a prepared statement outlining his goals and priorities (attachment 3). Chair Harris welcomed the new members to the School Committee.

Chair Harris will represent the School Committee at the June 8, 2013 Wachusett Regional High School graduation. School Committee members willing to represent the School Committee at the June 20th 8th grade graduations were asked to contact the Superintendent's office.

B. Student Representatives (Emily Lindberg, Emily Tomczyk)

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee

D. Education Subcommittee

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (R. Remillard, Chair, E. Scheinfeldt, Vice-chair, W. Clute, L. Harris, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason)

Chair Harris explained that the Business/Finance Subcommittee is the only subcommittee that continues until the new Chair makes subcommittee assignments for the coming year.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (S. Jackson, Chair, J. Mason, K. Mills, M. Watson)

Former Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Jackson reported that this subcommittee did have a meeting, in Paxton, on May 1st.

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)

No report was made.

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)

Chair Harris discharged the Ad Hoc Subcommittee-Superintendent Search, expressing thanks to the Committee and District administration for the work they did on this subcommittee.

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

No report was made, due to Member Watson's absence.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report was made.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School, Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School, Mountview Middle School, Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School, Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Early Childhood Center

Member Jackson – SEPAC – May 21, 2013 Wind Beneath Their Wings ceremony

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro distributed a one page document titled Step One: Possible Reductions FY14 (attachment 4). Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke about budget numbers coming in from

the State, and that the numbers will most likely result in District administration needing to propose possible reductions to the FY14 appropriation. At Member Kelley's request, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained the categories and dollar figures on the handout. Many members asked questions, and discussion and explanation of the information on the sheet continued. Member Mills reminded the School Committee that during the summer of 2012, during budget discussions, moving to a trimester schedule at WRHS was suggested, as well as to look at athletics and associated costs. Because of the timing last summer, it was determined mid-summer was too late to consider either of these suggestions. Director McCall spoke to the Committee about high school athletics, explaining he and high school principal Beando are looking at costs associated with high school athletics. Director Sullivan took the opportunity to explain to the School Committee that the possible reductions on the handout (\$1,437,477.72) are due to Chapter 70 funding from the State; the latest information is that the State has budgeted less money than what was in the Governor's proposed budget, resulting in the need to reduce \$1.4+ just to meet the budget approved by the School Committee in March. Director Sullivan clearly explained that Member Towns have received their assessment letters already and the bottom line assessment cannot be increased.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro spoke about the STEAM program at Thomas Prince School and what recent steps have been taken to move this program forward.

Member Jackson had questions about Food Service and chargebacks, which Director Sullivan spoke to. Member Kelley asked that the food service spreadsheet prepared by Director Sullivan and that Policy 6618, Nutrition and Wellness Policy, be referred to the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

Members were provided with copies of FY 2013 Cash Flow based upon Actual FY 2012 expenses + 4.4% (attachment 5). Conversation and discussion ensued, with Director Scanlon acknowledging an inaccurate spreadsheet had been attached to his report. Discussion continued. The importance of getting an outside audit, a "transition audit," was part of the discussions, with the need to be mindful of the cost an audit stressed.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Chair Harris explained that a majority vote in favor is required to authorize the transfer of funds from appropriation category to appropriation category.

Motion: 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

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: 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

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute

Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: 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

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:
Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard

Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: 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

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Before taking a vote on this motion, there was much discussion about the condition of playgrounds, and mulch in the playgrounds, throughout the District.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
Deidre Kosky

Motion passed 19-1.

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the Early Childhood grant (262) in the total amount of \$442 to the Professional Development revolving account

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint Kimberly Merrick, Ed.D. as Administrator of Special Education

(S. Jackson)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told the School Committee of the process that had been followed to find a candidate to bring forward as the next Administrator of Special Education. At Interim Superintendent Gasbarro's request, Dr. Merrick addressed the School Committee.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the 2013-2014 School Committee meeting schedule

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde

Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve Interim Superintendent's Vacation Carry-Over
(R. Imber)
(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:
Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

William O'Brien of Holden addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Mills asked that the *Financial Operations Review* prepared by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials be kept on the School Committee radar.

At Member Imber's request, District administration will report back to the School Committee about the wind power tests conducted on the high school site. Member Ehrenworth asked if the District had ever investigated solar energy, which Director Scanlon spoke to.

9:20 PM Member Smith left the table.

Member Kelley, Chair of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement, is hopeful the Collaborative Budget Task Force (formerly the Revenue Sharing Task Force) will re-address the issue of downsizing the School Committee.

9:22 PM Member Brown left the table.

VIII. New Business

9:24 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

Member Scheinfeldt spoke to the motions he had requested be on the meeting agenda. He explained that with the size of the School Committee being 22, much work should be addressed at the subcommittee level. Member Plourde noted that to amend School Committee By-Laws a fourteen day notice is required. Member Scheinfeldt opined he does not believe the School Committee By-Laws need to be amended in order to appoint a new subcommittee.

9:26 PM Member Brown returned to the table.

Motion: To establish a new standing subcommittee, entitled the "Legal Subcommittee," which shall be responsible for acting as the liaison between legal counsel and the School Committee, and shall also be responsible for reviewing, discussing, proposing, and considering various legal matters that arise before the School Committee, which matters shall include but not be limited to: annual selection/review of legal counsel; matters involving collective bargaining negotiations; matters involving employee contract negotiation, and matters involving the compliance of school district policies and procedures with local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(M. Lindberg)

Much discussion ensued before taking a vote on the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Robert Imber
Norman Plourde

Abstained:

Lance Harris

Motion passed 17-2-1.

Motion: To establish a new standing subcommittee, entitled the “School Facilities and Security Subcommittee,” which shall be responsible for reviewing, discussing, and considering various matters relating to the security, safety, functionality, and condition of all buildings owned, operated and/or occupied by School District employees and students, which matters shall include, but not be limited to: security systems, utilities, building repairs, overcrowding issues, facility rentals, building code compliance, etc.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(J. Kelley)

Member Scheinfeldt spoke to the motion. An amendment was offered by Member Mills, seconded by Member Jackson, and accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Motion: To establish a new standing subcommittee, entitled the “School Facilities and Security Subcommittee,” which shall be responsible for reviewing, discussing, and considering various matters relating to the security, safety, functionality, and condition of all **school district** buildings ~~owned, operated and/or occupied by School District employees and students~~, which

matters shall include, but not be limited to: security systems, utilities, building repairs, overcrowding issues, facility rentals, building code compliance, etc.

(K. Mills)

(S. Jackson)

Vote on amendment:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith

Opposed:

Charles Witkes

Abstained:

Lance Harris
Matthew Ehrenworth

Motion passed 17-1-2.

Motion: To establish a new standing subcommittee, entitled the "School Facilities and Security Subcommittee," which shall be responsible for reviewing, discussing, and considering various matters relating to the security, safety, functionality, and condition of all school district buildings, which matters shall include, but not be limited to: security systems, utilities, building repairs, overcrowding issues, facility rentals, building code compliance, etc.

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(J. Kelley)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute

Matthew Ehrenworth
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Thomas Curran
Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain
Norman Plourde
Robert Remillard

Abstained:

Lance Harris

Motion passed 14-5-1.

Motion: To eliminate the standing subcommittee known as the “Community Outreach Subcommittee.”

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(J. Mason)

Member Scheinfeldt spoke to the motion. Member Plourde expressed strong disagreement with eliminating a standing subcommittee. Discussion ensued. Following discussion, Member Scheinfeldt, the maker of the motion, told that he would agree to table the motion if that is the wish of the Committee.

Motion: To table indefinitely the motion to eliminate the standing subcommittee known as the “Community Outreach Subcommittee”

(R. Imber)

(M. Lindberg)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Deidre Kosky

Motion passed 19-1.

Motion: To extend the meeting by 30 minutes, until 10:28 PM.

(J. Mason)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Robert Pelczarski

Motion passed 19-1.

Chair Harris spoke briefly about subcommittee assignments and his expectation to keep the size of the subcommittees smaller than in past years.

- 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.

(K. Mills)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Deidre Kosky
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Kenneth Mills
Norman Plourde
Tiffany Ralli
Robert Remillard
Erik Scheinfeldt
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro

Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp