

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #303 Thursday, December 12, 2013

Curriculum Center
District Central Office
1745 Main Street, Jefferson

Committee Members Present:

Lance Harris, Chair	Sarah LaMountain
Robert Imber, Vice-chair	Robert McCarthy
Scott Brown	Kenneth Mills
Thomas Curran	Christina Smith
Matthew Ehrenworth (7:30 PM)	Margaret Watson
Julianne Kelley	Charles Witkes

Committee Members Absent:

Lisa Call	James Mason
William Clute	Tiffany Ralli
Stacey Jackson	Robert Remillard
Deidre Kosky	Erik Scheinfeldt
Matthew Lindberg	

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Jon O'Brien

I. Call to Order

Chair Harris called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:15 PM. Members were provided with hardcopies of the revised meeting agenda, copies of which had been distributed electronically in advance of the meeting (attachment 1).

II. Election of Vice-chair of WRSDC

Chair Harris explained that due to the resignation of Paxton Representative Rob Pelczarski, who was the Vice-chair of the School Committee, the full Committee would need to elect a member to serve as Vice-chair until May 2014. Chair Harris

read the list of those eligible (on the School Committee for at least two years) to serve as Vice-chair.

Motion: To nominate Robert Imber to serve as Vice-chair.

(J. Kelley)
(T. Curran)

Motion: To close nominations.

(S. Brown)
(J. Kelley)

The motion passed by consensus.

Chair Harris distributed blue ballot sheets.

The results of the election were (attachment 2):

Scott Brown:	Robert Imber
Thomas Curran:	Robert Imber
Lance Harris:	Robert imber
Robert Imber:	Abstain
Julianne Kelley:	Robert Imber
Sarah LaMountain:	Robert Imber
Robert McCarthy:	Robert Imber
Kenneth Mills:	Robert Imber
Christina Smith:	Robert Imber
Margaret Watson:	Robert Imber
Charles Witkes:	Robert Imber

Robert Imber assumed the role of Vice-chair.

III. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1245th Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 25, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the 1245th regular meeting of the WRSDC held on November 25, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(K. Mills)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Kelley abstaining.

B. Approval of Executive Session I Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 25, 2013

Member Watson has a correction to the draft minutes. Approval deferred.

C. Approval of Executive Session II Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 25, 2013

Motion: To approve Executive Session II minutes of the WRSDC held on November 25, 2013, to be released.

(K. Mills)
(R. McCarthy)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley

The minutes were approved 10-0-1.

D. Approval of 301st Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 3, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the 301st special meeting of the WRSDC held on December 3, 2013.

(M. Watson)
(C. Witkes)

The minutes were approved by consensus.

E. Approval of 302nd Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 4, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of the 302nd special meeting of the WRSDC held on December 4, 2013.

(T. Curran)
(M. Watson)

The minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Smith abstaining.

IV. 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.

V. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Harris thanked those present for attending the special meeting.

B. Student Representatives (Nate Birnbaum, Jon O'Brien)

Student Representative Jon O'Brien reported on high school students performing at a Kenny Rogers concert at Mohegan Sun on December 6th. He also reported on a December 6th magic show and that there would be a "Jingle Jam" holiday concert at the high school on December 13th. Student Representative O'Brien brought to the Committee's attention that the upper parking lots at the high school were not plowed on a recent snow delay day. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro noted that the parking lots had been treated, but were not plowed because of the small amount of snow on the ground.

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

Chair Harris reported the Management Subcommittee had recently met, in executive session, to discuss extending the contract with Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro.

Motion: To extend the contract with Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro until the earlier of June 30, 2014 or the date a permanent superintendent begins a contract, pending successful negotiations with the Interim Superintendent.

(R. Imber)
(M. Watson)

Chair Harris spoke to the motion.

7:30 PM Member Ehrenworth joined the meeting.

Lengthy discussion ensued, with particular focus on the end date of the contract extension.

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor to "To extend the contract with Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro until the earlier of February 28,

2014 or the date a permanent superintendent begins a contract, pending successful negotiations with the Interim Superintendent.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(R. McCarthy)

Discussion continued.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

Chair Harris read aloud the amended motion.

Motion: To extend the contract with Interim Superintendent Anthony Gasbarro until the earlier of February 28, 2014 or the date a permanent superintendent begins a contract, pending successful negotiations with the Interim Superintendent.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(R. McCarthy)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith

Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

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

Motion: To renew the contract by and between the Wachusett Regional School District Committee and James J. Dunbar, referred to as the Treasurer, for a period of one year, and to grant an annual increase of 3% in compensation, a monthly payment of \$1,202.01.

(J. Kelley)
(C. Witkes)

In the absence of the subcommittee's Chair and Vice-chair, Member Kelley spoke to the motion. Members were provided with a copy of Treasurer Dunbar's narrative evaluation, prepared by Director of Business and Finance Scanlon (attachment 3). Director Scanlon addressed the Committee, speaking about Treasurer Dunbar's performance the last twelve months. Discussion followed.

8:31 PM Interim Superintendent Gasbarro left the table.

8:32 PM Member Mills left the table.

8:34 PM Interim Superintendent Gasbarro returned to the table.

8:34 PM Member Mills returned to the table.

Altering the timing of evaluating the Treasurer was discussed.

Motion: To call the question.

(C. Smith)
(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley

Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

Chair Harris re-read the main motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
Margaret Watson

Abstained:
Lance Harris

The motion passed 10-1-1.

Member Kelley reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet next on December 18, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

8:43 PM Member Smith left the table.

8:43 PM Vice-chair Imber left the table.

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

Motion: To appoint Darryll McCall as the negotiator for upcoming negotiations with SEIU Local 888 for ABA Program Assistants, and with AFSCME Council 93, Local 2885 for Custodial Employees.

(K. Mills)
(M. Ehrenworth)

8:45 PM Member Smith returned to the table.

8:45 PM Vice-chair Imber returned to the table.

Subcommittee Chair Mills spoke to the motion.

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

8:46 PM Member Curran left the table.

F. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Superintendent Screening Subcommittee

Chair Harris reported the meeting of this subcommittee scheduled for December 12, 2013 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The final meeting of this subcommittee will be scheduled in January, to approve minutes and then the ad hoc subcommittee will be discharged.

8:47 PM Member Curran returned to the table.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Director of Business and Finance Scanlon addressed the Committee and provided an update on the bankruptcy filing involving Atlantic Express. Chair

Harris commended Director Scanlon for his foresight and for his addressing the District's transportation issues in a timely fashion. Chair Harris explained to the Committee the process to amend two motions passed by the School Committee at the December 9, 2013 regular meeting, per Robert's Rules.

Motion: To amend something previously adopted: To cancel all 2013-2014 contracts with Atlantic Express for school bus transportation and special education van transportation, which cancellation shall be effective December 31, 2013, voted December 9, 2013.

(R. Imber)
(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To amend the previously adopted motion as follows: To cancel all 2013-2014 contracts with Atlantic Express for school bus transportation and special education van transportation, which cancellation shall be effective December 31, 2013, to ensure the safety and transportation of the students of the Wachusett Regional School District, which cancellation shall be subject to any Order of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, in the matter of Metro Affiliates, et al, Debtors, Chapter 11, Case No. 13-13591 (SHL) in which Atlantic Express and Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. are Debtors.

(R. Imber)
(M. Ehrenworth)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber

Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To cancel all 2013-2014 contracts with Atlantic Express for school bus transportation and special education van transportation, which cancellation shall be effective December 31, 2013, to ensure the safety and transportation of the students of the Wachusett Regional School District, which cancellation shall be subject to any Order of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, in the matter of Metro Affiliates, et al, Debtors, Chapter 11, Case No. 13-13591 (SHL) in which Atlantic Express and Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. are Debtors.

(R. Imber)

(C. Witkes)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To amend something previously adopted: To approve the recommendation to award AA Transportation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the contract to provide school bus transportation to the Wachusett Regional School District for the remaining six months of school year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, for three years July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, with an option for the District to extend the contract two additional years from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019, voted December 9, 2013.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To amend the previously adopted motion as follows: To approve the recommendation to award AA Transportation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the contract to provide school bus transportation to the Wachusett Regional School District for the remaining six months of school year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, for three years July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, with an option for the District to extend the contract two additional years from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019, which contract will be subject to any Order of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, in the matter of Metro Affiliates, et al, Debtors, Chapter 11, Case No. 13-13591 (SHL)in which Atlantic Express and Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. are Debtors.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(S. LaMountain)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown

Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To approve the recommendation to award AA Transportation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the contract to provide school bus transportation to the Wachusett Regional School District for the remaining six months of school year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, for three years July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, with an option for the District to extend the contract two additional years from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019, which contract will be subject to any Order of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, in the matter of Metro Affiliates, et al, Debtors, Chapter 11, Case No. 13-13591 (SHL) in which Atlantic Express and Robert L. McCarthy & Son, Inc. are Debtors.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

Member Mills asked about the letter from Senator Brewer and Representative Ferguson regarding the Devereux School, a copy of which was included in the December 5, 2013 Superintendent's Report. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro explained that Administrator of Special Education Kim Merrick is working to be sure that the WRSD is not being charged inaccurately for services provided to Devereux students.

At Vice-chair Imber's inquiry, Director of Business and Finance Scanlon explained the food service numbers

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro updated the School Committee on the status of reviewing math curriculum. Four "sample" are being reviewed by the Math Leadership Team, a group that continues to meet on a regular basis.

Interim Superintendent had shared a video about the December 12, 2013 "Wreathes Across America" event at Thomas Prince School. He spoke about the stop made in Princeton and highly commended TPS Principal Mary Cringan and the entire TPS community for hosting this event.

Interim Superintendent Gasbarro reported that the District will be participating in PARCC assessment testing this year. At Glenwood Elementary School all students will take part in the end-of-year online assessment. Glenwood Principal Dennis and the DESE are in communication to iron out the details for the school's participation. Interim Superintendent Gasbarro told the Committee that since the PARCC testing is a pilot program, no results will be distributed to schools or parents.

There was general discussion about AA Transportation and student transportation beginning after the winter break. Parents will be notified about the new transportations providers.

9:23 PM Vice-chair Imber left the table.

9:24 PM Vice-chair Imber returned to the table.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

School Committee votes were taken earlier in the meeting.

VII. Unfinished Business

Motion: To approve the FY14 appropriation staff authorization and expenditures by category, dated August 8, 2013.

Discussion ensued, including a proposal to change the date in the motion from August 8, 2013 to December 5, 2013.

Motion: To amend the motion under Unfinished Business to read as follows:

To approve the FY14 appropriation staff authorization and expenditures by category, dated December 5, 2013

(S. Brown)
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

Motion: To approve the FY14 appropriation staff authorization and expenditures by category, dated December 5, 2013.

(S. Brown)
(M. Watson)

At Chair Harris' invitation, Member Kelley spoke to the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

VIII. New Business

Motion: To remand Policy 4650 *Policy Relating to Business/Finance Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer* to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for review.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris
Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:

None

The motion passed 12-0.

Member Mills mentioned the school calendar and the upcoming NEASC visit were discussed at a recent WRHS School Council meeting.

IX. Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent of Schools and Interim Superintendent of Schools, not to return to public session

Motion: To adjourn to executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Superintendent of Schools and Interim Superintendent of Schools, not to return to public session.

(M. Ehrenworth)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Lance Harris

Robert Imber
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Matthew Ehrenworth
Julianne Kelley
Sarah LaMountain
Robert McCarthy
Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Margaret Watson
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion passed 12-0.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony A. Gasbarro
Interim Superintendent

AAG:rlp