

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1241 Monday, September 9, 2013

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair	Matthew Lindberg
Scott Brown	James Mason
Lisa Call	Robert McCarthy
William Clute	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Tiffany Ralli
Matthew Ehrenworth	Erik Scheinfeldt
Robert Imber	Christina Smith
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Deidre Kosky	Robert Remillard
--------------	------------------

Administration Present:

Anthony Gasbarro, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Darryll McCall, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Nate Birnbaum	Jon O'Brien
---------------	-------------

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 7:04 PM. Chair Harris called members' attention to a revised School Committee meeting agenda (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

Duncan Leith, Holden resident and former School Committee Chair, addressed the School Committee.

Chair Harris publicly acknowledged Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan's impending retirement and wished her well on behalf of the School Committee. Director Sullivan was given a round of applause.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1240th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 12, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on August 12, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(M. Lindberg)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held August 12, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Mason, Mills, and Ralli abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 15, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of Executive Session I of the School Committee held on July 15, 2013, not to be released.

(E. Scheinfeldt)
(C. Witkes)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert McCarthy

Motion passed 16-0-4.

- C. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 15, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of Executive Session II of the School Committee held on July 15, 2013, to be released.

(K. Mills)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert McCarthy

Motion passed 15-0-5.

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 updated the Committee on the Superintendent search. He reported the position has been advertised in *Education Week*, and the ad and the brochure are both on the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' website. Chair Harris plans to appoint the Superintendent Screening Subcommittee the beginning of October.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Nate Birnbaum provided a copy of a petition, which had been signed by over 250 individuals (attachment 3).

C. Management Subcommittee (L. Harris, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Mason, K. Mills, E. Scheinfeldt, M. Watson)

Chair Harris reported the Management Subcommittee will meet next on September 23rd.

D. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, M. Watson, Vice-chair, L. Call, R. Remillard, C. Smith)

Education Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee met just before this School Committee meeting. Two items were the main focus of the meeting: the STEAM program at Thomas Prince School; and the House System at WRHS. The Education Subcommittee will meet next on October 28th @ 6:00 PM.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (E. Scheinfeldt, Chair, W. Clute, Vice-chair, J. Kelley, S. LaMountain, J. Mason, R. McCarthy, T. Ralli, C. Smith, C. Witkes)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Scheinfeldt reported this subcommittee has met twice since the August School Committee meeting. The two main issues being addressed by this subcommittee at this time are the evaluation of the Director of Business and Finance, and the RFP for a transitional audit. This subcommittee will meet next on September 17th.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

7:30 PM Student Representative Jon O'Brien left the meeting.

- F. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, M. Lindberg, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Ehrenworth, J. Kelley)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the September 5th meeting of this subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Mills read the Legal Affairs Subcommittee Statement of Purpose (attachment 4). All School Committee members were invited to give input on the statement at the next regular School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 5274 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Unrepresented Non-Contract Employees Benefits**, waiving the reading.

(K. Mills)

(E. Scheinfeldt)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 1340 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation School District Counsel**
(K. Mills)
(E. Scheinfeldt)

Members were provided a copy of Draft Policy 1340 (attachment 5).
Subcommittee Chair Mills read aloud the draft policy.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Facilities & Security Subcommittee (J. Mason, Chair, M. Ehrenworth, Vice-chair, W. Clute, D. Kosky, M. Lindberg, R. McCarthy, R. Remillard)

Facilities & Security Subcommittee Chair Mason reported the August 20th meeting of this subcommittee did not have a quorum. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet next on September 10th at 7:00 PM.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 7131 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Buildings and Grounds Management**, waiving the reading.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

H. Audit Advisory Board (J. Kelley, T. Ralli)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Kelley reported on the August 14th joint meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Advisory Board. She reported the FY13 audit has been completed, and the Audit Advisory Board will meet with Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan to review the DRAFT documents. AAB Chair Kelley is hoping to schedule this meeting in the near future. Chair Harris mentioned a representative from Holden is still being sought to serve on the AAB.

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Kelley, Chair, W. Clute, R. Imber)

No report was made.

Member Kelley asked Chair Harris the status of naming a facilitator for the Collaborative Budget Task Force; Chair Harris is attempting to find a facilitator.

J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported on the August 27th meeting of this building committee. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported the September 10, 2013 meeting of this building committee has been cancelled.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

Member Kelley requested an update on the Green Repair projects at the October 15th School Committee.

L. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. Kelley), Chocksett Middle School (S. LaMountain), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Smith), Dawson Elementary School (D. Kosky), Glenwood Elementary School (R. Remillard), Houghton Elementary School (L. Call), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (M. Watson), Naquag Elementary School (M. Ehrenworth), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Lindberg), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (TBD)

Member Jackson – SEPAC

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon explained that the figures in the MUNIS report that was a part of his report in the Superintendent's Report packet were based on the 1/12 budget.

At Member Jackson's inquiry, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon and Director of Human Resources Sullivan both tried to explain the \$110,000 (+/-) deficit in the withholding account.

7:50 PM Member Smith left the table.

Director Scanlon said this was a problem that he inherited; that what caused this problem is not known. Director Sullivan explained this problem is something District administration has been trying to correct/understand since before the District's health insurance was through GIC.

7:55 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

7:56 PM Student Representative Nate Birnbaum left the meeting.

Member Kelley strongly suggested the withholding account be carefully reviewed in an attempt to discover what caused the error(s) and how the error(s) can be corrected. Director Scanlon's recommendation is to write off this deficit and move forward with a clean slate.

8:00 PM Member Call left the table.

Discussion continued.

8:03 PM Member Call returned to the table.

Member Kelley is still hoping to see a breakdown of what is saved by turning off exterior lights at night. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that this would be a very labor and time intensive undertaking, as lights at each of the schools in the District would have to be counted individually and calculations done with that data. Member Kelley explained she wants to know what it will cost to turn on exterior lights at night, and suggested looking at pre-energy conservation figures (before "going dark") and comparing that data to figures after the District went dark.

At Member Smith's inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) testing, and that it is planned that PARCC testing will replace MCAS at some time in the future.

8:11 PM Member Lindberg left the table.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told the School Committee that all schools in the District, with the exception of Thomas Prince School and Davis Hill Elementary School, will be impacted by PARCC during this initial testing phase.

8:13 PM Member Scheinfeldt left the meeting.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro further explained that classrooms that are part of PARCC test sampling will be waived from taking MCAS

tests. Member Kelley suggested that the Education Subcommittee might look into PARCC and perhaps put together an informational sheet about this new assessment system. Discussion and questions about PARCC continued, with many members of the School Committee contributing to the discussion.

8:15 PM Member Lindberg returned to the table.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro took the opportunity to praise Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan and to congratulate her on your retirement. Director Sullivan received another round of applause.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of Massachusetts School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$32,920 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Mountview Middle School

(M. Watson)

(K. Mills)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve registration costs for School Committee Member Julianne Kelley's attendance at November 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts

(R. Imber)

(K. Mills)

Member Kelley briefly reviewed what the Joint Conference is and the sort of topics that are covered during this annual event.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve revision to 2013-2014 School Calendar

(K. Mills)

(L. Call)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To affirm accuracy of Policy 6613.2 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Athletic Concussion Policy**

(R. Imber)
(K. Mills)

Vote:
In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

At Member LaMountain's inquiry, Interim Superintendent Gasbarro updated the School Committee on District math curriculum and what is being done by way of professional development and curriculum selection. He told the Committee that the Math Task Force met on a regular basis last year, and will continue to meet this year.

Member Kelley asked that in the future, Treasurer Dunbar's reports be a separate attachment to the Superintendent's Report.

In light of the late August decision to transfer a teacher from Houghton Elementary School to Mayo Elementary School, Member LaMountain asked that the School Committee be given advance notice when District administration makes decisions that impact schools and staffing.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Pelczarski
Scott Brown
Lisa Call
William Clute
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Matthew Lindberg
James Mason
Robert McCarthy

Kenneth Mills
Tiffany Ralli
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp