

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1244 Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

Lance Harris, Chair	Matthew Lindberg
Scott Brown	James Mason
Lisa Call	Robert McCarthy
Thomas Curran	Kenneth Mills
Matthew Ehrenworth	Robert Remillard
Robert Imber	Erik Scheinfeldt
Stacey Jackson	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	

*Committee Members Absent:*

William Clute	Tiffany Ralli
Deidre Kosky	Christina Smith
Robert Pelczarski, Vice-chair	

*Administration Present:*

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

*Student Representatives Present:*

Nate Birnbaum	Jon O'Brien (7:09 PM)
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*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 7:05 PM. Members were provided with copies of the revised meeting agenda (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

Robert Becker, Jefferson resident, WRHS teacher, and WREA President, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1243<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 28, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held on October 28, 2013.

(J. Mason)  
(R. Imber)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held October 28, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Curran and Scheinfeldt abstaining.

7:09 PM Student Representative Jon O'Brien joined the meeting.

In Vice-chair Pelczarski's absence, Chair Harris announced a Temporary Vice-chair should be named to serve at this meeting.

Motion: To name Margaret Watson as Temporary Vice-chair to serve at the November 12, 2013 School Committee meeting.

(R. Imber)  
(M. Ehrenworth)

The motion was unanimously passed by consensus.

- B. Approval of the Minutes of the 299<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on October 28, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of special meeting of the School Committee held on October 28, 2013.

(K. Mills)  
(M. Ehrenworth)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held October 28, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Curran, Remillard, and Scheinfeldt abstaining.

- C. Approval of the Minutes of the 300<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 4, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of special meeting of the School Committee held on November 4, 2013.

(R. Imber)  
(K. Mills)

The minutes of the special meeting of the School Committee held November 4, 2013 were approved, by consensus, with Members Lindberg and Remillard abstaining.

- D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 4, 2013

Motion: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 4, 2013, not to be released.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Lance Harris  
Scott Brown  
Lisa Call  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Thomas Curran  
Robert Remillard

Motion passed 15-0-2.

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 introduced Glenn Koocher, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Mr. Koocher brought the full School Committee up-to-date on action taken to date by the Superintendent Screening Subcommittee and what the next steps are moving forward. Mr. Koocher explained that the four finalists will be scheduled to visit the District and

School Committee members will make site visits to the finalists' current places of employment. Mr. Koocher asked that School Committee members get their proposed questions for the candidates to Chair Harris, and that Chair Harris will forward the questions to Mr. Koocher by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Koocher shared his business and home telephone numbers, in the event a School Committee wished to reach him. When asked, Mr. Koocher explained how the full School Committee will name the successful candidate for the Superintendent of Schools position. He noted that the School Committee motion is to include language such as "pending successful contract negotiations." At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Chair Harris thanked Mr. Koocher for his attendance at this meeting.

7:26 PM Mr. Koocher left the meeting.

Chair Harris introduced Paxton Center School Principal Kathi McCollumn. Principal McCollumn's presentation to the School Committee focused on Ferry Beach and Washington, D.C. Class Trips (attachment 4).

7:27 PM Chair Harris left the table.

7:29 PM Chair Harris returned to the table.

At the conclusion of Principal McCollumn's presentation, members were given the opportunity ask questions. At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chair Harris thanked Principal McCollumn for attending the meeting.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro began his presentation on school choice by providing the Committee with the District's historical involvement with school choice, and how school choice in general came to be.

7:52 PM Chair Harris left the table.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro had prepared a PowerPoint presentation which he showed while speaking about school choice. Members asked questions during the presentation (attachment 5).

7:57 PM Chair Harris returned to the table.

The presentation, and questions and answers continued.

8:03 PM Member Call left the meeting.

Questions and comments included enrollment numbers at WRHS, the availability of bus transportation for school choice students and what the District's liability might be connected to that transportation, a bus that stops at a location over the Worcester line.

8:08 PM Chair Harris left the table.

Member Watson asked how many students at Thomas Prince School are in-District transfer students and how many are school choice students.

8:10 PM Chair Harris returned to the table.

Chair Harris apologized to the Committee, but reported he would need to leave the meeting due to a family emergency. In Chair Harris' absence, Temporary Vice-chair Watson would serve as Temporary Chair of the School Committee.

8:12 PM Chair Harris left the meeting.

Motion: To name Robert Imber as Temporary Vice-chair to serve at the November 12, 2013 School Committee meeting.

(M. Watson)

(C. Witkes)

The motion was unanimously passed by consensus.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro concluded his presentation, and some members asked additional questions.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Jon O'Brien reported a talent show will be presented by WRHS students on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. He further reported that the performances of *Wait Until Dark* will be held at WRHS November 15, 16, 17, 2013. Student Representative O'Brien's last comment was that the boys' soccer team won Districts.

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

In Chair Harris' and Vice-chair Pelczarski's absences, no report was made, although it was noted the Management Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

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 regular School Committee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Imber informed the Committee that March 9, 2014 will be the first day of the NEASC visit, and that School Committee members will be invited to a welcome dinner that evening. The Education Subcommittee will meet next at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

- 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 on the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of this subcommittee. At Member Watson's inquiry, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon reported that the School Committee had been provided with a copy of his "District Response Plan on Audit Comments and Recommendations" as an attachment to his October 25, 2013 report.

1. WRSD Educational Foundation Trust

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

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of this subcommittee. The Legal Affairs Subcommittee will meet next on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

- 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 this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but has a meeting posted for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Subcommittee Chair Mason told the Committee that he, along with Members Kosky and LaMountain, had attended the lock down drill that took place at WRHS on November 5, 2013, and he gave a brief report on the lock down drill.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Kelley reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**

(J. Kelley)

(M. Ehrenworth)

8:29 PM Member Mason left the table.

AAB Chair Kelley read aloud the sections of Policy 4713.1 where amendments are proposed.

8:30 PM Member Mason returned to the table.

Some discussion about the proposed amended language ensued.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Margaret Watson

Motion passed 14-1.

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

Temporary Chair Watson reported this subcommittee will meet again to approve meeting minutes.

J. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee (M. Watson)

Member Watson reported this building committee is scheduled to meet on November 20, 2013.

2. Green Repair School Building Committee

No report was made.

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, November 17<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Bingo  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, presentation at Davis Hill Elementary School, Speech & Language, Social Groups

Member Watson – Mountview Middle School

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

In response to Holden Town Manager Jacquelyn Kelly's email to Interim Superintendent Gasbarro regarding the availability of the now vacant former Holden Police Station on Main Street, Member Kelley would like to start conversations with the Town of Holden about this space. Member Scheinfeldt commented this sort of discussion might be a matter for executive session.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$302,829 to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for the Mountview Middle School.

(J. Mason)  
(K. Mills)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt



Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the gift of office supplies and one lap top computer to  
Glenwood Elementary School, donated by Lynn Lorusso of Rutland

(E. Scheinfeldt)

(J. Kelley)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the gift of \$500 to Thomas Prince School, funds to be used  
towards the purchase of new risers, donated by Lory and Nathan Brown of  
Princeton

(R. Imber)

(J. Kelley)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran

Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the gift of \$1,000 to Thomas Prince School, funds to be used towards the purchase of new risers, donated by John and Michelle Sciabarrasi of Princeton

(R. Imber)  
(M. Lindberg)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*  
None

Motion passed unanimously.

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District shall not participate in school choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

No action was taken.

VIII. New Business

In light of MCAS results at Davis Hill Elementary School, Member Kelley asked that the Education Subcommittee review Policy 3321.1 **Policy Relating to Education Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel**, which Education Subcommittee Chair Imber agreed to.

IX. Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (SEIU Local 888 ABA Program Assistants, and with AFSCME Council 93, Local 2885 Custodial Employees), and to discuss pending litigation, not to return to public session

(J. Mason)  
(M. Ehrenworth)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Robert Imber  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Matthew Ehrenworth  
Stacey Jackson  
Julianne Kelley  
Sarah LaMountain  
Matthew Lindberg  
James Mason  
Robert McCarthy  
Kenneth Mills  
Robert Remillard  
Erik Scheinfeldt  
Charles Witkes

*Opposed:*

None

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro  
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp