

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session I

Monday, July 15, 2013

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Matthew Lindberg
Lisa Call	James Mason
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Tiffany Ralli
Robert Imber	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Christina Smith
Julianne Kelley	Margaret Watson
Deidre Kosky	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Scott Brown	Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair
Matthew Ehrenworth	Robert Remillard
Robert McCarthy	

*Administration Present:*

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Harris called Executive Session I of the School Committee to order at 9:40 PM and he then turned the meeting over to Interim Superintendent Gasbarro. Interim Superintendent Garbarro informed the School Committee that former Business Manager Peter Brennan had applied for, and was approved for, unemployment benefits. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro then asked Director of Human Resources Sullivan to provide historical accounting of this process. Director Sullivan walked the School Committee through the process, from Mr. Brennan's filing for unemployment benefits through the appeal process/hearing, which Director Sullivan attended. Director Sullivan explained that once approved, Mr. Brennan's unemployment compensation was retroactive to July 2012. Director Sullivan further explained that Mr. Brennan, who was at the appeal hearing, did not dispute the appeal. Director Sullivan reported the District lost the appeal. Following the initial appeal hearing, District Counsel McCabe was contacted and it was decided to further appeal this matter. At this time, Attorney McCabe is waiting for a date for the next hearing.

9:46 PM Member Call left the meeting.

Member Jackson asked why this unemployment case was just now being brought before the School Committee, to which Director Sullivan responded unemployment matters are personnel matters and are not normally brought to the School Committee, but the Legal Affairs Subcommittee was reviewing legal expenses/bills and when that subcommittee came upon Attorney McCabe's invoices, that is when Mr. Brennan's collecting unemployment benefits became apparent to the members of that subcommittee. Discussion ensued, including a question about the amount of Mr. Brennan's weekly unemployment benefit (\$653/week), comment being made that this is a matter that should be made public, a question asked why Attorney McCabe is handling this matter rather than Attorney Stonberg. Director Sullivan is to contact Attorney McCabe to get a status report on this matter. There was debate about if this would be considered a personnel matter, which would not be public, or a legal matter, which would be public once settled. Those present agreed that decision/determination is something that can be dealt with at a later date, when the matter is settled.

Chair Harris then asked Interim Superintendent Gasbarro to update the School Committee on a MCAD (Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination) complaint filed by former Chocksett Middle School Principal Margaret Morgan. Ms. Morgan is charging age and gender discrimination. The District's liability insurance carrier has been notified and an attorney has been assigned to the case. Former Superintendent Pandiscio has been notified of this MCAD complaint.

Motion: To adjourn Executive Session I, to return to executive session to consider negotiations with non-union personnel, Deputy Superintendent, not to return to public session  
(R. Imber)  
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Lance Harris  
William Clute  
Thomas Curran  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Deidre Kosky  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Kenneth Mills  
Tiffany Ralli  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Christina Smith  
Margaret Watson  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session I adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro  
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp