

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1122, Monday, January 22, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Robert Imber
Thomas Ackerman	Judith Newton
Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Shirley Conrad	Kelly Maxwell
David Gibbs	Edward Pescaro
Mark James	Tammy Tod

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
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 Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

Karen King, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Al Toney, Jefferson, addressed the School Committee and provided a handout (attachment 3).

Colleen Cipro, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Mal Kelley, Jefferson, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

Motion: To amend the agenda of this meeting to show two separate executive sessions. The first executive session, for the purpose of contract negotiations with non-union personnel, to be called under Section I.1 (Ad hoc Subcommittee to Employ a District Business Manager), to return to public session; the second executive session, for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, to be called following Section VIII (New Business), not to return to public session

(M. Coyle)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

- A. Approval of 1121st Regular Meeting minutes of the WRSD Committee held on January 8, 2007. Chair Watson noted that on page 4, fourth paragraph, the word "amendment" should be added after "A friendly..." The minutes were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Member Newton abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson told that warrants had been circulated for signing.

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

At the request of the Chair, the Superintendent introduced Chocksett Middle School Principal Marguerite Snow and District Curriculum Supervisor – Math/Science Dale Schimmel, who would serve as spokesmen for the evening's presentation on the District's middle school math program. A PowerPoint presentation was shown (attachment 5). Following the PowerPoint, Paxton Center School Principal Anthony DeFrino addressed the School Committee. Teachers Catherine Calise (Paxton Center School) and Elizabeth Wood (Central Tree Middle School) addressed the Committee. Ms. Wood distributed copies of the Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks Guiding Principles (attachment 6). School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters, after which time Chair Watson thanked the presenters and they left the meeting at 8:35 PM.

8:35 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

B. Student Advisory Committee (Nathaniel Flynn, Alexandra O'Connor)

Neither student representative was in attendance.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Strategic Plan Steering Committee representatives Watson and Sherman reported the Steering Committee is working on a vision statement. Both shared the hope that once the Steering Committee submits the vision statement to the full School Committee for review and approval, it will be endorsed, or not endorsed, as a whole, without wordsmithing. The target date for the completion of the strategic plan is the end of April. Chair Watson reported that Steering Committee Chair Glenn Gaudette has been invited to address the School Committee at the February 12th meeting.

8:39 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, T. Ackerman, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, S. Conrad, R. Imber, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to attachment 7 of the Superintendent's Report (pages 1 and 2 of the Regional Agreement). In preparation for the five year review of the Regional Agreement, Chair Watson will name an ad hoc subcommittee to address this matter.

Motion: That an ad hoc subcommittee be appointed to study the towns' representation on the School Committee, as stipulated by the Regional Agreement, and that one member from each town serve on this ad hoc subcommittee.

(R. Imber)
(T. Ackerman)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

Judith Newton

(Motion passed 13-1)

A meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be called in February. The Superintendent will be invited to respond to evaluation questions at that time.

- E. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, Steven Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

1. Amended Policy AP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Physical Restraint** – Second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP5252 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Physical Restraint**, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Amended Policy AP6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to Classes** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to Classes**, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(C. Ahearn)

There was considerable discussion regarding this amended policy. Member Plourde spoke to the amended language. Member Plourde made several suggestions to re-work the language in paragraph #4 and suggested striking the last sentence of the amended policy.

Motion: To remand Amended Policy AP6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to Classes** to the Education Subcommittee.

(N. Plourde)

(R. Carter)

Discussion continued.

Motion: To move the question.

(J. Sova)

Chair Watson would not entertain moving the question as others had comments and/or questions.

9:07 PM Member Sherman left the table.

9:09 PM Member Sherman returned to the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Judith Newton

Opposed:

Kathleen Sweeney

Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Ahearn

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Melinda Coyle

Steven Hammond

Robert Imber

John Nunnari

Michael Sherman

Joseph Sova

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

Norman Plourde

(Motion failed 1-11-2)

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy AP6260 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Assignment of Students to Classes***, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(C. Ahearn)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

Kathleen Sweeney

Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Ahearn

Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
Judith Newton

(Motion passed 13-1)

The January 24, 2007 meeting of the Education Subcommittee is canceled. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet will schedule another meeting in the near future. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet asked Education Subcommittee members to review Series 3000 and Series 6000 policies. She also asked School Committee liaisons to School Councils try to get feedback from the schools on bus safety issues for Education Subcommittee review.

- F. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, J. Newton, J. Sova)

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on January 30, 2007. The Audit Advisory Board has been invited to the meeting. Auditors from Melanson Heath will also attend to review the FY06 audit documents.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, E. Pescaro, Vice-chair, M. Coyle, J. Newton, N. Plourde))

Community Outreach will schedule a meeting for Thursday, February 1st.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (Shirley Conrad, Chair, Judith Newton, Vice-chair, School Committee Representatives)

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employ a District Business Manager (J. Nunnari, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations with non-union personnel, to return to public session.

(J. Nunnari)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The School Committee adjourned to executive session at 9:22 PM.

The School Committee returned to public session at 9:40 PM.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employ a District Business Manager
Chair John Nunnari announced the successful negotiations with
Peter Brennan who will serve as the District Business Manager.
Member Nunnari read a prepared statement (attachment 7).

J. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

Chair Watson dispensed with the High School Building Committee
report, in the absence of the Building Committee representative.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

Chair Watson dispensed with the Rutland Elementary School
Building Committee report, in the absence of the Building
Committee representative.

- K. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (S. Conrad), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (E. Pescaro), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Paxton Center School (M. Coyle), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

Chair Watson asked School Council liaisons to hold their reports until the February 12th School Committee meeting.

Member Plourde left the meeting.

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report
- B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the recommendation for the transfer of indirect costs from the 262 grant (Early Childhood Education) in the amount of \$1,985. to the Professional Development revolving account

(M. Sherman)
(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Newton asked the Superintendent if the District would be facing financial liability regarding the recent incident at the Lincoln-Sudbury High School. The Superintendent responded financial responsibility has not yet been contemplated.

Member Coyle inquired if the possibility of theft had been considered with regard to the recent loss of heating oil. The Superintendent acknowledged this possibility had been considered.

Member Carter asked if there is a School Committee policy dealing with diversity to which the Superintendent responded in the affirmative.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, not to return to public session.

(J. Sova)
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp