

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1102, Monday, December 12, 2005
7:00 PM

Library
Central Tree Middle School

Committee Members Present:

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Mary Catherine Maher
Cynthia Ahearn	Kelly Maxwell
Cynthia Bazinet	Phillip Mighdoll
Elizabeth Brennan	Judith Newton
Charles Capparelli	John Nunnari
Robert Carter (7:17 PM)	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Kathleen Sweeney
David Gibbs	Tammy Tod
Mark James	Margaret Watson

Committee Members Absent:

Cheryl Rauh
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Peter Brennan, Comptroller
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Legislators Present:

Senator Harriette Chandler (8:17 PM)
Representative Lewis Evangelidis

Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Livdahl called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chris Lucchesi, Holden, addressed the School Committee, informing those present that Holden for Children will be hosting an event on January 19, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Holden Senior Center. Formal notice will be shared with Chair Livdahl.

Chair Livdahl introduced three high school students in attendance – Marissa Johnson (Holden), Dave Mullaney (Paxton), Chrissie Smith (Holden). Each student addressed the School Committee, speaking on topics affecting high school students: Marissa spoke about the arts, the upcoming production of “Oliver,” school spirit; Dave focused on the construction and the effect it is having on the high school community; Chrissie addressed high school athletics.

Member Tod made note of the fact that students are involved and concerned about their high school, using the example that mention had been made at a high school SIMCO meeting of the need for signs directing all to the health office at the high school. Shortly after that meeting, students prepared and hung such signs. A round of applause followed.

Member Gibbs noted the adaptability of both students and staff during the construction project.

When the Student Council names representatives to attend School Committee meetings, Member Nunnari suggested those students be directed to determine issues students are dealing with and relate those issues to School Committee policies, in order to get the student body voice at the School Committee table. Policy books will be prepared and available for the Student Council representatives.

II. Secretary’s Report

- A. Approval of 1101st Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on November 28, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Maxwell and Mighdoll abstaining
- B. Approval of 271st Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on December 5, 2005 – approved by consensus, Members Maxwell and Sweeney abstaining

III. Treasurer’s Report/Financial Statements

Chair Livdahl 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. At 7:26 PM Chair Livdahl introduced Roger Hatch of the Department of Education, noting the Member Mighdoll should be recognized and thanked for facilitating this presentation.

Reference was made to the DOE Local & State Funding document, copies of which were made available (attachment 2). Mr. Hatch distributed copies of the

Aggregate Wealth Summary (attachment 3) to reference during this presentation. Mr. Hatch gave a brief explanation of the history of the background leading to this Chapter 70 formula reform and went on to explain the benefit to communities if such changes are made. At 7:54 PM Mr. Hatch concluded his presentation, opening the floor to questions from School Committee members. Most members present had questions/comments for Mr. Hatch.

8:17 PM Senator Harriette Chandler joined the meeting.

At 8:18 PM the question and answer/comment period ended and Mr. Hatch was thanked, by way of a round of applause, for his willingness to attend this meeting and share his knowledge.

Mr. Hatch left the meeting. Chair Livdahl called a five-minute recess.

At 8:25 PM the meeting reconvened.

Motion: The School Committee correspond with the legislature urging support of the Aggregate Wealth methodology, as presented by Roger Hatch.
(D. Gibbs)
(R. Carter)

A friendly amendment was made, and accepted by the makers of the motion, that such correspondence be addressed to Governor Mitt Romney and all delegates.

Motion: The School Committee correspond with Governor Mitt Romney and the legislature urging support of the Aggregate Wealth methodology, as presented by Roger Hatch.
(D. Gibbs)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari

N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

V. Committee Reports

Member Watson referred back to Director Locke's report, page 3, regarding technology/ThinClient referenced in Mrs. Nosel's report. Superintendent Pandiscio explained what ThinClient is and what it has to offer.

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl reported that she and Superintendent Pandiscio had toured the Rutland elementary school site with members of the Rutland Building Committee. Note was made of the beauty of the design and the many wonderful options being included in the building.

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on December 21, 2005 at 6:30 PM, at which meeting Treasurer James Dunbar is expected to attend.

The Management Subcommittee will meet on December 15, 2006 at 6:30 PM. The agenda for the Management Subcommittee meeting was distributed to members of that Subcommittee.

B. Student Advisory Committee

It is anticipated that a new election will take place shortly, appointing students to the Student Advisory Committee.

C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, C. Capparelli, R. Carter, M. C. Maher, J. Newton, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

1. First reading of Draft Policy 5273.1 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction.**

Member Watson noted minor grammar corrections.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 5273.1
Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Alternative to Travel and Travel Expense Reduction*, waiving the reading.

(M. James)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair

C. Ahearn

C. Bazinet

E. Brennan

R. Carter

S. Conrad

D. Gibbs

M. James

M. Maher

K. Maxwell

P. Mighdoll

J. Newton

J. Nunnari

N. Plourde

K. Sweeney

T. Tod

M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. First reading of Draft Policy 1311 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Committee-Superintendent Relationship***.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 1311
Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Committee-Superintendent Relationship*, waiving the reading.

(N. Plourde)

(E. Brennan)

Discussion of the wording of the policy followed. A friendly amendment was made to change the wording in the first paragraph to read "The School Committee understands a primary duty of the School Committee is to establish policies and a primary duty of the Superintendent is to implement and administer those policies." A second friendly amendment was made to strike the word "educational" from the second sentence in the second paragraph.

Both friendly amendments were accepted by the makers of the motion.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Draft Policy 1311 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Committee-Superintendent Relationship***, substituting the first paragraph with “The School Committee understands a primary duty of the School Committee is to establish policies and a primary duty of the Superintendent is to implement and administer those policies.” and striking the word “educational” from the second sentence in the second paragraph.

(N. Plourde)

(E. Brennan)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

C. Bazinet
D. Gibbs

(Motion passed 15-0-2)

3. First reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Evaluation of the Superintendent***.

Motion: To accept the first reading of Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Evaluation of the Superintendent***, waiving the reading.

(R. Carter)
(S. Conrad)

Much discussion of this amendment followed. Following discussion, Member Carter withdrew his motion.

Motion: To refer Amended Policy 1312 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation, *Evaluation of the Superintendent***, to Management Subcommittee.

(R. Carter)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. By-law Change – Duties of the Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Much discussion ensued regarding this topic. At the request of Member Mighdoll, Superintendent Pandiscio explained what is being sought by way of this proposed By-law change.

9:17 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

Member Mighdoll stated the desire to discuss issues, rather than wordsmith the proposed language change.

9:18 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Motion: To refer the proposed change to School Committee By-laws to Management Subcommittee.

(P. Mighdoll)

(C. Bazinet)

Member Brennan asked, as a member of the Management Subcommittee, for specific directive from the full School Committee as to what is being sought. Member Sweeney expressed opinion that meeting minutes should/could reflect the “flavor” of the meetings. Member Tod requested a side-by-side comparison of By-laws as they now read against wording of proposed changes. After much discussion, it was suggested that the format of suggested amendment(s) be cleaned up and history be provided with regard to proposed amendment.

Motion: To table the matter.

(R. Carter)

(P. Mighdoll)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Superintendent's Goals, dated November 23, 2005.

See below.

6. Report on Fraud Prevention Policy

Proposed wording for Fraud Prevention Policy will be forwarded to Attorney Elizabeth Valerio, requesting her review and comments.

D. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, A. Livdahl, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

Education Subcommittee will meet on December 14, 2005.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M. James, A. Livdahl, M. C. Maher, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, T. Tod)

1. FY07 Budget Process

The possibility of a special School Committee meeting being scheduled, with one agenda item, FY07 Budget, was discussed.

The Business/Finance Subcommittee will meet on December 21, 2005. Superintendent Pandiscio will meet with Paxton town officials on December 19th and with the Holden Finance Committee on December 20th.

The School Committee Retreat will be Saturday, January 21, 2006.

Returned to Superintendent's Goals, dated November 23, 2005.

Motion: To accept Superintendent Thomas G. Pandiscio's goals, dated November 23, 2005.

(J. Nunnari)

(C. Bazinet)

The Superintendent's goals, as presented, were discussed. Member Mighdoll commented that perhaps goal #5 was a bit too ambitious to attempt to accomplish this first year. Member Watson reminded the School Committee of the Education Subcommittee's long-range plan with regard to District libraries.

Motion: To move the question.

(T. Tod)

(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod

Opposed:

D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Watson

Abstained:

A. Livdahl, Chair

(Motion passed 13-3-1)

Motion: To accept Superintendent Thomas G. Pandiscio's goals,
dated November 23, 2005.

(J. Nunnari)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
D. Gibbs
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde

K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, K. Maxwell, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton, N. Plourde)

1. Process for timely response to community issues raised in public sessions.

Community Outreach Chair Brennan distributed copies of a vote of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, taken at the October 25, 2005 meeting, and reported on actions of that subcommittee taken at the December 5, 2005 meeting (attachment 4).

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet on Monday, January 23, 2006, immediately before the regular School Committee meeting.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Develop a Plan for Establishing a Permanent Audit Committee (S. Conrad, Chair, R. Carter, P. Mighdoll, J. Newton)

This Ad Hoc Subcommittee met on December 12, 2005. This Ad Hoc Subcommittee will report to the full School Committee on January 10, 2006.

Motion: To adjourn.

(P. Mighdoll)
(D. Gibbs)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

C. Bazinet
D. Gibbs
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
T. Tod

M. Watson

Opposed:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
M. Maher
J. Newton
K. Sweeney

(Motion failed 8-9)

10:00 Member Gibbs left the meeting.

Motion: To extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

(J. Newton)

(E. Brennan)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl, Chair
C. Ahearn
C. Bazinet
E. Brennan
R. Carter
S. Conrad
M. James
M. Maher
K. Maxwell
P. Mighdoll
J. Newton
J. Nunnari
N. Plourde
K. Sweeney
T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

H. Building Committees

1. High School

Member Maxwell, High School Building Committee representative, gave update.

2. Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree.

Rutland – Naquag/Central Tree agenda item will be removed from future agendas.

3. Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

I. School Council Reports:

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio made public commendation to Comptroller Peter Brennan, noting his hard work getting the School Building Authority Project Funding executed.

As follow up to Member Carter's inquiry regarding substitute pay for nurses, District staff polled other schools/districts and it has been determined that this problem is not limited to Wachusett. All schools/districts seem to have difficulty getting substitute nurse coverage.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed information regarding newly set up email for School Committee members (attachment 5). He explained with this new set up, School Committee members' personal email addresses will no longer need to be used.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 9, 2004

B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 28, 2005

- C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 11, 2005
- D. Approval of the 266th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 27, 2005
- E. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on November 7, 2005

Member Plourde explained to the Members that the Committee cannot go into executive session for the purpose of approving minutes. Chair Livdahl told of a conversation she had with District Counsel McCabe, who said otherwise.

Note was made that minutes of August 9, 2004, March 28, 2005 and April 11, 2005 were meetings of a different School Committee "regime," and that, unfortunately, notes of those meetings cannot be located.

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to the minutes of the November 7, 2005 meeting, explaining that the executive session dealt with collective bargaining matters.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session of the WRSD Committee held on November 7, 2005, minutes not to be released.
(M. James)
(R. Carter)

After discussion, Member James withdrew this motion.

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and non-union personnel, not to return to public session.
(S. Conrad)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

- A. Livdahl, Chair
- C. Ahearn
- C. Bazinet
- E. Brennan
- R. Carter
- S. Conrad
- M. James
- M. Maher
- K. Maxwell
- J. Newton
- J. Nunnari
- N. Plourde
- K. Sweeney

T. Tod
M. Watson

Opposed:
P. Mighdoll

(Motion passed 15-1)

The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP/rlp/School Committee/Minutes