

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1055, Monday March 10, 2003  
7:00 p.m.

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

John Rokicki, Chairman	Alice Livdahl
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Donald Benson	John Nunnari
Charles Capparelli	Julie Scott
Clifford Connell	Tammy Tod (7:04 PM)
David Fedeli	Margaret Watson
Kimberly Ferguson	Patricia Young
Patricia Gates	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Carol Esperti	Peter MacDonald
Jeffrey Gibbs	Natalie Mello
Jane James	

*Administration Present:*

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations  
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services  
Philip E. Campbell, Director of Student/Information Services  
Susan H. Sullivan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

*Others Present:*

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*  
Marc Sanguinetti, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*  
Susan Staudaher, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*  
Alan Berg, Holden Finance Committee  
David Gibbs, Sterling  
Maureen Floryan, Holden  
Larry Floryan, Holden

Mark James, Holden  
Elizabeth Brennan, Rutland  
Mike Sherman, Holden

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

I. Public Hearing

David Gibbs, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 1)

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 1054<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on February 24, 2003 – approved by consensus, changing on page 2, third paragraph “Representative Evangelidis distributed a copy of correspondence from he and other legislators to members of the Conference Committee encouraging the inclusion of the amendment in the final bill.” to “Representative Evangelidis distributed a copy of correspondence from several legislators to members of the Conference Committee encouraging the inclusion of the amendment in the final bill.”

An inquiry was made of Chairman Rokicki as to whether the minutes on page 13 regarding the release of Executive Session minutes were accurate. Chairman Rokicki explained that he was trying to determine quickly at the end of the meeting whether the minutes should be released and he determined that the minutes should not be released at that time. As Chair, he ruled on consensus that the minutes were not to be released. As there was no motion to over-rule the Chair, the minutes stand as presented.

Chairman Rokicki indicated that he would provide a copy of the executive session minutes to Members Kimberly Ferguson and Kelly Maxwell.

A question was raised regarding the Superintendent's reminder on page 17 regarding the certification of funds for the architect. The Superintendent explained that since no limits were put on the project, the Superintendent was required to assure that the funds were available to fully fund the architect's fees, per the contract.

Chairman Rokicki was asked whether or not the response was sent to the American Civil Liberties Union. He indicated that the response had been prepared and was ready to be sent. Chairman Rokicki reminded the Committee that the Chair speaks for the Committee.

- B. Approval of the 248<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 3, 2003 – approved by consensus, adding on page 6 under Executive Session, to note that the Executive Session was not held.

### III. Clarifications relating to Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

- A. Presentation of Warrants and Payroll

The warrants were circulated for signature.

### IV. Communications

Inquiry was made of the Superintendent as to what the transportation fee would be. The Superintendent reported that the fees from last year would not nearly cover the cost and that District staff is analyzing the data now. The Superintendent will keep the Committee informed.

Chairman John Rokicki distributed a copy of communication from Holden Selectman Timothy Ethier (attachment 3).

### V. Committee Reports

- A. Student Advisory Committee (K. Brunelle, L. Zambetti, N. Leger, E. DeMarco)

No members of the Student Advisory Committee were in attendance.

- B. Management Subcommittee (J. Rokicki, Chair, D. Leith, C. Esperti, P. Gates, A. Livdahl, K. Maxwell, N. Mello, J. Scott)

The Management Subcommittee has not met. Chairman John Rokicki reported that a new meeting date will be scheduled.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (N. Mello, J. Rokicki, D. Leith, D. Benson, D. Fedeli)

In the absence of Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Natalie Mello, Member Duncan Leith reported that the Business/Finance Subcommittee met and reviewed AP5241.12 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Criminal Record Check*** and discussed evaluation standards for the Treasurer.

1. Motion: To adopt AP5241.12 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management *Criminal Record Check*** for the first reading, waiving the reading  
(D. Leith)  
(J. Scott)

The Superintendent explained that the new law requires that all volunteers who have contact with children must have a criminal check made. The process is being developed to have an identification system. The Superintendent originally wanted to have photo identification but with the budget situation as it is currently, the Superintendent will look to another less costly method.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To adopt the proposed evaluation standards for the Treasurer, reversing the order of the standards, from Outstanding to Unacceptable (attachment 4)  
(D. Leith)  
(D. Benson)

Motion to Amend: To replace under *Exceeds expectations* “consistently meet and exceeds” with “meet and frequently exceeds”

(J. Nunnari)  
(M. Watson)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion to Amend passed unanimously)

Vote on main motion as amended: To adopt the proposed evaluation standards for the Treasurer, reversing the order of the standards, from Outstanding to Unacceptable, and

replacing under *Exceeds expectations* “consistently meet and exceeds” with “meets and frequently exceeds”

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

- D. Business-related Ad-Hoc Subcommittees
- E. School Building Committees requiring the action of the School Committee
  - 1. Holden – (J. Scott)
  - 2. Paxton
  - 3. Rutland
    - a. Central Tree/Naquag – (J. Rokicki)
    - b. Elementary – (J. Nunnari)

Member John Nunnari reported that the Rutland Building Committee will be reviewing proposals submitted for construction management firms. He

also reported that there is no further information on the alternative site.

4. Sterling
5. High School

Chairman John Rokicki reported that he only needs to confirm with one community representative and then will announce the composition of the High School Building Committee. Chairman Rokicki reported that the High School Building Committee will review proposals for construction management firms and make a recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

## VI. Superintendent's Report

### A. Discussion of report

An inquiry was made regarding the borrowing for the high school as to whether it will be level debt or declining debt. The Superintendent reported that the decision as to the method for borrowing will be decided by the School Committee in place eight to ten years from now, when the permanent borrowing takes place.

Following an inquiry, the Superintendent reported that he would prepare a Commendation for the area legislators who had been so helpful in assuring that the high school and Rutland projects are able to continue. The Commendation will be presented to the School Committee and a public presentation will be scheduled.

The Superintendent, following inquiry, reported that the District knows as much today about the timeline for reimbursement as was known when the vote was taken in November and December. The Superintendent expressed his concern that the short-term borrowing is now for seven years but the maximum length for borrowing for the whole project is still twenty-five years. The legislators are aware of the concern and hopefully will provide an extension for long-term borrowing.

The Superintendent reported that once all the Department of Education deadlines have been met, the projects (high school and

Rutland elementary) will be on the reimbursement list and according to State legislators, although the Department of Education and the Governor reserve the right to limit proposals.

Following inquiry, the Superintendent reported that the District is looking to recover the total cost for transportation of students living within two miles from the school.

The Superintendent explained special education transportation. One type of special education is provided in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP); this transportation must be provided no matter where the student lives. Other special education students will be included in regular transportation. The District has already set the pattern that the majority of the special education students are included in regular education transportation because transportation is not required in the IEP.

B. Recommendations requiring action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To reschedule the March 24, 2003 Annual Budget Hearing and Regular School Committee Meeting to March 25, 2003

(K. Maxwell)  
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Motion: To adopt DP6812 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Diplomas for Veterans*** for the first reading, waiving the reading

(J. Scott)

(K. Maxwell)

The Superintendent explained to the Committee that the age determination of sixty-five was utilized because the diploma would be awarded, not earned, and therefore could not be used on job applications. The Superintendent reported that the timing for awarding the diplomas has not been determined. The Superintendent suggested that the diplomas be awarded on either Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Motion: To adopt AP7151.1 **Policy Relating to Support Operation *Playground Safety*** for the first reading, waiving the reading

(J. Scott)  
(P. Gates)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Motion: To adopt AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations *Routes and Services*** for the first reading, waiving the reading

(A. Livdahl)  
(D. Leith)

Motion to Amend: To change in the third paragraph “one mile” to “one half mile”

(K. Maxwell)  
(T. Tod)

Vote:

In favor:

David Fedeli

Kelly Maxwell  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Abstained:

Clifford Connell

(Motion to Amend failed 3-11-1)

Vote on main motion:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
David Fedeli  
Alice Livdahl  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Clifford Connell  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Kelly Maxwell  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 10-5)

5. Motion: To transfer of \$36,258, the indirect cost value of state and federal grants, to professional development revolving account, as delineated in the Superintendent's Report.

(D. Leith)  
(C. Capparelli)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

5. Motion: To approve the sale of a \$7,295,000 Bond Anticipation Note of the District dated March 6, 2003 and payable March 12, 2004, to Quick & Reilly, a FleetBoston Financial Company with a net interest cost (NIC) of 1.1799%

(D. Leith)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson

Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

Abstained:  
Kelly Maxwell

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

6. Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategies for collective bargaining with the nurses at the end of the meeting, not to return to public session

(D. Leith)  
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson

Patricia Young

Opposed:

(Motion passed unanimously)

VII. Public Hearing

No one from the general public wished to speak.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

Motion: To have the School Committee approve Chairman John Rokicki's response to the American Civil Liberties Union before mailing

(P. Gates)

(K. Ferguson)

Chairman John Rokicki distributed a copy of his proposed response to the American Civil Liberties Union, which he has reviewed with School Committee Counsel Leo McCabe (attachment 5).

Motion to Amend by Substitution: To approve Chairman John Rokicki's response to the American Civil Liberties Union, as written, dated March 11, 2003.

(P. Gates)

(M. Watson)

A friendly amendment was offered by Member Kelly Maxwell, and accepted by Members Patricia Gates and Margaret Watson, to remove the words "without complaint" in paragraph three and adding "in" between "am" and "receipt" in the first sentence.

Roll call vote on Motion to Amend by Substitution: To approve Chairman John Rokicki's response to the American Civil Liberties Union, as written, dated March 11, 2003, removing the words "without complaint" in paragraph three and adding "in" between "am" and "receipt" in the first sentence.

In favor:

John Rokicki

Duncan Leith

Donald Benson  
Charles Capparelli  
Clifford Connell  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Patricia Gates  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

A concern was raised as to the inappropriateness of releasing executive session minutes to the public before being released by the School Committee. Chairman John Rokicki reminded members that this has happened in the past, with censures and complaints to state agencies being made and yet the practice continues. The Superintendent reminded members that integrity is not an assumed quality of all publicly elected officials.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:ss/schoolcommittee/minutes