

Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

May 22, 2020

To: *Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair
Christina Smith, Vice-chair
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber

Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

From: Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

Posting and School Committee Roster

Attached is the updated posting of meetings scheduled for May and June (attachment 1). Please be reminded this regular meeting of the School Committee will be on **TUESDAY**, May 26th, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Tuesday evening's regular School Committee meeting will be by remote participation via Google Meet. An invitation to Tuesday's meeting has been sent/shared with members of the School Committee, Central Office executive staff, Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson, and the president of the WREA. If you have not yet done so, please "accept" the invitation if you are intending to participate in the meeting. Using a laptop with the Hangouts connection is preferable, though calling in by cell phone is also an option, though not the preferred way to participate. I am again attaching the step-by-step instructions for setting up and using this virtual meeting platform, easy to understand and follow thanks to Barry Sclar (attachment 2).

Chair Mills plans to open the meeting at 7:00 PM and will then pass over the first public hearing in order to allow for a report from administration about the status of District and school operations, following which members will all have the opportunity to ask questions and share comments. At the conclusion of discussion by the Committee and administration, members of the public will have the opportunity to have their questions asked/comments made by emailing

Jefferson School

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them to Chair Mills at questions@wrsd.net, who will bring the public's questions and comments before the School Committee. Following the opportunity for public input, and with time permitting, the remainder of the agenda may proceed.

Attached is an updated copy of the WRSDC roster (attachment 3).

For planning and quorum purposes, please advise if you are unable to participate in Tuesday evening's meeting

WRSD Senior Events

Please join me in wishing the WRHS Class of 2020 farewell and best of luck as they enjoy their last day of school on Friday, May 22nd. This group of students has endured much, including their senior year being cut short, but they are strong and resilient students and they will persevere, of that I am certain.

Principal Beando and his team have pulled together several events to recognize and celebrate the Class of 2020 and I am proud and appreciative of their hard work (attachment 4).

OnDemand Awards Show

In light of so many celebrations and recognition events being cancelled this spring, the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* is being creative and is changing the annual Best of Hometeam High School Sports Awards banquet from an in-person event to an OnDemand Awards show (attachment 5). As a community, so many are pulling together during these challenging times, working to celebrate the good and trying to make the best of the things we are unable to change just yet. This show will be available on Thursday, June 18th, at 6:00 PM for your viewing pleasure.

COVID-19 and the Impact on Schooling

- *Continuation of School Closure*

Schools in our district and across the state continue to work remotely, with students and staff working together in this new mode of learning and teaching. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee will occur next week. We also know that DESE will be coming out with their own recommendations based upon decisions made by Governor Baker's office.

- *Update on Conference Calls*

I continue to work with both the DESE and other groups, including MASS, on looking at remote learning, the FY20 budget, and the outlook for FY21. There are still many more questions to be asked than answered right now. A recent conference call with MASS included a presentation on steps to take to help mitigate the anticipated budget shortfall in the state.

- *CARES Act*

We are currently in the process of applying for these grant funds to help support our transition to a remote learning model with technology, training and PPE.

- *Chromebooks*

We continue to offer Chromebooks to families through our Technology Department. We are now averaging about 15 Chromebooks being lent out a week. The department continues to provide remote support to families and staff around a variety of issues associated with remote learning. Again, I cannot praise this team enough for how diligent and supportive they have been during the past two months.

Budget Updates

- FY20 Budget

We are looking to end the year on a positive note in terms of the budget, with savings in several areas based upon the lack of building usage and transportation due to the shutdown. Director Deedy's packet prepared for Wednesday's Business/Finance meeting is being shared as a separate link in the folder in Drive (Attachment A). Director Deedy provides details in his report concerning the status of the FY20 budget.

- FY21 Proposed Budget

This week at the Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, I shared the attached document with the subcommittee (attachment 6). The document lays out a five tiered plan for reductions for the FY21 budget which I will review with the Committee in more detail, including some additional information that was requested at the meeting. The document took a great deal of time and care in terms of creating a list of reductions that includes both non-personnel and personnel. Almost 80% of our budget is based on salaries and benefits so making reductions to the budget to the levels projected as worst case scenarios includes devastating cuts to our staffing across the District.

Amendments to Contracts with Transportation Provider

Attached are two proposed amendments to the contracts the District has with AA Transportation of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the Contract for SPED, In-District Transportation and the Contract for School Transportation (attachments 7 & 8). These amendments were discussed at Wednesday's Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, and can be discussed further at the meeting of the full School Committee.

Youth Art Month

Thursday afternoon, March 12th, as art teachers were hanging the final pieces for this year's exhibition of WRSD K-8 student work in the Bowes Gallery, they received the call that schools

would be closed on Friday, March 13th. Though very disappointed that this exhibit cannot be viewed in person as usual, these dedicated teachers have devised a way for all to enjoy a digital version of the Youth Art Month Wachusett Show 2020! As a separate attachment/link, please enjoy the talents and hard work of our students and the teachers who bring art into their students' lives and into the classrooms.

Resolution in Support of Education Funding for COVID-19

At the May 12th meeting of the Management Subcommittee, members were provided with an example of an advocacy document for a resolution/statement about additional stimulus funding, and a similar resolution has been drafted specific to Wachusett (attachment 9). The Committee will be asked to vote in support of this resolution at Tuesday's meeting.

Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

I have received notification from DESE that the SOA Plan deadline has been extended until June 19th (attachment 10). With this in mind, we will continue to work on the SOA, understanding that the Commissioner will most likely extend the deadline once again due to the state budget not being finalized. The likelihood of these funds being reduced or eliminated is becoming greater as more time passes and the state revenue shortfall grows.

Community Outreach

Attached is the April 2020 edition of *Wachusett News* (attachment 11). I am always pleased to watch the number of readers these newsletters reach, not just in our District, but across the country and around the world.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation

Below is the timeline the Superintendent's Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee has laid out for conducting the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Subcommittee Chair Lavoie spoke briefly about the process and at Tuesday's meeting he will have the opportunity to speak more about this annual task.

6/1/2020	Darryll McCall provides his evaluation input/update
6/3	Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee meeting (Barry Sclar to be invited) to review Darryll's narrative to ensure alignment with the evaluation tool to be developed
6/8	presentation of electronic evaluation tool at full School Committee meeting (Barry Sclar to be invited)
6/9	electronic evaluation tool is shared with all members of the School Committee
6/14	due date for members' electronic evaluation input/feedback
6/15	meeting of the subcommittee at which time the Standards will be divided among subcommittee members to compile input/feedback from 20 members
6/19	subcommittee members' compilations to Ken Mills, to provide data/information for evaluation narrative

- 6/22 subcommittee meeting to review Ken's draft narrative
After 6/22 If Ken Mills wishes, another subcommittee meeting to review the final evaluation narrative before it is shared with the full membership for review in advance on vote on evaluation at 6/30/2020 full School Committee meeting.
6/30 full School Committee vote on the Evaluation of the Superintendent

School Choice

Following the vote of the Committee to not participate in school choice for the 2020-2021 school year, I notified Rob O'Donnell in the Office of School Finance, Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education of this decision (attachment 12). This decision was also submitted electronically to DESE.

MOA with Teamsters 170 - Paraprofessionals

For your information, attached is the executed Memorandum of Agreement between the WRSD and Teamsters Local 170 - Paraprofessionals, COVID-19 Closure, which the School Committee voted in favor of at our last meeting (attachment 13).

Subcommittee Minutes

- Minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 1)
- Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting of the Management Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 2)
- Minutes of the April 6, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 3)
- Minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 4)
- Minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 5)

Chair's Correspondence

- May 12, 2020 correspondence to Student Representative Rianna Massoni-Newman (Chair's Correspondence 1)
- May 12, 2020 correspondence to Student Representative Leah Michalowski (Chair's Correspondence 2)
- May 12, 2020 correspondence to Rutland Selectboard Chair Sheila Dibb (Chair's Correspondence 3)
- May 12, 2020 correspondence to Michael Dubzinski (Chair's Correspondence 4)
- May 12, 2020 correspondence to WREA President Heidi Lahey (Chair's Correspondence 5)
- May 12, 2020 correspondence to Kristina Naiman (Chair's Correspondence 6)

Superintendent's Correspondence

- May 7, 2020 correspondence from Holden Town Manager Peter Lukes (Superintendent's Correspondence 1)

Should you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

cc: Executive Staff
DM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Agenda

Regular Meeting #1344

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Chair's Opening Remarks
- III. Student Representatives' Reports (R. Massoni-Nesman, L. Michalowski)
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Discussion of Report
 - B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 - 1. To support the Resolution for Enhanced Federal Funding
 - 2. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign an amendment to the Contract for School Transportation, dated June 19, 2018, between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation, Inc. of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
 - 3. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign an amendment to the Contract for SPED, In-District Transportation, dated July 1, 2019, between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation, Inc. of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
 - 4. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between WRSD and the WREA – Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement COVID-19 Closure
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. Secretary's Report
 - A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 9, 2020
 - B. Approval of #1343 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 11, 2020 – enclosed
 - C. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 11, 2020

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, R. Imber, M. Lavoie, A. Young)
- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Ayala, S. Haber, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil, A. Silva)
- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, B. Mitchel, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, J. Haynes, L. Long-Bellil, K. Ottmar)
- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, Imber, A. Michalowski)
- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, A. Michalowski, Vice-chair, K. Mills, M. Weeks)
- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, S. Godbout)
- G. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair)
- H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - 1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (K. Mills, Chair, M. Weeks, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, M. Lavoie)
- I. Building Committees
- J. School Council Reports:
 - Central Tree Middle School (S. Haber), Chocksett Middle School (L. Woodland), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School (M. Ayala), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (L. Long-Bellil/A. Michalowski), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Gustafson), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland)

IX. Public Hearing

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN □ PAXTON □ PRINCETON □ RUTLAND □ STERLING

DRAFT Minutes

Regular Meeting #1343

Monday, May 11, 2020
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Matthew Lavoie
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Melissa Ayala	Amy Michalowski
Michael Dennis	Benjamin Mitchel
Stephen Godbout	Karl Ottmar
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva
Sherri Haber	Megan Weeks
Jeffrey Haynes	Linda Woodland
Robert Imber	Adam Young
Laura Kirshenbaum	

Committee Members Absent:

Scott Brown

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education
Barry Sclar, Supervisor of Information Technology
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Rianna Massoni-Nesman Leah Michalowski

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills announced the meeting was streaming live on Holden TV, Channel 194, and is being conducted remotely, via Google Meet. Chair Mills extended his thanks to HCTV for assisting with broadcasting the meeting live.

Chair Mills announced he would read one item for Public Hearing, sent to questions@wrsd.net before the start of the meeting, after which he would go back to the adjusted agenda, taking Public Hearing out of order later in the meeting, with no objections from members (attachment 1).

III. Student Representatives (R. Massoni-Nesman, L. Michalowski)

Student Representative Michalowski had some questions about A.P. exams, which Student Representative Massoni-Nesman also spoke about. WRHS senior and Student Representative Massoni-Newman reported on some senior class graduation plans that are in place/are being put in place, including the seniors' last day of school is May 22nd, that there is a senior page on the school website, graduation will still include student speeches and there will still be Class Marshalls. She continued to list activities planned - June 4th photo display, June 6th Rolling Rally, cap and gown distribution, returning of books and Chromebooks, etc.

Superintendent McCall thanked the students, District-wide and high school seniors, for their hard work, patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Chair Mills invited both Student Representatives to continue participating in School Committee meetings, if they wish, until the end of June, when the School Committee will reorganize following local elections.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall began by extending his appreciation to those who have reached out to him about the budget moving forward. He stated it is assumed and being planned that FY21 will open under at 1/12th budget.

Superintendent McCall spoke about the School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG) the District received, explaining the \$72,000 will fund the purchase and installation of 24 filtered water bottle filling stations in some of our schools.

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis addressed the Committee at Chair Mills' invitation, explaining it is not likely districts will hear definitive budget information until sometime in the summer. Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke of his three valve analogy:

- #1 Revenue reductions to FY20 level based on 1/12th budget
- #2 Cash flow restriction due to 1/12th budget (the point at which we do not have sufficient funds to cover payroll + expenses and by how much)
- #3 Reductions to state aid from FY20 levels

Chair Mills called upon members for their comments about the Superintendent's Report.

Member Young asked about the remote access survey. He is afraid that the responses may be skewed because respondents may be the ones who have internet access. Superintendent McCall spoke about principals, assistant principals, and teachers reaching out to students who have not been regularly connecting with the schools. He also mentioned wellness checks are being done when needed.

Member Young then asked about the WREA MOA amendment, which was not included in the Superintendent's Report. He asked if there will be an MOA with the ABA PA union, which Superintendent McCall does not expect will be developed. Administrator of Special Education Smith reported on steps that have been taken and that will be taken to provide discrete trial work in the remote environment, as well as other remote learning for this student population.

Member Ayala had questions about the spreadsheets prepared by Director Deedy for the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Superintendent McCall spoke briefly about what was shared, letting the members know he and District staff are working on the proposed cuts, but the Committee will be kept informed before any reductions are made. Superintendent McCall, at Chair Mills' request, spoke in slightly more detail about the two documents that were shared with members. Director Deedy called members' attention to *FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios*, which had been prepared for the May 6, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (attachment 2). Director Deedy spoke in detail about the information on that sheet. Director Deedy briefly called members' attention to *FY21 Budget Scenario Suggested Cuts* (attachment 3).

Chair Mills is asked that the Committee be kept informed when action by the Committee will be required to address any proposed edits or changes to the budgets.

Member Dennis continued to call members' attention to *FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios*, and as Chair of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, he gave a more detailed explanation of the information and the impact of these proposed scenarios. Member Dennis voiced his concern about operating under a 1/12th budget, especially when there are three payrolls in a particular month.

Member Dennis spoke about the School Choice Out information that was included in the Superintendent's Report. At the high school level, students who live in the Member Towns but choice out is over 500 student residents. Understanding the trending information about students who do not attend schools in-District needs to be followed up on.

Member Godbout passed on the opportunity to speak.

Member Gustafson has been disappointed in and concerned about the pace of information being shared with the Business/Finance Subcommittee as well as with the full Committee, and she wanted to reiterate her concerns. Director Deedy responded to Member Gustafson's concerns, explaining he had provided the Business/Finance Subcommittee thorough detailed projections, which he can share again for Member Gustafson's information.

At Member Gustafson's inquiry about the SWIG grant, asking if a deeper look at water stations and sinks needs to be done, Superintendent McCall spoke about water stations in the schools and plans for use of these grant funds.

Member Gustafson asked if survey results, from the building level, will be shared with the School Committee and she also asked about summer services and if they will be conducted remotely.

Member Gustafson asked about students retrieving their belongings, to which Superintendent McCall responded. Plans are being developed, depending on when schools can be opened for parents and students to go into the schools.

Member Haber asked about social-emotional concerns noted in the survey results, which Superintendent McCall confirmed are a highest priority. Director Keenan also spoke to the question, explaining he is working with counselors and school psychologists on how to address these issues.

Another question was raised and concern expressed about those families/students who do not have access to technology. Supervisor Sclar and Deputy Berlo both spoke about ChromeBook distribution, which is continuing, and school administrators are continuing to reach out to families.

Member Haynes expressed his thanks to members of the WRSD community for all the work being done during these challenging times. Member Haynes asked the Superintendent if there has been any success connecting with local cable stations about these stations broadcasting instructional materials. Superintendent McCall acknowledged this option, and he also mentioned the possibility of providing technology tutorials for parents and students. Member Haynes asked about the possibility of collaboration across the five towns, with one benefit being students being able to connect. Superintendent McCall reported this is something that can be looked into.

8:42 PM Vice-chair Smith left the meeting.

Member Kirshenbaum asked if there is a plan or a mechanism to help students bridge the gap as school ends for the summer, to provide access to resources, including but not limited to lunches. Member Kirshenbaum recognized the TPS and WRHS students referenced in the Superintendent's Report, the Mathspace winners and the National Science Honor Society scholarship winners, and she commended students and this year's seniors for all they have endured during their school career and noted the strength they have.

Member Imber thanked the I.T. Department for getting the surveys out, commenting that he was pleased to know that there were 3,000 respondents. Member Imber also shared kudos to the TPS middle school math students and Anne McCluskey for taking first place in the Mathspace 30 Day Challenge. Member Imber is hoping the Staffing Plan can be shared with the Committee soon. Superintendent McCall

explained the Staffing Plan is not going to look as it was developed due to the current situation. Member Imber noted he understands what the Superintendent is saying, but he feels having the Staffing Plan available for review is important for planning purposes.

Member Lavoie added to previous comments about the importance of health care support in the schools. He also mentioned survey results dealing with social-emotional health. Member Lavoie reported he had not received a survey from the District about ESY. Administrator Smith explained the survey was sent out from the Special Education Department the end of last week, and any parent of a special education student who has not received the survey should contact the Special Education Department.

Member Long-Bellil extended heartfelt thanks to the administration, and she gave a shout out to the two Student Representatives for their great service on the Committee. Member Long-Bellil asked if Director Deedy could provide an update on an application for PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) funds by the transportation companies/vendors. Director Deedy reported he does not believe this has moved forward. Member Long-Bellil hopes applying for these funds by the transportation company is not being done only because it is "cumbersome." Member Long-Bellil mentioned teachers being available for a remote meeting/remote lessons, at least on a limited basis, which is beneficial for students. She asked if this can be encouraged of teachers. Member Long-Bellil asked if the Superintendent or the middle school principals have thought about 8th grade graduations, to which Superintendent McCall responded he has spoken with middle school principals about plans for this year's 8th grade graduation recognition ceremonies, which would need to be conducted virtually and he wants to be sure that whatever is decided upon is consistent across the five towns.

9:00 PM Member Godbout left the meeting.

Member Michalowski asked if Superintendent McCall or Deputy Superintendent Berlo can provide information about the number of students who are not in consistent contact. Member Michalowski expressed her concern about use of E&D (Excess & Deficiency) for budget planning purposes. She also asked what would be the process to open conversations about deferring salary increases or increasing fees, as examples. Chair Mills explained the Management Subcommittee will be meeting on May 12, 2020, and such topics will be discussed in executive session. Member Michalowski asked Superintendent McCall when members can expect a concrete plan for the various options for savings, staffing, etc. and she echoed Member Long-Bellil's concern about vendors applying for PPP funds.

Chair Mills again noted the time sensitivity for planning moving forward.

Member Mitchel passed on the opportunity to speak.

Member Ottmar, on the budget side, voiced the need to look at a worst case scenario when considering the FY21 budget, stressing the importance of planning for the

worst. Continuing a worst case scenario discussion, what would the plans be if a vaccine is not developed for 18 months, how will that impact students and learning.

Member Weeks thanked her colleagues for insightful questions. Member Weeks asked about the Professional Development Day this date. Superintendent McCall reported on teacher options, including teas meeting and planning for when schools do resume. Member Weeks reported how pleased she is with remote learning at the elementary level. She spoke about grading at the high school level, which can be very stressful when looking at pass/fail, making progress/not making progress. Superintendent McCall spoke about grading and planning for students moving to the next grade.

Member Woodland said that providing parents with a timeline with target dates to refer to would be beneficial. Member Woodland also spoke about proposed positions that will not be included in the amended FY21 budget, especially the elementary counselor positions. She asked if there are any updates on looking at furloughs v laying off staff. Superintendent McCall spoke briefly about furloughs imposed during the 2012-2013 school year and he also spoke about RIF (Reduction in Force) language contained in some of the union contracts.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between WRSD and the WREA – Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement COVID-19 Closure

Deferred

2. Motion: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between WRSD and the Teamsters Local 170 – Paraprofessionals COVID-19 (attachment 4).

(R. Imber)

(M. Weeks)

Superintendent McCall spoke about the MOA which formalizes the parameters under which these employees are working. The MOA has been reviewed by District Counsel.

9:08 Attorney Stonberg joined the meeting.

9:09 PM Member Ottmar left the table.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson

Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

9:10 Attorney Stonberg left the meeting

9:10 PM Member Ottmar returned to the table.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's Vacation Carry-over
(M. Weeks)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Public Comments

Kristina Naiman, Rutland resident and Sterling teacher (attachment 5)

Heidi Lahey, WREA President (attachment 6)

Sheila Dibb, Rutland Selectboard Chair (attachment 7)

Kristina Naiman, Rutland resident and Sterling teacher (attachment 8)

V. Unfinished Business

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District will not participate in the school choice program for the 2020-2021 school year, and the Superintendent is directed to notify the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Office of School Finance that this district will not be accepting school choice students for the 2020-2021 school year.

This motion, originally made by Member Lavoie and seconded by Member Kirshenbaum, is back on the floor. Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion and to school choice participation for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the current circumstances and the unknowns in reference to the budget, Superintendent McCall recommends not participating in school choice for the coming school year. Member Lavoie spoke briefly to the motion. Member Dennis addressed the Committee, speaking about the revenue opportunity by accepting school choice students. There was discussion about school choice participation in the past, and the years when grade levels and schools where students could be accepted was very specific.

Chair Mills clarified that a vote in favor of the motion means the member is voting to not participate in school choice for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion: The Wachusett Regional School District will not participate in the school choice program for the 2020-2021 school year, and the Superintendent is directed to notify the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Office of School Finance that this district will not be accepting school choice students for the 2020-2021 school year.

(M. Lavoie)
(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber

Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
Michael Dennis

The motion passed 16-1.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 9, 2029

Deferred

- B. Approval of #1342 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on April 27, 2020, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular WRSDC meeting held on April 27, 2020.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(M. Weeks)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva

Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Benjamin Mitchel
Adam Young

The minutes were passed 15- 0-2.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance'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.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, R. Imber, M. Lavoie, A. Young)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this subcommittee will meet on May 12, 2020.

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Ayala, S. Haber, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil, A. Silva)

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee will meet on May 26, 2020 and on June 8, 2020.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, B. Mitchel, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, L. Long-Bellil, K. Ottmar)

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported this subcommittee will meet on May 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM, via Google Meet.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, A. Michalowski)

No report was made.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, A. Michalowski, Vice-chair, K. Mills, M. Weeks)

Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported on the timeline for the evaluation process, with June 1st being the date for Superintendent McCall is to provide the full Committee with his evaluation/goals update/input.

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, S. Godbout)

Chair Young reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair)

Chair Mitchel reported this board has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (K. Mills, Chair, M. Weeks, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, M. Lavoie)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported this Committee will be updated in executive session.

- I. Building Committees

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (S. Haber), Chocksett Middle School (L. Woodland), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School (M. Ayala), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (L.

Chair Mills – Davis Hill Elementary School

Member Long-Bellil – WRHS SIMCO is scheduled to meet this week

Member Kirshenbaum – Dawson Elementary School

- IX. Public Hearing

No members of the public submitted additional emails/comments.

- X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

- XI. Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools), to return to public session.

Motion: To enter Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools), to return to public session.

(R. Imber)
(M. Lavoie)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The School Committee entered executive session at 9:40 PM

The School Committee returned to public session at 10:30 PM

- XII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Weeks)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson

Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Email from WRHS Coaches
- Attachment 2 – *FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios*
- Attachment 3 – *FY21 Budget Scenario Suggested Cuts*
- Attachment 4 – Memorandum of Agreement between WRSD and Teamsters Local 170 – Paraprofessionals
- Attachment 5 – Email from Rutland resident Kristina Naiman
- Attachment 6 – Email from WREA President Heidi Lahey
- Attachment 7 – Email from Rutland Selectboard Chair Sheila Dibb
- Attachment 8 – Email from Rutland resident Kristina Naiman

May 12, 2020

Mr. Kenneth Mills
Chairman,
WRSD School Committee

Dear Mr. Mills and members of WRSD School Committee

Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We can't even begin to imagine the financial and logistical complexity of all you are managing right now.

The purpose of this letter is to seek compensation for the WRHS Spring Athletic Coaches. Prior to March 16th, we were required to attend or complete the following: mandatory certification of CPR / AED (per WRSD Policy), mandatory attendance at Mid Wach League Spring Coaches Meetings, attend specific sport new rules interpretations, attend Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association meetings, organize and discuss individual student registration process, review eligibility of potential student participants, review academic standing of potential team members, counsel students and parents on the collegiate athletic recruiting process, communicate and promote student athletes to collegiate coaches, answer parent and student concerns and questions, promote student athletes with local new media, inventory equipment, discuss upcoming schedules and plan for preseason tryout and practice schedule.

Although our contests and practices are specific to the Spring, our jobs and responsibilities are year round. We have adjusted our personal schedules and refrained from seeking other employment due to the continued changing date of our seasons by the MIAA and cancelation of school put forth by Governor Baker on April 21st. We are similar to the superior classroom teacher who begins planning for the next school year at the conclusion of the previous year. Our classroom is a field, court, track, or other venue and we pursue the same level of expertise and success.

We are a voice of reason and are not seeking a full salary. We seek 25 % of our salary that is equitable to the value of our work and for the amount of time that we have performed our duties. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. Phillip Jackson, Head Boys Lacrosse Coach
Mr. Derek VanOundenhove, Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach
Mrs. Emily Rejniak, Head Girls Lacrosse Coach
Ms. Cassidy Windler Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach
Mr. Kevin Briggs, Boys Track Coach
Mr. Michael O'Malley, Girls Track Coach

Mr. Patrick Bova Assistant Track Coach
Mr. Oscar Esposito Assistant Track Coach
Mr. Dan Generelli, Head Baseball Coach
Mr. Matt Lane, Assistant Baseball Coach
Ms. Pauline Smith Girls Tennis Coach
Mr. Peter Cranson Head Boys Volleyball Coach

FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios

Phase 1

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
3.9.20	SC Voted Reduction to Current FY21 Budget		-\$100,000.00	\$4,279,179.00	SC Approved Budget 3.9.20
5.12.20	FY21 Textbook Reduction	0.00	-\$400,000.00	\$3,879,179.00	9.7% Overall decrease to Instructional Supp
5.12.20	FY21 Operations and Maintenance Reduction	0.00	-\$70,000.00	\$3,809,179.00	
5.12.20	FY21 Pupil Services Reduction	0.00	-\$1,517.00	\$3,807,662.00	
5.12.20	FY21 New Positions and Benefits	7.00	-\$650,000.00	\$3,157,662.00	No new positions
5.12.20	Using Existing E&D to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$450,000.00	\$2,707,662.00	Pending School Committee Vote
5.12.20	School Choice Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$150,000.00	\$2,557,662.00	Estimated
5.12.20	Circuit Breaker Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$400,000.00	\$2,157,662.00	
5.12.20	Contracted Services	0.00	-\$100,000.00	\$2,057,662.00	
5.12.20	Summer School Running Remotely	0.00	-\$125,000.00	\$1,932,662.00	
		7.00	-\$2,346,517.00		

Phase 2

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
5.21.20	All Positions	45.75	-\$2,115,750.00	-\$183,088.00	Various positons across unions
		45.75	-\$2,115,750.00		
	Totals	52.75	-\$4,462,267.00		

Created 5.4.20

FY21 Budget Scenario
Suggested Cuts
5.1.20

Appropriation	2.5.2020 FY20	3.9.20 SC Approved FY21 Rate	3.9.20 SC Approved FY21 Rate	3.9.20 SC Approved	3.9.20 SC Approved	3.9.20 SC Approved	5.1 Suggested Cut	5.1.20 FY21 Adjust Rate w Cut	5.1.20 \$ Change from FY20	5.1.20 % Change from FY20	5.1.20 \$ Change from 3.9 SC Appr	5.1.20 % Change from 3.9 SC Appr
Salary and Stipends	\$ 62,064,715.00	\$ 65,282,485.00	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 65,182,485.00	\$ 3,117,770.00	\$ 3,117,770.00	\$ (1,625,000.00)	\$ 63,557,485.00	\$ 1,492,770.00	2.41%	\$ (1,625,000.00)	-2.49%
Benefits and Insurance	\$ 15,054,973.00	\$ 16,144,699.00	\$ (96,886.00)	\$ 16,047,813.00	\$ 992,840.00	\$ 992,840.00	\$ -	\$ 16,047,813.00	\$ 992,840.00	6.59%	\$ -	0.00%
Instructional Support	\$ 3,322,090.00	\$ 3,392,969.00	\$ 96,886.00	\$ 3,489,855.00	\$ 167,765.00	\$ 167,765.00	\$ (650,000.00)	\$ 2,839,855.00	\$ (482,235.00)	-14.52%	\$ (650,000.00)	-18.63%
Operations and Maint	\$ 3,606,166.00	\$ 3,738,231.00	\$ -	\$ 3,738,231.00	\$ 132,065.00	\$ 132,065.00	\$ (70,000.00)	\$ 3,668,231.00	\$ 62,065.00	1.72%	\$ (70,000.00)	-1.87%
Pupil Services	\$ 51,241.00	\$ 52,758.00	\$ -	\$ 52,758.00	\$ 1,517.00	\$ 1,517.00	\$ (1,517.00)	\$ 51,241.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (1,517.00)	-2.88%
SPED Tuitions	\$ 3,123,545.00	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ (353,545.00)	\$ (353,545.00)	\$ -	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ (353,545.00)	-11.32%	\$ -	0.00%
Other Operating Costs	\$ 1,196,956.00	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ -	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ (20,146.00)	\$ (20,146.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ (20,146.00)	-1.68%	\$ -	0.00%
Transportation	\$ 6,919,413.00	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ -	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ 322,288.00	\$ 322,288.00	\$ -	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ 322,288.00	4.66%	\$ -	0.00%
Debt Service	\$ 2,497,106.00	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ -	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ (81,375.00)	\$ (81,375.00)	\$ -	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ (81,375.00)	-3.26%	\$ -	0.00%
	\$ 97,836,205.00	\$ 102,215,384.00	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 102,115,384.00	\$ 4,279,179.00	\$ 4,279,179.00	\$ (2,346,517.00)	\$ 99,768,867.00	\$ 1,932,662.00	1.98%	\$ (2,346,517.00)	-2.30%

Created 5.2.20

**Wachusett Regional School District
and the
Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals
Memorandum of Agreement
COVID-19 Closure**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of Massachusetts, this Memorandum of Agreement is made and entered into by the Wachusett Regional School District (hereinafter, "District") and the Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals hereinafter, ("Paraprofessionals").

WHEREAS, in connection with the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has declared a suspension of school operations for educational purposes, resulting in the closure of all schools in the Wachusett Regional District for the remainder of the school year (through June 12, 2020), (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School);

Therefore, the Wachusett Regional School District and the Paraprofessionals hereby agree to the following:

Section A: Employee Safety, Illness, & Absentee Procedures

The District and the Paraprofessionals agree that it is for the mutual benefits of the community and the Paraprofessionals to take preventative measures to combat infection and mitigate personal risk.

1. The District and the Paraprofessionals mutually agree to encourage members who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, exposed to COVID-19, identify themselves as high-risk as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or are so advised by their medical providers, to remain home and seek medical treatment as necessary. Such encouragement will be sent via email and posted in common areas.
2. For the duration of this agreement, staff will not be required to produce documentation of illness from a medical provider.
3. In accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act an employee who is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed for reasons related to the COVID-19, the employee may receive two weeks of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay. In addition, an employee who has been employed for thirty calendar days is entitled to up to an additional ten (10) weeks of paid expanded family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay to a maximum of \$200 a day;

4. The District shall hold harmless any employee for performance or productivity for any time lost due to school, building, office, or District closing. Use of the Evaluation System is suspended for the duration of the school closure period, and all timelines and dates shall be adjusted based upon the duration of school closure. Probationary employees shall have the days of closure count towards the requirement of completing the probationary period and achievement of full non-probationary employment.

5. Subject to state and federal law, the District will share with the Paraprofessionals non-confidential information in its possession relating to confirmed cases of COVID-19 which occur in a Wachusett Regional School District employee or student.

Section B: Compensation

1. During the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School), employees who are ready and available for work shall continue to be paid their full regular annual salary according to the regular payment schedule, and there shall be no deduction of pay for any of the days of the temporary school closure. Employees enrolled in the District's health plans shall continue to receive benefits through those plans without interruption or reduction of any benefits.

Section C: Remote Learning Duties

1. During the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School) employees will adhere to the model of Remote Learning provided to all families by District administration. Such remote learning educational days will count as work days under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Paraprofessionals. The sum of remote learning educational days and in-person work days shall not exceed the regular contractual work year of 180 days.
2. In the event of illness and / or unavailability, Paraprofessionals shall notify their building principal via email of the anticipated duration of illness/unavailability to the extent possible.
3. Paraprofessionals agree to respond to professional email through the WRSD email system in a timely fashion, and no later than two work days of receipt, provided that the member is well and not caring for members of their family who are sick.
4. Members of the Paraprofessionals group agree to work with their building Principal and administration on the following:

- Check in with Teachers as needed to see how they can help to support student progress.

- Assist with building level educational planning and projects, such as the IEP migration project.
- Complete Paraprofessional online professional development as directed by the building Principal or Administration.
- Support the work of District Teaching staff as directed thru virtual meetings – Google classroom etc..
- Participate in weekly or as needed faculty or building level administrative meetings for staff check-ins and updates.
- Participate in learning activities such as Remote Learning, Linking Plan Activities or documentation associated with these activities.

5. Paraprofessionals shall not be required to perform the duties outlined above by using their own personal computers, phones, or other devices – nor shall they be required to perform any duties or participate in any functions that are covered under any other bargaining unit's Collective Bargaining Agreement or is conflict with the Paraprofessional Collective Bargaining Agreement.

6. The Paraprofessionals and District understand and acknowledge that the purpose of the District providing links is to provide students with educational enrichment and remote learning, and that employees will not be held responsible for student progress during the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020.(June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School). In the event that staff has suggested links to be included with the enrichment and remote learning materials, the member may email the information to the building principal for consideration.

7. The Paraprofessionals and the District understand and acknowledge that remote learning support may or may not consume a regular full work day for employees. Employees are not required to, perform part of such work outside of the employee's regular work hours as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and Paraprofessionals.

Section D: No Precedent

The Parties agree that this agreement sets no precedent or past practice, and shall not be used in any proceeding except one to enforce its terms.

Section E: Extension of School Closure

In the event that there is an extension of the school closure beyond June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for the Mountview Middle School) , the District shall notify the Paraprofessionals and the Teamsters Union Local 170 as soon as such determination is made ,and representatives of the District and the Paraprofessionals will confer and mutually determine whether to extend or modify this Agreement for any subsequent period of school closure.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2020.

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wachusett Regional School District

Kenneth Bergen
Business Agent
Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Public comment

1 message

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:21 PM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristina Naiman** <krissey.naiman@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 11, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Subject: Public comment

To: <Questions@wrsd.net>

Good Evening,

Are some of the water refilling stations going to be delivered to Houghton Elementary School?

The majority of water fountains have been closed down (this is the third year of this) due to unresolved issues with the water at those locations.

Thank you,
Kristina Naiman

--

Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

The contents of this e-mail, and any attachments, are the property of the Wachusett Regional School District, and subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66, § 10.



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: cutting your way to catastrophe

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:21 PM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **heidi lahey** <heidilaheywrea@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 11, 2020 at 8:47 PM

Subject: cutting your way to catastrophe

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Listening to the discussion tonight makes it clear to me that school committee members are already resigned to providing Wachusett students with a sub par educational experience that could actually be physically dangerous going back into schools in the fall.

There is no way that you can make budget cuts to address even the 1/12 funding shortfalls that will lead to anything by complete catastrophe for the children of the five towns.

WREA members are NOT willing to sacrifice our students health or their education without first making a huge push to advocate for the funding needed from the state and federal government to deal with COVID in our public schools.

Educators have no intention of accepting the dangerous assumption that corporations deserve bailouts but our children's learning and their actual lives can be sacrificed on the altar of austerity.

We will be your allies in advocating for funding- and we hope you will join with us in fighting for the resources that will be ESSENTIAL for public education during COVID, instead of just passively accepting the situation and expecting the employees to solve the problem.

Heidi Lahey

President

Wachusett Regional Education Association

508-344-8515

heidilaheywrea@gmail.com

--



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: town budget requests

1 message

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:21 PM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sheila Dibb** <shdibb@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 11, 2020 at 8:43 PM

Subject: town budget requests

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Hello,

Listening tonight re anticipatory planning of use of cuts as well as E&D to fund possible state shortfalls in FY21.

Would like to ask if there is within the new covid-specific legislation any method of reconsidering budget already approved to send to town meetings, and if so, if that requested revenue budget would ever be for a lesser amount than the \$68,962,552 approved on 3/9/2020 (as per MGL Ch 71 S16b deadline of 4/30).

As we are also seeing on the municipal side, there is little expectation that a state budget will be finalized in time for town meetings, even as all of those meetings have been scheduled or planned for the end of June, and we will have to go on the small amount of information we have available now.

Assuming the towns all have a vested interest in avoiding 1/12 budget as well, it will be very helpful for us to have a definitive answer on whether the WRSC number is final, or if it may change in the next 45 days.

Thank you,

Sheila Dibb
Rutland

--

Kenneth Mills



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Public Comment

1 message

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:21 PM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristina Naiman** <krissy.naiman@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:14 PM

Subject: Public Comment

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Dear SC members,

I have learned that some other districts/cities are using paraprofessionals to reach out to families via telephone to ask a few scripted questions designated by administration (ie how is technology working, how is your child doing, is there anything more we could do to help, etc).

The paraprofessionals do not provide answers(so that information isn't misstated) they just mention that they have heard the parent and will document and forward the information so someone can reach back out to them (if necessary). They then document the responses and provide to teachers/admin.

This would be a great consideration for families to feel heard, for teachers/admin to receive info in a more timely fashion (versus trying to reach out while simultaneously doing a variety of other tasks), and so we can attempt to better meet families' needs.

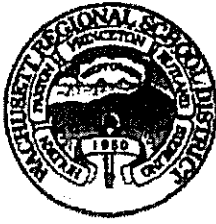
Thank you for your consideration,
Kristina Naiman

--

Kenneth Mills

Chair,

Wachusett Regional School District Committee



Wachusett Regional School District
Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

TO: Business/Finance Subcommittee
THROUGH: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
RE: Material for May 20, 2020 Meeting
DATE: May 19, 2020

A handwritten signature, likely of Daniel Deedy, is enclosed within a hand-drawn circle. The signature is stylized and appears to be "DD".

Attached are materials for Wednesday's Virtual Business/Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Administration will also share with the Subcommittee a detailed plan of addressing the projected shortfall for FY21 during the meeting Wednesday evening.

Thank you.

Attachments

ATTACHMENT D

FY20 Expense Budget Projections

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL APPROP.	LESS YTD EXPENDED	LESS ENCUMBRANCE	EST TOTAL TO BE SPENT	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PROJECTED ADD'L EXPENSES	PROJECTED BALANCE	PROJECTED TOTAL SPENT	NOTES
1 SALARIES & STIPENDS	62,064,715	47,572,169	14,062,157	61,634,326	430,681	-199,257.00	231,424	61,833,583	See Note 1
2 BENEFITS & INSURANCE	15,054,973	14,305,947	1,073,471	15,379,419	-324,446	-178,213	(502,659)	15,557,632	See Note 2
3 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	3,322,090	2,515,888	279,222	2,795,110	526,413	-100,000	426,413	2,895,110	See Note 3
4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,606,166	2,726,370	512,334	3,238,704	367,462	-75,000	292,462	3,313,704	See Note 4
5 PUPIL SERVICES	51,241	54,412	2,023	58,435	-4,918	0.00	(4,918)	56,435	
6 SPECIAL ED TUTIONS	3,123,545	2,401,734	695,498	3,097,233	26,312	-26,000	312	3,123,233	See Note 5
7 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	1,196,955	949,693	268,767	1,218,460	-21,504	-88,454	(109,958)	1,306,914	
8 TRANSPORTATION	6,919,413	4,698,000	1,600,472	6,298,472	620,941	-100,000.00	520,941	6,398,472	
9 DEBT SERVICE	2,497,106	2,337,006	106,200	2,443,206	53,900	0.00	53,900	2,443,206	
Expense Total	97,836,205	77,561,220	18,600,144	96,161,364	1,674,841	-766,924	907,917	96,928,288	

Note 1

estimate of sub teacher payments for May and June

@ WRHS	(7,500)
Mentor Stipends; confirmed #	(23,850)
Sick Leave buyback; confirmed #	(38,700)
Sick Leave buyback to custodians; est	(10,000)
1-900lh Sub Teacher pay; 2 month est	(8,000)
Food Service Dir. shifted to GF from SL, 26 pp	(63,997)
Admin shifted to GF from ECC, 6 pp	(24,231)
SPED Admin shifted to GF from CB, 6 pp	(22,979)
	<u>(199,257)</u>

Note 2

All insurances are charged to the General Fund as opposed to School Lunch (significant revenue shortfall) or School Choice (looking to carry forward a balance in School Choice)

Note 3

Textbook materials (100,000)

Note 4

Top off oil tanks (75,000)

Note 5

Adjustments from Circuit Breaker to General Fund (26,000)

Created 5.19.20



05/19/2020 11:13
9820ddes

Wachusett Regional School District
ATTACHMENT C FY20 BR AFFPROP 5.19.20

JP 1
glyt&bud

FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMENTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENC/REQ	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
1 SALARIES & STIPENDS	62,064,715	291	62,065,006	47,572,169.79	14,562,156.97	439,689.62	99.34
2 BENEFITS & INSURANCE	15,054,973	0	15,054,973	14,305,947.47	1,073,471.49	-324,445.96	102.24
3 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	3,322,090	-563	3,321,523	2,515,007.87	279,222.23	526,412.52	84.24
4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,606,166	0	3,606,166	2,726,370.03	512,333.67	367,462.30	89.64
5 PUPIL SERVICES	51,341	276	51,517	54,412.11	2,822.50	-4,917.61	109.53
6 SPECIAL ED TUITIONS	3,123,545	0	3,123,545	2,401,734.48	695,490.15	26,312.37	99.24
7 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	1,196,956	0	1,196,956	949,692.00	268,767.00	-21,504.68	101.83
8 TRANSPORTATION	6,919,413	0	6,919,413	4,687,999.87	1,600,471.64	620,941.49	91.04
9 DEBT SERVICE	2,497,106	0	2,497,106	2,337,006.26	166,200.00	53,899.74	97.64
GRAND TOTAL	97,836,265	0	97,836,265	77,561,219.80	18,600,143.65	1,674,841.47	98.31

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Dan Deedy **

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, May 20, 2020
7:00 PM

Meeting To Be Conducted Remotely Using Google Hangouts

Executive Summary

I. Call to Order

II. Update on FY20 Budget

FY20 Revenues

Please see ATTACHMENT A and ATTACHMENT B. ATTACHMENT B reviews the FY20 Revenue Budget. Here are the known facts:

- All State revenues such as Chapter 70, Regional Transportation reimbursement, School Choice, will remain the same given information shared with the District. Through May 19, 2020, there is no change in this expectation and revenue projections are based upon this data. The District has received its second and final Regional Transportation payment for FY20.
- There will be no 9C cuts. Through May 19, 2020, there is no change in this expectation and revenue projections are based upon this data.
- All towns will make their 4th quarter Assessment payment prior to June 30, 2020.
- MEMA grant funds will assist the District.
- Approximately \$100,000 is projected to be transferred to a Transportation Stabilization Account prior to June 30, 2020.
- Medicaid payments reflect the estimated payments for the fiscal year.
- Miscellaneous payments reflect the estimated payments for the fiscal year.

- Interest income continues to show gradual and steady increases given the national economy.
- The projected revenue shortfall, once the deposit is made into the Transportation Stabilization account in June 2020 is **-\$279,888**.

FY20 Expenses

Overview of the FY20 Expense Budget

Please refer to ATTACHMENT C and ATTACHMENT D. ATTACHMENT D provides an overview of projected expenditures through June 30, 2020.

Salaries and Stipends: All salaries and stipends have been encumbered for the year. With school closed for the balance of the year, savings will be realized in several salary line items – Day to Day Subs, Spring Sports Stipends, Overtime Costs,

Cafeteria Stipend Payments at the High School -- to name a few. As previously reported, School Lunch revenues will average approximately \$7000/month for April and May and approximately \$3,500 for June. This will require an adjustment of the Food Service Director's salary from School Lunch to the General Fund whereby her full amount as of this writing will be charged to the General Fund. School Lunch, by law, cannot end in deficit. The projected balance for Salaries and Stipends as of this writing is \$231,424.

Benefits and Insurance: Because of the revenue shortfall in School Lunch, and Pre-School Revolving, insurance charges made to these accounts won't be made. Consequently, the General Fund will absorb these costs leaving a projected shortfall as of this writing of (\$502,659). Transfers from savings in other Appropriation will be made to cover this shortfall. Also, additional transfers will be made at a future meeting to create savings in the District's FY20 School Choice account.

Instructional Support: This Appropriation will have a balance of \$426,413 as of this writing. Purchases will be made from the Textbook line to continue the support of the District's Textbook plan. In doing so, Administration will likely make a reduction in the Textbook line for FY21. Also, the District will pre-buy instructional supplies and materials in advance of the new school year anticipating significant revenue shortfalls in FY21. Similarly, adjustments may be made in instructional supply lines in the FY21 budget.

Operations and Maintenance: Approximately \$75,000 has been allocated to top off the oil tanks for this year so that the District starts FY21 with full tanks. This has not happened in recent years. There are likely to be further adjustments in electricity given the closure which should add to the estimated available budget of \$292,462.00.

Pupil Services: The deficit of (\$4,918) will be corrected with a budget transfer.

Special Education Tuitions: This is a very fluid number. The District has made adjustments between Circuit Breaker and the General Fund. Charges previously made to Circuit Breaker of \$300,000 have been reversed and made to the General Fund thus creating a savings in Circuit Breaker of \$300,000. This balance will be brought forward into FY21. The estimated (as of this writing) carry forward of FY20 Circuit Breaker funds is \$400,000. The projected balance for Special Education Tuitions is \$312.00 once additional adjustments are made between Circuit Breaker and the General Fund.

Other Operating Costs: Administration has made adjustments to the purchase orders here given the year to date activity of the School Choice Out and Charter School Assessments by the Department of Revenue. There are additional payments to be made leaving a shortfall of (\$109,958). This shortfall will be corrected with a budget transfer.

Transportation: Administration has completed its negotiations with AA Transportation, its home to school provider and its In District SPED provider. Savings have been realized and purchase orders adjusted to reflect the balance of payments due for the fiscal year. The projected balance in Transportation is \$520,941. Administration is currently in negotiations with Van Pool, its second

SPED Transportation provider for OOD SPED Transportation. Those savings are not reflected in this number here.

Debt Service: All payments have been made relative to debt service. Administration will request a budget transfer.

The estimated balance in the General Fund as of this writing – May 19, 2020 – is \$628,029. This is a fluid number that is subject to change given ongoing review of expenditures.

III. Amendments to Contracts with Transportation Providers

ATTACHMENT E is a contract amendment for the Home to School bus contract and ATTACHMENT F is a contract amendment for the In District Special Education van contract. Both contracts are with AA Transportation. Mr. Deedy will speak to these amendments Wednesday evening. These contracts reflect a 25% reduction in the daily rate for FY20 due to the closure. The Home to School contract reflects a savings of \$333,000 and the SPED, In District contract reflects a savings of \$124,690.00.

IV. FY 20 Budget Transfers

Administration has several budget transfers before the Subcommittee this evening. These transfers are the result of the negotiated settlements with AA Transportation. Mr. Deedy will speak to these transfers Wednesday evening.

V. Contingency Planning for the FY21 Budget

ATTACHMENT G is an updated document presented by Administration at the previous Business and Finance Subcommittee Meeting which reflects tiered cuts. Administration will also speak to a detailed plan Wednesday evening.

VI. Discussion on Treasurer's Evaluation

The chair will present a brief overview of the evaluation of the District's Treasurer. This evaluation will be conducted at the next Subcommittee Meeting.

VII. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from previous meetings will be discussed and presented for approval.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment



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Wachusett Regional School District
ATTACHMENT A FY20 REVENUE BR 5.18.20

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FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJUSTMS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
001 GENERAL FUND						
0000 UNDESIGNATED						
001 401412 - GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-19,225,254	-19,225,254	-14,818,940.00	-4,406,314.00	75.0%
001 401413 - GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-4,397,455	-4,397,455	-3,298,089.75	-1,099,365.25	75.0%
001 401419 - GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-3,565,466	-3,565,466	-3,565,466.00	.00	100.0%
001 401415 - GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-7,226,608	-7,226,608	-5,419,256.00	-1,806,652.00	75.0%
001 401416 - GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-8,220,062	-8,220,062	-6,165,046.75	-2,055,015.25	75.0%
001 401422 - GF OVER - HOLDEN	0	-7,308,064	-7,308,064	-5,478,549.00	-1,829,515.00	75.0%
001 401423 - GF OVER - WINTON	0	-1,466,595	-1,466,595	-1,098,946.25	-366,648.75	75.0%
001 401424 - GF OVER - PRINCETON	0	-948,577	-948,577	-948,577.00	.00	100.0%
001 401425 - GF OVER - BUTLAND	0	-3,614,910	-3,614,910	-2,711,182.50	-903,727.50	75.0%
001 401426 - GF OVER - STERLING	0	-2,377,050	-2,377,050	-1,782,787.75	-594,262.25	75.0%
001 401432 - GF TRANS ASSESS - HO	0	-2,204,518	-2,204,518	-1,653,388.50	-551,129.50	75.0%
001 401433 - GF TRANS ASSESS - PA	0	-442,520	-442,520	-331,896.00	-110,624.00	75.0%
001 401434 - GF TRANS ASSESS - PR	0	-286,222	-286,222	-286,222.00	.00	100.0%
001 401435 - GF TRANS ASSESS - RU	0	-1,090,756	-1,090,756	-818,067.00	-272,689.00	75.0%
001 401436 - GF TRANS ASSESS - ST	0	-717,246	-717,246	-537,934.50	-179,311.50	75.0%
001 401442 - GF DEBT ASSESS - HOLD	0	-1,089,974	-1,089,974	-817,400.50	-272,493.50	75.0%
001 401443 - GF DEBT ASSESS - PART	0	-237,436	-237,436	-178,077.00	-59,359.00	75.0%
001 401444 - GF DEBT ASSESS - PRIN	0	-153,566	-153,566	-153,566.00	.00	100.0%
001 401445 - GF DEBT ASSESS - BUTL	0	-587,031	-587,031	-440,272.50	-146,758.50	75.0%
001 401446 - GF DEBT ASSESS - WINT	0	-369,100	-369,100	-276,825.00	-92,275.00	75.0%
001 401450 - GF CHRG 70 - REG SCH	0	-20,500,615	-20,500,615	-23,818,636.00	-4,681,979.00	83.6%
001 401451 - GF CHRG 71 - REG SCH	0	-2,178,143	-2,178,143	-1,371,856.00	-806,287.00	63.0%
001 401452 - GF CHRG 70 - CHARTER	0	-33,253	-33,253	-51,553.00	18,300.00	155.0%
001 401454 - GF TRFR - UNRESERVED	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401455 - GF TRFR - MEDICAD	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401456 - GF INTEREST	0	-1,137,521	-1,137,521	-330,880.01	-806,632.15	20.3%
001 401460 - GF REVENUE - MISCELL	0	-21,005	-21,005	-66,324.12	45,319.12	413.0%
001 401462 - GF REVENUE - MISCELL	0	-439,250	-439,250	-120,450.20	-318,799.80	27.4%
001 401464 - GF REVENUE - INSR.R	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401466 - GF PREMIUM - RAN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401468 - GF REVENUE - MISC PL	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 497100 - GF REV - TRANSFER IN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED	0	-97,036,205	-97,036,205	-76,062,970.13	-21,773,226.07	77.7%
5400 SHORT-TERM INTEREST						
AFC789 401460 - GF PREM - REV ANT	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL SHORT-TERM INTEREST	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%



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Wachusett Regional School District
ATTACHMENT A FY20 REVENUE BR 5.18.20

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FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJUSTMTS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-76,062,978.13	-21,773,226.87	77.76
TOTAL REVENUES	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-76,062,978.13	-21,773,226.87	
GRAND TOTAL	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-76,062,978.13	-21,773,226.87	77.76

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Dan Deedy **

ATTACHMENT B
FY20 Revenue Budget Projections

<u>OBJ</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ESTIM REV</u> <u>ADJ</u>	<u>REVISED</u> <u>ESTIM REV</u>	<u>REVENUE</u> <u>BUDGET ADJ</u>	<u>ACTUAL YTD</u> <u>REVENUE</u>	<u>REMAINING</u> <u>REVENUE</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
401412	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401412	GF MIN LOCAL CONT - HOLDEN	-19,225,254	-19,225,254		-14,418,940	-4,806,314	
401413	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401413	GF MIN LOCAL CONT - PAXTON	-4,397,455	-4,397,455		-3,298,090	-1,099,365	
401414	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401414	GF MIN LOCAL CONT - PRI	-3,565,466	-3,565,466		-3,565,466	0	
401415	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401415	GF MIN LOCAL CONT - RUTLAND	-7,226,608	-7,226,608		-5,419,956	-1,806,652	
401416	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401416	GF MIN LOCAL CONT - STERLING	-8,220,062	-8,220,062		-6,165,047	-2,055,015	
401422	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401422	GF OPER - HOLDEN	-7,306,064	-7,306,064		-5,479,549	-1,826,515	
401423	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401423	GF OPER - PAXTON	-1,466,595	-1,466,595		-1,099,946	-366,649	
401424	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401424	GF OPER - PRINCETON	-948,577	-948,577		-948,577	0	
401425	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401425	GF OPER - RUTLAND	-3,614,910	-3,614,910		-2,711,183	-903,728	
401426	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401426	GF OPER - STERLING	-2,377,050	-2,377,050		-1,782,788	-594,262	
401432	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401432	GF TRANS ASSESS - HOLDEN	-2,204,518	-2,204,518		-1,653,389	-551,130	
401433	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401433	GF TRANS ASSESS - PAXTON	-442,528	-442,528		-331,896	-110,632	
401434	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401434	GF TRANS ASSESS - PRINCETON	-286,222	-286,222		-286,222	0	
401435	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401435	GF TRANS ASSESS - RUTLAND	-1,090,756	-1,090,756		-818,067	-272,689	
401436	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401436	GF TRANS ASSESS - STERLING	-717,246	-717,246		-537,935	-179,312	
401442	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401442	GF DEBT ASSESS- HOLDEN	-1,089,974	-1,089,974		-817,481	-272,494	
401443	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401443	GF DEBT ASSESS- PAXTON	-237,436	-237,436		-178,077	-59,359	
401444	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401444	GF DEBT ASSESS- PRINCETON	-153,566	-153,566		-153,566	0	
401445	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401445	GF DEBT ASSESS- RUTLAND	-587,031	-587,031		-440,273	-146,759	
401446	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401446	GF DEBT ASSESS- STERLING	-369,100	-369,100		-276,825	-92,275	
401450	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401450	GF CHAP 70 - REG SCHOOL AID	-28,500,615	-28,647,835	147,220	-23,818,636	-4,829,199	
401451	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401451	GF CHAP 71 - REG SCHOOL TRANS	-2,178,143	-2,777,855	599,712	-1,371,856	-1,405,999	See Note 1
401452	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401452	GF CHAP 70 - CHARTER REIMBURSE	-33,253	-60,820	27,567	-51,553	-9,267	See Note 2
401455	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401455	GF - MEDICAID	-1,137,521	-230,889	(906,632)	-230,889	0	See Note 3
401460	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401460	GF INTEREST	-21,005	-87,000	65,995	-86,324	-676	
401462	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-401462	GF REVENUE - MISCELLANEOUS	-439,250	-125,500	(313,750)	-120,450	-5,050	
497100	001 -00-000-000-0000-0-497100	GF REVENUE - TRANSFER IN	0	-100,000	100,000	-100,000	0	See Note 4
Total 001 GENERAL FUND			-97,836,205	-97,556,317	(279,888)	-76,162,978	-21,393,339	
Revenue Total			-97,836,205	-97,556,317	(279,888)	-76,162,978	-21,393,339	
Expense Total			0	96,928,288	907,917	0.00	0	
				-628,029	628,029			

Note 1

All FY20 Regional Transportation payments complete.

Note 2

Slight adjustment down from previous month.

Note 3

Awaiting FY19 Final Cost Report.

Note 4

Transfer \$100,000 to Transportation Stabilization

Created 5.17.20

ATTACHMENT E
AMENDMENT
Between the
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
and
AA Transportation Inc. of Shrewsbury, MA

This Amendment is entered into between the Wachusett Regional School District, acting through its Superintendent and the Chair of its School Committee, (hereinafter, the “Wachusett Regional School District” or the “District”) on the one hand, and AA Transportation Co., Inc., on the other hand, (collectively referred to as the “Parties”) on this 20th day of May, 2020 to amend the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 (hereinafter “Agreement”). It is intended to memorialize certain commitments by the Parties as outlined herein.

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID19”); and,

WHEREAS, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ordered that all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, excluding residential and day schools for special needs students, shall suspend all normal, in-person instruction and other educational operations at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, June 29, 2020 (hereinafter the “Governor’s Mandatory Closure”); and,

WHEREAS, the Wachusett Regional School District recognizes that these unprecedented times involving COVID-19 and the attendant Governor’s Mandatory Closure will impact certain uniquely positioned vendors that primarily are in operation to support the Wachusett Regional School District; and,

WHEREAS the Wachusett Regional School District are parties to a contract with AA Transportation Co., Inc. to provide transportation to certain of the District’s students. Although the bus drivers and other support personnel associated with the Agreement are employees of AA Transportation Co., Inc., such employees play an integral role in the transportation of District students and are instrumental in the orderly operation of the District on a daily basis when school is in session; and,

WHEREAS it is the shared desire of the signatories to this Amendment that the bus drivers and other support personnel employed by AA Transportation Co., Inc. and who are regularly assigned to work transporting the District’s students have been furloughed during the period of the Governor’s Mandatory Closure be compensated as provided herein; and,

WHEREAS it is recognized that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 56 only allows for the payment of services actually rendered to the Town; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in an effort to establish some general commitments between the Parties during this period of uncertainty, the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. mutually agree to the following:

1. This Amendment modifies the current Agreement for School Transportation Services in place during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. All other provisions of that Agreement remain in effect.
2. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will give notice to and re-employ all drivers and support personnel and make buses, bus drivers and all other support personnel available to the Wachusett Regional School District to provide transportation services as may be needed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. It is further expected that AA Transportation Co., Inc. will adhere to recommendations around issues of social-distancing and maximum assembly of persons issued by the Governor in connection with the transportation pursuant to this paragraph.
3. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will "make whole" from a wage and benefit standpoint (the "Make Whole Wages and Benefits") all bus drivers and support personnel in support of this contract retroactively to the first official school closure date of March 17, 2020 and forward through the end of the 2019-2020 regular school year as defined by the District's school calendar. For purposes of this Agreement, Make Whole Wages and Benefits will be based on average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020, and benefits provided and subject to such terms and conditions hereof as of February 2020.
4. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees to indemnify and hold the Wachusett Regional School District harmless in connection with its transportation pursuant to Paragraph 2 above and any litigation or damages arising therefrom. AA Transportation Co., Inc. also agrees to maintain liability insurance, in at least the same coverage amount and under the same terms that it maintains pursuant to the Agreement, on all buses to be utilized in connection with the transportation of individuals as outlined in Paragraph 2 above.
5. The Wachusett Regional School District will pay AA Transportation Co., Inc. the per bus daily rate of \$328.84 for each school day that school is closed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure for "Home-to-School" buses and vans under contract. This amount represents seventy-five percent [75%] of the daily contractual cost for student transportation (i.e. "Home-to-School") based on current vehicle usage between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Inc. pursuant to the Agreement. No other services such as field trips, athletics, special charters, or bus/van monitors will be billed or paid for during the school closure period.
6. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above that it will pay all employees assigned to the Wachusett

School District contract average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020 of all such employees. AA Transportation Inc. agrees to furnish evidence of these payments, by individual, if requested by the Wachusett Regional School District.

7. By making this agreement and as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above, AA Transportation Co., Inc. does not give up its right to apply for COVID-19 federal stimulus relief funds for which it might be eligible. Both parties acknowledge and understand that under no circumstance is it intended that AA Transportation Co., Inc. receive both payments from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and customers and federal stimulus funds that would exceed the total revenue that AA Transportation Co., Inc. would otherwise receive under normal operations had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred. As such, AA Transportation Co., Inc. hereby notifies the district that the company has applied for an SBA loan under the CARES act. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will notify the district upon receipt of notification of forgiveness of any portion of said CARES act loan or receipt of any other similar stimulus grant. Further, if the federal stimulus forgiveness or such other grant and or forgiveness received by AA Transportation in combination with the payments agreed upon in Paragraph 5 above received from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and other customers exceed what would have totaled expected revenue had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred,, then AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees it will return such overpayments to the Town/District as either a cash payment or credit towards future services as agreed upon by the Town/District and AA Transportation on a pro rata percentage basis.
8. AA Transportation Co., Inc. acknowledges that this agreement is contingent on authority being granted to the Wachusett Regional School District to make the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 4 above. In the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, the obligation to make such payments shall cease and this Amendment shall become null and void with no further recourse to AA Transportation Co., Inc. In addition, in the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, any payments made hereunder shall be credited back to the Wachusett Regional School District for purposes of satisfying charges associated with any future services provided by the Wachusett Regional School District under the Agreement. In the event this Amendment shall become null and void as provided in this Paragraph, then and all claims that AA Transportation Co., Inc.'s may have under the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 shall be fully restored.
9. It is agreed by the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. that this Amendment and its terms are only effective for the duration of the Governor's Mandatory Closure (i.e., end of school on Monday, March 16, 2020 through reopening

for normal operations no sooner than June 30, 2020), and any extension of the Governor's Mandatory Closure as specifically ordered by the Governor. This Amendment and its terms do not apply to any period beyond the Governor's Mandatory Closure, even if voluntarily imposed by the Wachusett Regional School District. Further, in the event that either federal or state legislation [not guidance] is subsequently enacted relating to the payments to public school transportation providers prior to June 29, 2020, then this Agreement shall be nullified and both parties will act in accordance with the new legislation and its terms and any related regulations.

10. AA Transportation Co., Inc. shall submit an invoice pursuant to this agreement to the Wachusett Regional School District in the amount of \$328.84 daily rate (75% of original daily rate) for each school day during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. Payment shall not be made for weekend days or other days that the Wachusett Regional School District would not be in session (i.e., non-school days, holidays, school vacation, etc.) in accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District 2019-2020 School Calendar which occur during the Governor's Mandatory Closure or any extension specifically ordered by the Governor. Such invoices shall include language such as; *"Maintaining bus fleet equipment, staff, facilities, and all related operations in a readiness status at the disposal of the District during Covid-19 School Closure"* so as accurately capture the rationale for such payment.

11. This Amendment does not establish any precedent nor is it any guarantee that the same commitments will be made under similar circumstances in the future.

This agreement is made on this 20th day of May 2020.

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For the Wachusett Regional School District

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For AA Transportation Inc.

ATTACHMENT F
AMENDMENT
Between the
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
and
AA Transportation Inc. of Shrewsbury, MA

This Amendment is entered into between the Wachusett Regional School District, acting through its Superintendent and the Chair of its School Committee, (hereinafter, the "Wachusett Regional School District" or the "District") on the one hand, and AA Transportation Co., Inc., on the other hand, (collectively referred to as the "Parties") on this 20th day of May, 2020 to amend the Contract for SPED, In-District Transportation dated July 1, 2019 (hereinafter "Agreement"). It is intended to memorialize certain commitments by the Parties as outlined herein.

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID19"); and,

WHEREAS, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ordered that all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, excluding residential and day schools for special needs students, shall suspend all normal, in-person instruction and other educational operations at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, June 29, 2020 (hereinafter the "Governor's Mandatory Closure"); and,

WHEREAS, the Wachusett Regional School District recognizes that these unprecedented times involving COVID-19 and the attendant Governor's Mandatory Closure will impact certain uniquely positioned vendors that primarily are in operation to support the Wachusett Regional School District; and,

WHEREAS the Wachusett Regional School District are parties to a contract with AA Transportation Co., Inc. to provide transportation to certain of the District's students. Although the bus drivers and other support personnel associated with the Agreement are employees of AA Transportation Co., Inc., such employees play an integral role in the transportation of District students and are instrumental in the orderly operation of the District on a daily basis when school is in session; and,

WHEREAS it is the shared desire of the signatories to this Amendment that the bus drivers and other support personnel employed by AA Transportation Co., Inc. and who are regularly assigned to work transporting the District's students have been furloughed during the period of the Governor's Mandatory Closure be compensated as provided herein; and,

WHEREAS it is recognized that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 56 only allows for the payment of services actually rendered to the Town; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in an effort to establish some general commitments between the Parties during this period of uncertainty, the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. mutually agree to the following:

1. This Amendment modifies the current Agreement for School Transportation Services in place during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. All other provisions of that Agreement remain in effect.
2. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will give notice to and re-employ all drivers and support personnel and make buses, bus drivers and all other support personnel available to the Wachusett Regional School District to provide transportation services as may be needed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. It is further expected that AA Transportation Co., Inc. will adhere to recommendations around issues of social-distancing and maximum assembly of persons issued by the Governor in connection with the transportation pursuant to this paragraph.
3. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will "make whole" from a wage and benefit standpoint (the "Make Whole Wages and Benefits") all bus drivers and support personnel in support of this contract retroactively to the first official school closure date of March 17, 2020 and forward through the end of the 2019-2020 regular school year as defined by the District's school calendar. For purposes of this Agreement, Make Whole Wages and Benefits will be based on average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020, and benefits provided and subject to such terms and conditions hereof as of February 2020.
4. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees to indemnify and hold the Wachusett Regional School District harmless in connection with its transportation pursuant to Paragraph 2 above and any litigation or damages arising therefrom. AA Transportation Co, Inc. also agrees to maintain liability insurance, in at least the same coverage amount and under the same terms that it maintains pursuant to the Agreement, on all buses to be utilized in connection with the transportation of individuals as outlined in Paragraph 2 above.
5. The Wachusett Regional School District will pay AA Transportation Co., Inc. the per vehicle daily rate of \$144.99 for mini vans, \$176.00 for 8-passenger vans, and \$166.05 for wheelchair vans for each school day that school is closed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure for "SPED In District" vans under contract. This amount represents seventy-five percent [75%] of the daily contractual cost for student transportation (i.e. "SPED In District") based on current vehicle usage between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Inc. pursuant to the Agreement. No other services such as field trips, athletics, special charters, or bus/van monitors will be billed or paid for during the school closure period.

6. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above that it will pay all employees assigned to the Wachusett School District contract average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020 of all such employees. AA Transportation Inc. agrees to furnish evidence of these payments, by individual, if requested by the Wachusett Regional School District.
7. By making this agreement and as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above, AA Transportation Co., Inc. does not give up its right to apply for COVID-19 federal stimulus relief funds for which it might be eligible. Both parties acknowledge and understand that under no circumstance is it intended that AA Transportation Co., Inc. receive both payments from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and customers and federal stimulus funds that would exceed the total revenue that AA Transportation Co., Inc. would otherwise receive under normal operations had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred. As such, AA Transportation Co., Inc. hereby notifies the district that the company has applied for an SBA loan under the CARES act. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will notify the district upon receipt of notification of forgiveness of any portion of said CARES act loan or receipt of any other similar stimulus grant. Further, if the federal stimulus forgiveness or such other grant and or forgiveness received by AA Transportation in combination with the payments agreed upon in Paragraph 5 above received from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and other customers exceed what would have totaled expected revenue had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred,, then AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees it will return such overpayments to the Town/District as either a cash payment or credit towards future services as agreed upon by the Town/District and AA Transportation on a pro rata percentage basis.
8. AA Transportation Co., Inc. acknowledges that this agreement is contingent on authority being granted to the Wachusett Regional School District to make the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 4 above. In the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, the obligation to make such payments shall cease and this Amendment shall become null and void with no further recourse to AA Transportation Co., Inc. In addition, in the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, any payments made hereunder shall be credited back to the Wachusett Regional School District for purposes of satisfying charges associated with any future services provided by the Wachusett Regional School District under the Agreement. In the event this Amendment shall become null and void as provided in this Paragraph, then and all claims that AA Transportation Co., Inc.'s may have under the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 shall be fully restored.

9. It is agreed by the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. that this Amendment and its terms are only effective for the duration of the Governor's Mandatory Closure (i.e., end of school on Monday, March 16, 2020 through reopening for normal operations no sooner than June 30, 2020), and any extension of the Governor's Mandatory Closure as specifically ordered by the Governor. This Amendment and its terms do not apply to any period beyond the Governor's Mandatory Closure, even if voluntarily imposed by the Wachusett Regional School District. Further, in the event that either federal or state legislation [not guidance] is subsequently enacted relating to the payments to public school transportation providers prior to June 29, 2020, then this Agreement shall be nullified and both parties will act in accordance with the new legislation and its terms and any related regulations.
10. AA Transportation Co., Inc. shall submit an invoice pursuant to this agreement to the Wachusett Regional School District the daily rate of \$144.99 for mini vans, \$176.00 for 8-passenger vans, and \$166.05 for wheelchair vans (75% of original daily rate) for each school day during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. Payment shall not be made for weekend days or other days that the Wachusett Regional School District would not be in session (i.e., non-school days, holidays, school vacation, etc.) in accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District 2019-2020 School Calendar which occur during the Governor's Mandatory Closure or any extension specifically ordered by the Governor. Such invoices shall include language such as; *"Maintaining bus fleet equipment, staff, facilities, and all related operations in a readiness status at the disposal of the District during Covid-19 School Closure"* so as accurately capture the rationale for such payment.
11. This Amendment does not establish any precedent nor is it any guarantee that the same commitments will be made under similar circumstances in the future.

This agreement is made on this 20th day of May 2020.

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For the Wachusett Regional School District

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For AA Transportation Inc.

ATTACHMENT G
FY21 Tiered Cut Scenarios
DRAFT

Tier 1

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
3.9.20	SC Voted Current FY21 Budget			\$4,279,179.00	SC Approved Budget Increase 3.9.20
6.1.20	FY21 Textbook Reduction	0.00	-\$400,000.00	\$3,879,179.00	Support
6.1.20	FY21 Operations and Maintenance Reduction	0.00	-\$70,000.00	\$3,809,179.00	
6.1.20	FY 21 Pupil Services Reduction	0.00	-\$1,517.00	\$3,807,662.00	
6.1.20	FY21 New Positions and Benefits	6.00	-\$550,000.00	\$3,257,662.00	No new positions except nurse
6.1.20	Using Existing E&D to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$450,000.00	\$2,807,662.00	Pending School Committee Vote
6.1.20	School Choice Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$200,000.00	\$2,607,662.00	Estimated
6.1.20	Circuit Breaker Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$500,000.00	\$2,107,662.00	Estimated
6.1.20	Contracted Services	0.00	-\$100,000.00	\$2,007,662.00	
6.1.20	Transportation Stabilization	0.00	-\$100,000.00	\$1,907,662.00	Estimated
6.1.20	Summer School Running Remotely	0.00	-\$125,000.00	\$1,782,662.00	
		6.00	-\$2,496,517.00		

Tier 2

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
6.1.20	Positions	45.75	-\$2,115,750.00	-\$333,088.00	Various positions across unions
		45.75	-\$2,115,750.00		
	Totals	FTE 51.75	Reduction Cost -\$4,612,267.00		

Created 5.4.20

Updated 5.19.20

Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
6:00 p.m.*Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet*AGENDA:

- I Call to Order
- II Approval of Minutes
- III FY21 Class Size Implications from a 1/12th Budget
- IV Review of Policy 3510 Policy Relating to Education Class Size
- V Update on Remote Learning
- VI Discussion of District Quality Indicators
- VII Old Business
- VIII New Business
- IX Next meeting – Monday, June 8, 2020, 6:00 PM
- X Adjournment

The above agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
7:00 p.m.*Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet*AGENDA:

- Public Hearing
- Chair's Opening Remarks
- Student Representatives' Reports
- Superintendent's Report
 - Discussion of Report
 - Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 - To support the Resolution for Enhanced Federal Funding
 - To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign an amendment to the Contract for School Transportation, dated June 19, 2018, between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation, Inc. of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
 - To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign an amendment to the Contract for SPED, In-District Transportation, dated July 1, 2019, between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation, Inc. of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
 - To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between WRSD and the WREA –Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement COVID-19 Closure

Unfinished Business

Secretary's Report

- Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on 3/9/2020
- Approval of the #1343rd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on 5/11/2020
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on 5/11/2020

Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Committee Reports

- Management Subcommittee
- Education Subcommittee
- Business/Finance Subcommittee
- Legal Affairs Subcommittee
- Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee
- Facilities and Security Subcommittee
- Audit Advisory Board
- Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
 - 1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract
- Building Committees

School Council Reports

Public Hearing

New Business

Adjournment

The above agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, June 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Education Subcommittee

Monday, June 8, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Monday, June 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

Monday, June 15, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

Monday, June 22, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, June 30, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Tuesday, June 30, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and/or format TBD



May 21, 2020

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Google Hangouts Meet Requirements

Barry Sclar <barry_sclar@wrsd.net>

Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 9:54 PM

To: Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen
<rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Google Hangouts Meet works with the latest versions of all major browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge).

When joining the meeting, be sure to allow camera and microphone access if prompted.

If you plan to join using an iOS or Android device, install the Hangouts Meet app ahead of time.

Hangouts Meet for Android

Hangouts Meet for iOS

You can click the meeting link at any time (even right now) to test your device compatibility.

BARRY SCLAR | SUPERVISOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | 508-829-1670 x269

The contents of this e-mail, and any attachments, are the property of the Wachusett Regional School District, and subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66, § 10.

WACHUSETT REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 2019 – May 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Home Address & Phone</u>
Melissa Ayala	2020	8 Sterling Avenue Sterling 01564 melissa_ayala@wrsd.net
Scott Brown	2020	151 Highland Street Holden 01520 (508) 789-0711 scott_brown@wrsd.net
Michael Dennis	2020	15 Cypress Circle Holden 01520 (978) 853-1278 michael_dennis@wrsd.net
Stephen Godbout	2020	56 Bean Road Sterling 01564 stephen_godbout@wrsd.net
Maleah Gustafson	2022	63 Heather Circle Jefferson 01522 maleah_gustafson@wrsd.net
Sherrie Haber	2022	1 Olivia Lane Rutland 01543 sherrie_haber@wrsd.net
Jeffrey Haynes	2020	4 William Circle Rutland 01543 jeffrey_haynes@wrsd.net
Robert Imber	2021	1 Clearings Way Princeton 01541 (978) 481-6999 robert_imber@wrsd.net
Laura Kirshenbaum	2020	41 Britney Drive Holden 01520 laura_kirshenbaum@wrsd.net
Sarah LaMountain	2021	30 Kilburn Road Sterling 01564 (978) 422-6707 sarah_lamountain@wrsd.net
Matthew Lavoie	2022	28 Grizzly Drive Rutland 01543 (857) 891-6164 matthew_lavoie@wrsd.net
Linda Long-Bellil	2021	35 Brentwood Drive Holden 01520 (508) 304-1920 linda_longbellil@wrsd.net
Amy Michalowski	2020	28 Pinecroft Avenue Holden 01520 (508) 852-4051 amy_michalowski@wrsd.net
Kenneth Mills	2022	22 Flagler Drive Holden 01520 (774) 230-4712 kenneth_mills@wrsd.net

WACHUSETT REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 2019 – May 2020

Benjamin Mitchel	2021	7 Colony Lane Paxton 01612 (508) 208-7728 benjamin_mitchel@wrsd.net
Karl Ottmar	2020	232 West Street Paxton 01612 (434) 242-7042 karl_ottmar@wrsd.net
Asima Silva	2021	75 Nelson Street Holden 01520 (508) 852-1246 asima_silva@wrsd.net
Christina Smith	2022	362 Sterling Road Jefferson 01522 (508) 468-7929 christina_smithSC@wrsd.net
Megan Weeks	2022	137 Wheeler Road Princeton 01541 (860)841-4809 megan_weeks@wrsd.net
Linda Woodland	2022	4 Deborah Lane Sterling 01564 linda.woodland@wrsd.net
Adam Young	2021	434 Shrewsbury Street Holden 01520 (774) 272-0182 adam_young@wrsd.net

WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR EVENTS – CLASS OF 2020

DATES	EVENTS
FRIDAY, MAY 22 ND	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cap & Gown Distribution</u></p> <p>Members of the WRHS Class of 2020 will be back on campus to clean-out their PE lockers, drop off Chromebooks and textbooks, and receive their cap and gown. Detailed information and a map of how to proceed through this process is available on the WRHS Class of 2020 Graduation Webpage.</p> <p>Make-Up Date is Tuesday, May 26th and Wednesday, May 27th.</p>
T THURSDAY, JUNE 4 th	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Celebrating our Seniors</u></p> <p>Come join us in celebrating the WRHS Senior Class of 2020. The day begins with a 17 foot LED Screen in the center of Holden that will display each Senior's picture with information about his/her future plans. This screen will be up from 9:00am to 10:30pm. Then, starting at 8:30pm and continuing until 10:30pm, Wachusett Regional High School will be lit up in Green and White lights as a celebration of graduation.</p>
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 th	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rolling Rally</u></p> <p>Starting at 11:00am ,led by the Massachusetts State Police and Police from all five of the Wachusett towns, students will leave Wachusett Regional High School and embark on a 33 mile "rolling rally" parade through Holden, Paxton, Rutland, Princeton, and Sterling. We encourage family members, friends, and faculty to line the parade route using social distance protocols to celebrate our Senior Class</p>

Friday May 29 th – Sunday May 31 st	<u>Virtual Graduation – Moment in the Sun</u> WRHS Seniors will receive a link and information on how to record themselves in their cap and gown to be part of the WRHS Virtual Graduation.
Wednesday, June 17 th	<u>Virtual Graduation Night</u> The time has come! Join us tonight for a virtual graduation where the Class of 2020 can finally turn their tassels and become Mountaineer alumni. Graduates and staff will be sent a link with a password for the live streaming event.
Thursday, June 18 th & Friday, June 19 th	<u>Diploma Distribution</u> The Class of 2020 will once again be welcomed back on campus! Once on campus, students will receive their diploma, yearbook, and any possessions they had in their locker. Upon receiving their diploma students will be instructed to visit one of three photo locations. At each location a photographer will take two pictures, one of the graduate and one of the graduate with family. Cap and Gown is requested
Fall 2020	<u>Yearbook Signing Social</u> WRHS Class of 2020 is invited back on campus to celebrate with their classmates and faculty in social setting. Additional details will follow as we await social distancing guideline for the Fall of 2020
All information is available on the Wachusett Regional High School Class of 2020 webpage using the following link https://wrhs.wrsd.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=26795965 Students can also access information through the WRHS Class of 2020 Google Classroom	



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>



Fwd: Important information from The Telegram & Gazette

3 messages

Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>

Fri, May 15, 2020 at 3:08 AM

To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>, William Beando
<william_beando@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Couture, Michelle** <mcouture@s-t.com>

Date: Thu, May 14, 2020 at 5:48 PM

Subject: Important information from The Telegram & Gazette

To: <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>



Dear Superintendent McCall,

This spring, the coronavirus outbreak has had a colossal impact on high school communities, with disruptions in learning and the cancellation of many important events and activities. To celebrate and support this year's named student athletes, *The Telegram & Gazette* is changing its annual Best of Hometeam High School Sports Awards banquet from a live event, to an OnDemand Awards show. The show will be available on Thursday, June 18th at 6:00 pm at telegram.com/bestofhometeam, free for all to enjoy.

This star-studded awards show will be hosted by Jesse Palmer and Sage Steele, ESPN Broadcasters, and will feature some of the biggest names in sports including Venus Williams, Michael Phelps and Drew Brees. During the show, we will honor the accomplishments of the 2020 All-Star athletes, announce the players of the year for each sport, Coaches of the Year, and present a number of special awards.

Plus, we have a special tribute to the 2020 spring athletes and seniors.

We need your help! Would it be possible for you to post information about the show on your website, social channels and include a note in any other communication you make to students and parents?

To make this easier we have provided a link to a social post you can use, and a link to a detailed news article.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance!

To: Business and Finance, WRSDC
From: Darryll McCall, Superintendent

5/20/20

Our first exercise was to review the current FY20 budget, including any open PO's, and establish a baseline of reductions or carry forwards that did not include current employees. In attachment G, Director Deedy established a list of items that would help support the budget, including the use of E&D, revolving accounts, the reduction of proposed staff and other budgets, and more.

In order to define the personnel reductions, Deputy Berlo and I began the process of looking at strategies to reduce the budget based upon the following timeline of events:

- Initial 1/12th Budget Reduction Plan
- District 1/12th Budget Reduction Plan
- MS Budget Reductions
- Elementary Budget Reductions
- High School Budget Reductions
- CO Budget Reductions
- Development of Budget Reductions
- Review of Budget Reductions
- Input from Bus. Director
- Input from HR Director
- Input from Sped Director
- CO Review of Budget Reductions
- Presentation of 1/12th Budget Reductions to Business and Finance Subcommittee
- Presentation of 1/12th Budget Reductions to School Committee -

When creating the timeline, we established meetings with all groups that included individuals, by school level (elem., middle, high) and the district. These meetings included discussions on potential reductions to staff and brainstorming around potential savings in other areas. Principals were given directions to review current staff levels and make recommendations of possible reductions, with the understanding that reductions will be intrusive upon the running of the school no matter how small. They were extremely difficult discussions but worthwhile as a focus was developed around how best to move into our new school year.

The staffing reductions include administration, teachers, paraprofessionals, ABA PA's, secretaries, SLPA's, and custodians. When looking at custodial staff we understand that they will be working extra hard this coming school year continually cleaning surfaces throughout the day and have attempted to hold to the positions where possible. Our cafeteria requires a certain number of staff to safely provide meals within each building and they are already at the bare minimum. We also have not reduced nurses and have kept the one new position in the budget in preparation for opening this fall. Nurses will play a crucial role in helping to provide for a safe learning and working environment for our schools.

The following breakdown includes two tiers of reductions based on 1.) development of a 1/12th budget for the entirety of FY21, and 2.) further reductions to staffing based upon a 20% reduction in state aid (FY20 figures reduced by 20%) for FY21:

1/12th Budget Reduction Goal	-\$4,279,179
-------------------------------------	---------------------

	Reductions	Savings
Tier 1	FY21 Textbook Reduction	\$400,000
	FY21 Operations & Maintenance	\$70,000
	FY 21 Pupil Services	\$1,517
	FY21 New Positions and Benefits	\$650,000
	E&D to Supplement FY21	\$450,000
	School Choice Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	\$200,000
	Circuit Breaker Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	\$500,000
	Contracted Services	\$100,000
	Transportation Revolving	\$100,000
	Summer School Running Remotely	\$125,000
	Tier 1 Budget Reduction Total	\$2,596,517

1/12th Budget Reduction Goal	-\$4,279,179
Tier 1 Reductions	\$2,596,517
Remaining Reductions to Meet 1/12th Budget Goal	-\$1,682,662

	Prek-8 Reductions	Savings	HS Reductions	Savings	CO Reductions	Savings
Tier 2	18.2 Teachers	\$1,365,000	6 Teachers	\$450,000	2 Admin	\$215,000'
	27.9 Paraprof.	\$837,000	2 Paraprof.	\$60,000	1 Secretary	\$8,000
	0.5 Custodian	\$22,500	1 Custodian	\$45,000		
	1 Secretary	\$45,000	1 Secretary	\$45,000		
	MS Athletics	\$62,874				
	1 Asst. Princ.	\$100,000				
	PK-8 Total	\$2,432,374	Reduction Total	\$600,000	CO Total	\$223,000
					Grand Total	\$3,255,374
	Tier 2 Budget Reduction Total (Taking unemployment costs into account)					\$2,170,249

1/12th Budget Reduction Goal	-\$4,279,179
Tier 1 Reductions	\$2,596,517
Tier 2 Reductions	\$2,170,249
Amount Above Reduction Goal	\$487,587

Estimated Budget Reduction Goal

Based upon discussions with state and local representatives, we have also developed a contingency budget reduction that aligns with a 20% reduction of FY20 state aid.

Estimated Budget Reduction Goal	-\$10,000,000
Tier 1 Reductions	\$2,596,517
Tier 2 Reductions	\$2,170,249
Remaining Reductions to Meet Goal	-\$5,233,234

	Prek-8 Reductions	Savings	HS Reductions	Savings	CO Reductions	Savings
Tier 3	16.5 Teachers	\$1,237,500	8.4 Teachers	\$630,000	2 Admin.	\$240,000
	11 Paraprof.	\$330,000	HS Clubs, Play, Musical	\$66,797	1 Secretary	\$45,000
	7 Custodians	\$315,000	HS Athletics	\$304,000	1 Clerk	\$40,000
	0.5 Secretary	\$22,500	1 SRO	\$50,000	1 Technology	\$45,000
	PK-8 Total	\$1,905,000	HS Total	\$1,050,797	CO Total	\$370,000
					Grand Total	\$3,325,797
Tier 3 Budget Reduction Total						\$2,217,198

Estimated Budget Reduction Goal	-\$10,000,000
Tier 1 Reductions	\$2,596,517
Tier 2 Reductions	\$2,170,249
Tier 3 Reductions	\$2,217,198
Remaining Reductions to Meet Goal	-\$3,016,036

	Reductions	Savings
Tier 4	Transportation	\$464,390
	SPED Tuitions	\$200,000
	Instructional Support	\$25,000
	Operations and Maintenance	\$50,406
	Tier 4 Budget Reduction Total	\$739,796

Estimated Budget Reduction Goal	-\$10,000,000
Tier 1 Reductions	\$2,596,517
Tier 2 Reductions	\$2,170,249
Tier 3 Reductions	\$2,217,198
Tier 4 Reductions	\$739,796
Remaining Reductions to Meet Goal	-\$2,276,240

	Prek-8 Reductions	Savings	HS Reductions	Savings	CO Reductions	Savings
Tier 5	10 Teachers	\$750,000	8 Teachers	\$600,000	2 Admin.	\$250,000
	10 Paraprof.	\$300,000	4 Paraprof.	\$120,000	2 Clerks	\$90,000
	8 Asst. Princip.	\$800,000	2 Custodian	\$90,000	1 Maint.	\$80,000
			2 Secretary	\$90,000	1 Secretary	\$45,000
			2 Asst. Princip.	\$200,000	1 Technology	\$45,000
	PK-8 Total	\$1,850,000	Reduction Total	\$1,100,000	CO Total	\$510,000
					Grand Total	\$3,460,000
FY21 Budget Reduction Total						\$2,306,667

ATTACHMENT F
AMENDMENT
Between the
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
and
AA Transportation Inc. of Shrewsbury, MA

This Amendment is entered into between the Wachusett Regional School District, acting through its Superintendent and the Chair of its School Committee, (hereinafter, the "Wachusett Regional School District" or the "District") on the one hand, and AA Transportation Co., Inc., on the other hand, (collectively referred to as the "Parties") on this 20th day of May, 2020 to amend the Contract for SPED, In-District Transportation dated July 1, 2019 (hereinafter "Agreement"). It is intended to memorialize certain commitments by the Parties as outlined herein.

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID19"); and,

WHEREAS, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ordered that all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, excluding residential and day schools for special needs students, shall suspend all normal, in-person instruction and other educational operations at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, June 29, 2020 (hereinafter the "Governor's Mandatory Closure"); and,

WHEREAS, the Wachusett Regional School District recognizes that these unprecedented times involving COVID-19 and the attendant Governor's Mandatory Closure will impact certain uniquely positioned vendors that primarily are in operation to support the Wachusett Regional School District; and,

WHEREAS the Wachusett Regional School District are parties to a contract with AA Transportation Co., Inc. to provide transportation to certain of the District's students. Although the bus drivers and other support personnel associated with the Agreement are employees of AA Transportation Co., Inc., such employees play an integral role in the transportation of District students and are instrumental in the orderly operation of the District on a daily basis when school is in session; and,

WHEREAS it is the shared desire of the signatories to this Amendment that the bus drivers and other support personnel employed by AA Transportation Co., Inc. and who are regularly assigned to work transporting the District's students have been furloughed during the period of the Governor's Mandatory Closure be compensated as provided herein; and,

WHEREAS it is recognized that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 56 only allows for the payment of services actually rendered to the Town; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in an effort to establish some general commitments between the Parties during this period of uncertainty, the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. mutually agree to the following:

1. This Amendment modifies the current Agreement for School Transportation Services in place during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. All other provisions of that Agreement remain in effect.
2. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will give notice to and re-employ all drivers and support personnel and make buses, bus drivers and all other support personnel available to the Wachusett Regional School District to provide transportation services as may be needed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. It is further expected that AA Transportation Co., Inc. will adhere to recommendations around issues of social-distancing and maximum assembly of persons issued by the Governor in connection with the transportation pursuant to this paragraph.
3. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will "make whole" from a wage and benefit standpoint (the "Make Whole Wages and Benefits") all bus drivers and support personnel in support of this contract retroactively to the first official school closure date of March 17, 2020 and forward through the end of the 2019-2020 regular school year as defined by the District's school calendar. For purposes of this Agreement, Make Whole Wages and Benefits will be based on average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020, and benefits provided and subject to such terms and conditions hereof as of February 2020.
4. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees to indemnify and hold the Wachusett Regional School District harmless in connection with its transportation pursuant to Paragraph 2 above and any litigation or damages arising therefrom. AA Transportation Co, Inc. also agrees to maintain liability insurance, in at least the same coverage amount and under the same terms that it maintains pursuant to the Agreement, on all buses to be utilized in connection with the transportation of individuals as outlined in Paragraph 2 above.
5. The Wachusett Regional School District will pay AA Transportation Co., Inc. the per vehicle daily rate of \$144.99 for mini vans, \$176.00 for 8-passenger vans, and \$166.05 for wheelchair vans for each school day that school is closed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure for "SPED In District" vans under contract. This amount represents seventy-five percent [75%] of the daily contractual cost for student transportation (i.e. "SPED In District") based on current vehicle usage between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Inc. pursuant to the Agreement. No other services such as field trips, athletics, special charters, or bus/van monitors will be billed or paid for during the school closure period.

6. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above that it will pay all employees assigned to the Wachusett School District contract average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020 of all such employees. AA Transportation Inc. agrees to furnish evidence of these payments, by individual, if requested by the Wachusett Regional School District.
7. By making this agreement and as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above, AA Transportation Co., Inc. does not give up its right to apply for COVID-19 federal stimulus relief funds for which it might be eligible. Both parties acknowledge and understand that under no circumstance is it intended that AA Transportation Co., Inc. receive both payments from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and customers and federal stimulus funds that would exceed the total revenue that AA Transportation Co., Inc. would otherwise receive under normal operations had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred. As such, AA Transportation Co., Inc. hereby notifies the district that the company has applied for an SBA loan under the CARES act. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will notify the district upon receipt of notification of forgiveness of any portion of said CARES act loan or receipt of any other similar stimulus grant. Further, if the federal stimulus forgiveness or such other grant and or forgiveness received by AA Transportation in combination with the payments agreed upon in Paragraph 5 above received from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and other customers exceed what would have totaled expected revenue had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred,, then AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees it will return such overpayments to the Town/District as either a cash payment or credit towards future services as agreed upon by the Town/District and AA Transportation on a pro rata percentage basis.
8. AA Transportation Co., Inc. acknowledges that this agreement is contingent on authority being granted to the Wachusett Regional School District to make the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 4 above. In the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, the obligation to make such payments shall cease and this Amendment shall become null and void with no further recourse to AA Transportation Co., Inc. In addition, in the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, any payments made hereunder shall be credited back to the Wachusett Regional School District for purposes of satisfying charges associated with any future services provided by the Wachusett Regional School District under the Agreement. In the event this Amendment shall become null and void as provided in this Paragraph, then and all claims that AA Transportation Co., Inc.'s may have under the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 shall be fully restored.

9. It is agreed by the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. that this Amendment and its terms are only effective for the duration of the Governor's Mandatory Closure (i.e., end of school on Monday, March 16, 2020 through reopening for normal operations no sooner than June 30, 2020), and any extension of the Governor's Mandatory Closure as specifically ordered by the Governor. This Amendment and its terms do not apply to any period beyond the Governor's Mandatory Closure, even if voluntarily imposed by the Wachusett Regional School District. Further, in the event that either federal or state legislation [not guidance] is subsequently enacted relating to the payments to public school transportation providers prior to June 29, 2020, then this Agreement shall be nullified and both parties will act in accordance with the new legislation and its terms and any related regulations.
10. AA Transportation Co., Inc. shall submit an invoice pursuant to this agreement to the Wachusett Regional School District the daily rate of \$144.99 for mini vans, \$176.00 for 8-passenger vans, and \$166.05 for wheelchair vans (75% of original daily rate) for each school day during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. Payment shall not be made for weekend days or other days that the Wachusett Regional School District would not be in session (i.e., non-school days, holidays, school vacation, etc.) in accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District 2019-2020 School Calendar which occur during the Governor's Mandatory Closure or any extension specifically ordered by the Governor. Such invoices shall include language such as; *"Maintaining bus fleet equipment, staff, facilities, and all related operations in a readiness status at the disposal of the District during Covid-19 School Closure"* so as accurately capture the rationale for such payment.
11. This Amendment does not establish any precedent nor is it any guarantee that the same commitments will be made under similar circumstances in the future.

This agreement is made on this 20th day of May 2020.

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For the Wachusett Regional School District

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For AA Transportation Inc.

ATTACHMENT E
AMENDMENT
Between the
WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
and
AA Transportation Inc. of Shrewsbury, MA

This Amendment is entered into between the Wachusett Regional School District, acting through its Superintendent and the Chair of its School Committee, (hereinafter, the “Wachusett Regional School District” or the “District”) on the one hand, and AA Transportation Co., Inc., on the other hand, (collectively referred to as the “Parties”) on this 20th day of May, 2020 to amend the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 (hereinafter “Agreement”). It is intended to memorialize certain commitments by the Parties as outlined herein.

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID19”); and,

WHEREAS, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ordered that all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, excluding residential and day schools for special needs students, shall suspend all normal, in-person instruction and other educational operations at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020 and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, June 29, 2020 (hereinafter the “Governor’s Mandatory Closure”); and,

WHEREAS, the Wachusett Regional School District recognizes that these unprecedented times involving COVID-19 and the attendant Governor’s Mandatory Closure will impact certain uniquely positioned vendors that primarily are in operation to support the Wachusett Regional School District; and,

WHEREAS the Wachusett Regional School District are parties to a contract with AA Transportation Co., Inc. to provide transportation to certain of the District’s students. Although the bus drivers and other support personnel associated with the Agreement are employees of AA Transportation Co., Inc., such employees play an integral role in the transportation of District students and are instrumental in the orderly operation of the District on a daily basis when school is in session; and,

WHEREAS it is the shared desire of the signatories to this Amendment that the bus drivers and other support personnel employed by AA Transportation Co., Inc. and who are regularly assigned to work transporting the District’s students have been furloughed during the period of the Governor’s Mandatory Closure be compensated as provided herein; and,

WHEREAS it is recognized that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 56 only allows for the payment of services actually rendered to the Town; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in an effort to establish some general commitments between the Parties during this period of uncertainty, the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. mutually agree to the following:

1. This Amendment modifies the current Agreement for School Transportation Services in place during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. All other provisions of that Agreement remain in effect.
2. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will give notice to and re-employ all drivers and support personnel and make buses, bus drivers and all other support personnel available to the Wachusett Regional School District to provide transportation services as may be needed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. It is further expected that AA Transportation Co., Inc. will adhere to recommendations around issues of social-distancing and maximum assembly of persons issued by the Governor in connection with the transportation pursuant to this paragraph.
3. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will "make whole" from a wage and benefit standpoint (the "Make Whole Wages and Benefits") all bus drivers and support personnel in support of this contract retroactively to the first official school closure date of March 17, 2020 and forward through the end of the 2019-2020 regular school year as defined by the District's school calendar. For purposes of this Agreement, Make Whole Wages and Benefits will be based on average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020, and benefits provided and subject to such terms and conditions hereof as of February 2020.
4. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees to indemnify and hold the Wachusett Regional School District harmless in connection with its transportation pursuant to Paragraph 2 above and any litigation or damages arising therefrom. AA Transportation Co, Inc. also agrees to maintain liability insurance, in at least the same coverage amount and under the same terms that it maintains pursuant to the Agreement, on all buses to be utilized in connection with the transportation of individuals as outlined in Paragraph 2 above.
5. The Wachusett Regional School District will pay AA Transportation Co., Inc. the per bus daily rate of \$328.84 for each school day that school is closed during the Governor's Mandatory Closure for "Home-to-School" buses and vans under contract. This amount represents seventy-five percent [75%] of the daily contractual cost for student transportation (i.e. "Home-to-School") based on current vehicle usage between the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Inc. pursuant to the Agreement. No other services such as field trips, athletics, special charters, or bus/van monitors will be billed or paid for during the school closure period.
6. AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above that it will pay all employees assigned to the Wachusett

School District contract average weekly regular route wages and charter wages paid during the month of February 2020 of all such employees. AA Transportation Inc. agrees to furnish evidence of these payments, by individual, if requested by the Wachusett Regional School District.

7. By making this agreement and as a condition of its receipt of the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 5 above, AA Transportation Co., Inc. does not give up its right to apply for COVID-19 federal stimulus relief funds for which it might be eligible. Both parties acknowledge and understand that under no circumstance is it intended that AA Transportation Co., Inc. receive both payments from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and customers and federal stimulus funds that would exceed the total revenue that AA Transportation Co., Inc. would otherwise receive under normal operations had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred. As such, AA Transportation Co., Inc. hereby notifies the district that the company has applied for an SBA loan under the CARES act. AA Transportation Co., Inc. will notify the district upon receipt of notification of forgiveness of any portion of said CARES act loan or receipt of any other similar stimulus grant. Further, if the federal stimulus forgiveness or such other grant and or forgiveness received by AA Transportation in combination with the payments agreed upon in Paragraph 5 above received from the Wachusett Regional School District, other school districts and other customers exceed what would have totaled expected revenue had the Governor's Mandatory Closure not occurred,, then AA Transportation Co., Inc. agrees it will return such overpayments to the Town/District as either a cash payment or credit towards future services as agreed upon by the Town/District and AA Transportation on a pro rata percentage basis.
8. AA Transportation Co., Inc. acknowledges that this agreement is contingent on authority being granted to the Wachusett Regional School District to make the payments outlined herein at Paragraph 4 above. In the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, the obligation to make such payments shall cease and this Amendment shall become null and void with no further recourse to AA Transportation Co., Inc. In addition, in the event that a determination is made or opinion rendered that such payments are not permissible or lawful under state, federal or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, whether issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or appropriate governmental agency or legal representative, any payments made hereunder shall be credited back to the Wachusett Regional School District for purposes of satisfying charges associated with any future services provided by the Wachusett Regional School District under the Agreement. In the event this Amendment shall become null and void as provided in this Paragraph, then and all claims that AA Transportation Co., Inc.'s may have under the Contract for School Transportation dated June 19, 2018 shall be fully restored.
9. It is agreed by the Wachusett Regional School District and AA Transportation Co., Inc. that this Amendment and its terms are only effective for the duration of the Governor's Mandatory Closure (i.e., end of school on Monday, March 16, 2020 through reopening

for normal operations no sooner than June 30, 2020), and any extension of the Governor's Mandatory Closure as specifically ordered by the Governor. This Amendment and its terms do not apply to any period beyond the Governor's Mandatory Closure, even if voluntarily imposed by the Wachusett Regional School District. Further, in the event that either federal or state legislation [not guidance] is subsequently enacted relating to the payments to public school transportation providers prior to June 29, 2020, then this Agreement shall be nullified and both parties will act in accordance with the new legislation and its terms and any related regulations.

10. AA Transportation Co., Inc. shall submit an invoice pursuant to this agreement to the Wachusett Regional School District in the amount of \$328.84 daily rate (75% of original daily rate) for each school day during the Governor's Mandatory Closure. Payment shall not be made for weekend days or other days that the Wachusett Regional School District would not be in session (i.e., non-school days, holidays, school vacation, etc.) in accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District 2019-2020 School Calendar which occur during the Governor's Mandatory Closure or any extension specifically ordered by the Governor. Such invoices shall include language such as; *"Maintaining bus fleet equipment, staff, facilities, and all related operations in a readiness status at the disposal of the District during Covid-19 School Closure"* so as accurately capture the rationale for such payment.

11. This Amendment does not establish any precedent nor is it any guarantee that the same commitments will be made under similar circumstances in the future.

This agreement is made on this 20th day of May 2020.

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For the Wachusett Regional School District

Print Name _____ Signature _____
For AA Transportation Inc.

Resolution in Support of Education Funding for COVID-19

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor enacted the *Student Opportunity Act* in 2019 because the state's school funding formula was out of date and failed to provide all students with the education to which they are constitutionally entitled; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country, and our students' needs are even greater now due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the upcoming academic year many students will need enhanced educational opportunities, technology, health, and guidance services; and

WHEREAS, the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, municipal and state governments are limited by revenue and their requirements to present balanced budgets to accommodate the extraordinary needs brought on by this crisis; and

WHEREAS, these challenges will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, reputable economists have predicted the end of the nation's economic expansion and forecast a recession that may be deep and long-lasting; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of unemployment claims are already the highest we have seen since the Great Depression and may only grow; and

WHEREAS, revenue shortfalls will unequivocally result in budget cuts and personnel reductions in all school systems;

WHEREAS, these budget cuts will be happening at the same time that public school systems will be working to address the immense instructional challenge of unfinished learning that many students will face coming out of this school year; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$100 billion in education funding with investments in both the education stabilization fund and various federal categorical programs for public schools, such as Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress followed ARRA in 2010 with \$10 billion in additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones; and

WHEREAS, by comparison the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides only \$13 billion for education stabilization funding, which is less than half of one percent of the total \$2.2 trillion relief provided in the CARES Act and is far below the investment that the federal government provided in 2009 and 2010 in ARRA and the Education Jobs fund; and

WHEREAS, public education is one of the largest employers of any organization, public or private, in the nation; and

WHEREAS, published economic research has demonstrated a strong connection between a country's GDP growth and its investments in elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National School Boards Association, the American Association of School Administrators, and the National Parent Teachers Association, and others have called for some \$200 billion in relief for the nation's public schools; and

WHEREAS, this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's public schools to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, let it be

RESOLVED: That the members of the Wachusett Regional School Committee join with the Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, including our United States Senators and House of Representative members, to advocate for and approve additional federal education funding for our nation's public schools, such that the Commonwealth can fund all public schools at the level set forth in Governor Charlie Baker's initial proposed budget for FY2021.

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair, WRSDC

5/26/2020



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On the Desktop - May 14, 2020

New SOA Plan Deadline

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and Assistant Superintendents,

In light of the need to focus on efforts to support and instruct students during the COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with St. 2020, Ch. 56, § 9, I am extending the deadline for district Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plans. The new deadline for traditional school districts is **Friday, June 19**. (Charter schools will submit their SOA plans by Friday, July 31.) Please note that I may extend the deadline further as the timeline for the state budget becomes clearer. If needed, we will revisit and provide updates on the deadline.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner



Attachment 11
May 21, 2020

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: [Test] Wachusett News

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>
To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Mon, May 11, 2020 at 9:02 AM

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser](#)

Wachusett News

"We help our students scale any mountain." April 2020

News from the Superintendent's Office

I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and well. We have all experienced an immense amount of change and upheaval over the past several weeks, changing all of our daily life activities. Students, families and school staff are now working remotely and have taken on new challenges with determination and steadfastness. I applaud all of your efforts, flexibility, and support during this time.



In this newsletter you will find information on remote learning from DESE, Senior activities at WRHS, and the 2020 Census. For more detailed information on items such as school meals, Chromebooks, student wellness, and other important resources, please visit our website at <https://www.wrsd.net/>.

Finally, I would like to wish all of the moms out there, including my mom, my mother-in-law, and my wife, a very happy Mother's Day!

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Wachusett Regional School District

SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS



Information for Students' Families During the **COVID-19** School Closures

Thank you for all you are doing to support your child's education during these challenging times!

Information from the Massachusetts DESE

The WRSD continues to work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as remote learning is managed across the commonwealth. The Commissioner typically holds a virtual meeting once a week for district leaders in order to share information and respond to questions. The Commissioner recently shared a letter with all districts for families that provides information pertaining to remote learning and links to other resources: <http://www.wrsdonline.net/attachments/DESE-Letter-050820.pdf>

News from WRHS

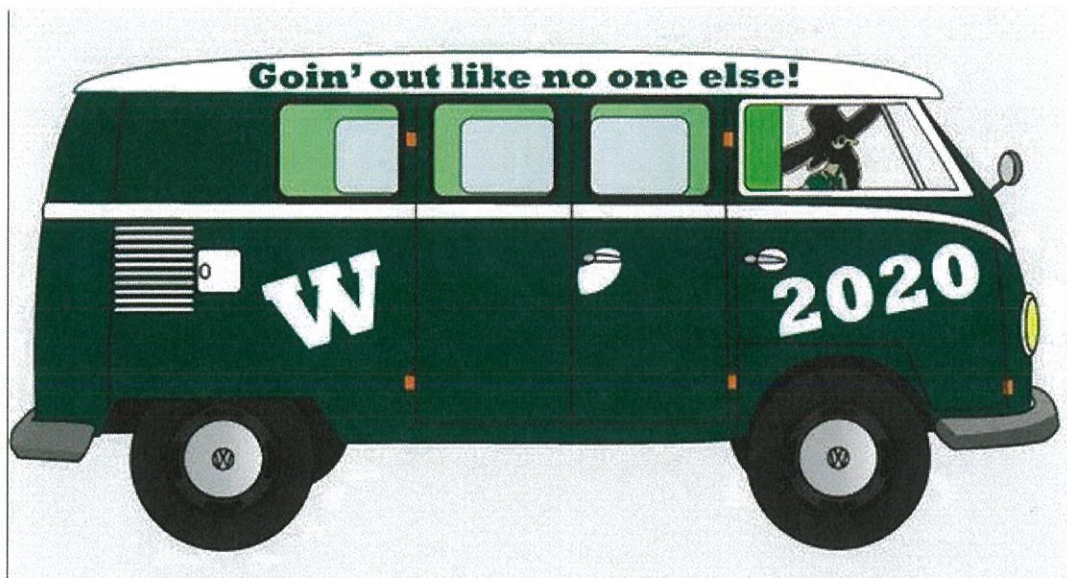
Planning to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of close to 500 WRHS graduates is never an easy task, and school personnel and students are working remotely to develop a plan. While the plans are still in the preliminary stages, the following is brief update on what has been developed thus far.



WRHS Principal Beando has named a committee of staff and students to work on this year's celebrations. A senior event website (https://wrhs.wrsd.net/news/graduation_updates_2020) provides more details and outlines plans put into place thus far, including two dates in early June.

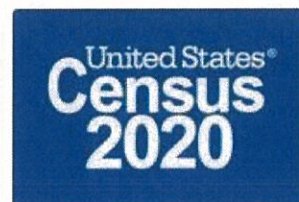
On June 4th, a 17 foot LED screen will be set up in the center of Holden all day and into the evening displaying each senior's picture and future plans, and that evening, the high school will be illuminated in green and white.

Two days later, on Saturday, June 6th, all seniors are invited to participate in a "Rolling Rally." Students are encouraged to decorate their vehicles, meet at the high school site that morning, and be escorted by our local police through the five towns, a 33 mile route. The senior events planning committee has been in touch with the Member Town Administrators and public safety departments, and we appreciate the town officials supporting this rally.

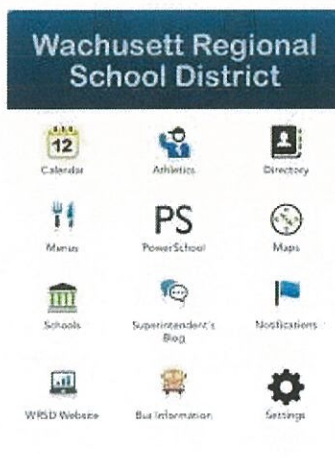


2020 United States Census

The 2020 US Census is now underway and is an important aspect of our civic duty. Once every 10 years, the US Census Bureau undertakes the enormous task of recording the population of the country. Funding for our five communities, including our schools, depends upon gathered census data. For more information on the 2020 Census, please visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveyhelp/faqs.html>



Stay Informed with The Wachusett App

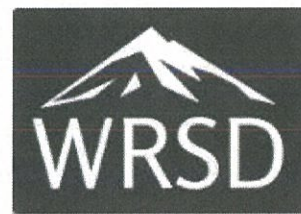


As a means to further enhance communication within the WRSD, [the Wachusett App](#) compiles many of the important items related to the WRSD into one, convenient location. The app is available to download for free through the [Apple App store](#) or [GooglePlay](#). The app has several components that will be helpful for students and families, including links to:

- the school calendar,
- athletic schedules for the high school,
- a staff directory by school with direct links to email,
- the mobile PowerSchool site,
- school lunch menus,
- school listings with phone numbers,
- maps and directions to any school in the district,
- the WRSD bus provider, AA Transportation and,
- the WRSD website

District Website

For information pertaining to individual schools, the school district and the School Committee, please visit our [website](#). Our website is also mobile friendly and may be accessed through a computer, tablet or phone.



Wachusett Regional School District

📍 1745 Main St, Jefferson, MA, U... 📞 508-829-1670
🌐 [wrzd.net](#)

Made with  **smore**

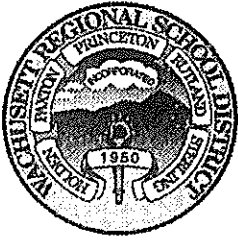
Smore helps people create gorgeous newsletters in a snap.

[Create your own for FREE!](#)

Unsubscribe from emails by **Darryll McCall**.

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Wachusett Regional School District
1745 Main St.
Jefferson, MA 01522
508-829-1670
darryll_mccall@wrsd.net

The contents of this e-mail, and any attachments, are the property of the Wachusett Regional School District, and subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66, § 10.



Wachusett Regional School District
Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

Sent electronically to rodonnell@doe.ma.edu

May 12, 2020

Mr. Rob O'Donnell
Office of School Finance
Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

At the regular meeting of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on May 11, 2020, the School Committee voted that the Wachusett Regional School District would not participate in the School Choice Program for the 2020-2021 school year due to increasing enrollment and class size. I have completed the online survey on the ESE website, informing DESE of this district's decision.

If you need any further information, please contact the Superintendent's Office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee

DM:rlp

**Wachusett Regional School District
and the
Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals
Memorandum of Agreement
COVID-19 Closure**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of Massachusetts, this Memorandum of Agreement is made and entered into by the Wachusett Regional School District (hereinafter, "District") and the Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals hereinafter, ("Paraprofessionals").

WHEREAS, in connection with the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has declared a suspension of school operations for educational purposes, resulting in the closure of all schools in the Wachusett Regional District for the remainder of the school year (through June 12, 2020), (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School);

Therefore, the Wachusett Regional School District and the Paraprofessionals hereby agree to the following:

Section A: Employee Safety, Illness, & Absentee Procedures

The District and the Paraprofessionals agree that it is for the mutual benefits of the community and the Paraprofessionals to take preventative measures to combat infection and mitigate personal risk.

1. The District and the Paraprofessionals mutually agree to encourage members who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, exposed to COVID-19, identify themselves as high-risk as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or are so advised by their medical providers, to remain home and seek medical treatment as necessary. Such encouragement will be sent via email and posted in common areas.

2. For the duration of this agreement, staff will not be required to produce documentation of illness from a medical provider.

3. In accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act an employee who is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed for reasons related to the COVID-19, the employee may receive two weeks of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay. In addition, an employee who has been employed for thirty calendar days is entitled to up to an additional ten (10) weeks of paid expanded family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay to a maximum of \$200 a day;

4. The District shall hold harmless any employee for performance or productivity for any time lost due to school, building, office, or District closing. Use of the Evaluation System is suspended for the duration of the school closure period, and all timelines and dates shall be adjusted based upon the duration of school closure. Probationary employees shall have the days of closure count towards the requirement of completing the probationary period and achievement of full non-probationary employment.

5. Subject to state and federal law, the District will share with the Paraprofessionals non-confidential information in its possession relating to confirmed cases of COVID-19 which occur in a Wachusett Regional School District employee or student.

Section B: Compensation

1. During the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School), employees who are ready and available for work shall continue to be paid their full regular annual salary according to the regular payment schedule, and there shall be no deduction of pay for any of the days of the temporary school closure. Employees enrolled in the District's health plans shall continue to receive benefits through those plans without interruption or reduction of any benefits.

Section C: Remote Learning Duties

1. During the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School) employees will adhere to the model of Remote Learning provided to all families by District administration. Such remote learning educational days will count as work days under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Paraprofessionals. The sum of remote learning educational days and in-person work days shall not exceed the regular contractual work year of 180 days.
2. In the event of illness and / or unavailability, Paraprofessionals shall notify their building principal via email of the anticipated duration of illness/unavailability to the extent possible.
3. Paraprofessionals agree to respond to professional email through the WRSD email system in a timely fashion, and no later than two work days of receipt, provided that the member is well and not caring for members of their family who are sick.
4. Members of the Paraprofessionals group agree to work with their building Principal and administration on the following:

- Check in with Teachers as needed to see how they can help to support student progress.

- Assist with building level educational planning and projects, such as the IEP migration project.
- Complete Paraprofessional online professional development as directed by the building Principal or Administration.
- Support the work of District Teaching staff as directed thru virtual meetings – Google classroom etc..
- Participate in weekly or as needed faculty or building level administrative meetings for staff check-ins and updates.
- Participate in learning activities such as Remote Learning, Linking Plan Activities or documentation associated with these activities.

5. Paraprofessionals shall not be required to perform the duties outlined above by using their own personal computers, phones, or other devices – nor shall they be required to perform any duties or participate in any functions that are covered under any other bargaining unit's Collective Bargaining Agreement or is conflict with the Paraprofessional Collective Bargaining Agreement.

6. The Paraprofessionals and District understand and acknowledge that the purpose of the District providing links is to provide students with educational enrichment and remote learning, and that employees will not be held responsible for student progress during the suspension of school operations for educational purposes through June 12, 2020.(June 15, 2020 for Mountview Middle School). In the event that staff has suggested links to be included with the enrichment and remote learning materials, the member may email the information to the building principal for consideration.

7. The Paraprofessionals and the District understand and acknowledge that remote learning support may or may not consume a regular full work day for employees. Employees are not required to, perform part of such work outside of the employee's regular work hours as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and Paraprofessionals.

Section D: No Precedent

The Parties agree that this agreement sets no precedent or past practice, and shall not be used in any proceeding except one to enforce its terms.

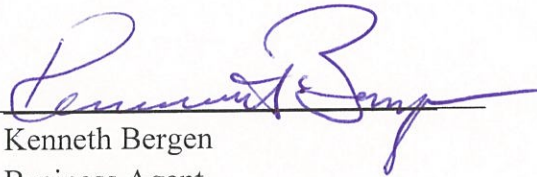
Section E: Extension of School Closure

In the event that there is an extension of the school closure beyond June 12, 2020, (June 15, 2020 for the Mountview Middle School) , the District shall notify the Paraprofessionals and the Teamsters Union Local 170 as soon as such determination is made ,and representatives of the District and the Paraprofessionals will confer and mutually determine whether to extend or modify this Agreement for any subsequent period of school closure.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2020.



Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wachusett Regional School District



Kenneth Bergen
Business Agent
Teamsters Local 170- Paraprofessionals

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, March 2, 2020
7:00 PM

Superintendent's Conference Room
District Central Office
1745 Main Street, Jefferson

In Attendance: Michael Dennis, Chair, Ben Mitchel, Vice-chair, Maleah Gustafson, Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil

Absent: Karl Ottmar

Administration: Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education

Others: Heidi Lahey, WREA
Kim McCormack, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approved the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

(B. Mitchel)
(L. Linda-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel
Maleah Gustafson
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved by consensus.

III. Medicaid Update

Director Deedy provided an update on Medicaid training for employees, explaining that new employees are receiving training upon hire and this training is being monitored, and training for existing staff is ongoing. He reported that most issues related to Medicaid reporting are due to the lack of training. Director Deedy reported District administration is considering the possibility of not using UMass as the 3rd party to review and process Medicaid reporting, which could result in a possible savings of \$50,000. The current contract with UMass is being reviewed to determine the expected level of oversight provided to the District. The question was asked about what other entities provide services to other school districts similar to what UMass provides to Wachusett. Director Deedy was asked to provide information about the number of students that are Medicaid-eligible vs students of students the District does not have parental consent from, and an update on the current Medicaid reimbursement for FY19 Revenue, information previously requested.

IV. FY20 Budget

- FY20 Expense Budget Report and Projections
- FY20 Revenue Budget Report and Projections

Director Deedy reported on an increase in Transportation funding of \$90,000.

- FY20 Budget Transfer Request

Director Deedy explained the reason for seeking a subcommittee recommendation to the full School Committee for a budget transfer, funds from Debt Service Appropriation to the Pupil Services Appropriation. Members asked that in the future, the specific motion and dollar amounts be included on Business/Finance Subcommittee agendas.

Motion: To recommend the full School Committee authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$5,134.00 from the Debt Service Appropriation to the Pupil Services Appropriation.

(L. Linda-Bellil)
(B. Mitchel)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel
Maleah Gustafson
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent McCall joined the meeting.

V. FY21 Budget

Superintendent McCall reported on the FY21 budget review meetings District administration has had with Member Town officials. He reported that the town of Paxton is concerned about the percentage increase from FY20 to FY21 proposed by WRSD, and also their concerns about the lack of resources. The town of Sterling expressed concern about adding staff when the student population is decreasing. Princeton's overall message was positive, and Rutland asked the District to decrease the budget proposal by \$400,000. Superintendent McCall and others will meet with Holden town officials on March 4, 2020.

VI. School Use Fees

Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy reported that on January 22, 2020 at the monthly meeting with Town Administrators, Superintendent McCall brought to the Town Administrators' attention the proposal to impose a slight increase in school use fees, effective July 1, 2020. He explained that it has been almost ten years since the District has made any adjustments to fees charged for building use, and this is a topic that has been brought before the Business/Finance Subcommittee for several years. With the Business/Finance Subcommittee's support, Superintendent McCall will send to the five Town Administrators his correspondence, which he reviewed at the January 22, 2020 meeting, and a notice will be placed in *The Landmark*, informing the public of the anticipated increase in school use fees effective July 1, 2020. Members were provided with a copy of the draft correspondence to Town Administrators as well as the draft FY21 School Use. Director Deedy will confirm what is required for this school use increase to go into effect.

VII. End-of-Year Report Overview Presentation at Future School Committee Meeting

A presentation and review of the End-of-Year Report will be made at one of the full School Committee meetings in April 2020, and a follow-up presentation will be made at the November 2020 School Committee meeting.

VIII. Discussion and Overview – Development of WRSD Annual Report

Deferred

IX. Draft Policy *Fixed Assets*

Deferred

X. Creation of Two New Revolving Funds – Facility Use and Stabilization

This matter will be brought before the full School Committee in June 2020.

XI. Policy Review

P4323.2 Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Bidding Requirements

Director Deedy will update this policy using up-to-date and accurate information and data, and will bring review of the draft policy back to the subcommittee for review.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting was not scheduled.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Haynes)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel
Maleah Gustafson
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Mitchel, Vice-chair
Business/Finance Subcommittee

BM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Management Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
7:00 PM

Superintendent's Conference Room
District Central Office
1745 Main Street, Jefferson

In Attendance: Kenneth Mills, Chair, Christina Smith, Vice-chair, Scott Brown,
Matthew Lavoie, Adam Young

Absent: Michael Dennis, Robert Imber

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools

Others: Heidi Lahey, WREA

I. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Public Hearing

At Ms. Lahey's inquiry about COVID-19 and potential impacts to schools,
brief discussion took place.

III. Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 25, 2019 meeting.

(C. Smith)
(S. Brown)

The minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Deferred.

V. Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

Superintendent McCall provided members with a copy of Evidence-Based
Program Examples *Descriptions of example programs identified by DESE for
the creation of three-year, evidence-based plans required by the SOA*
(attachment 1). Chair Mills encouraged careful consideration of use of these
funds and stressed the importance of accurate and time sensitive planning and

reporting so as not to put the District's Student Opportunity Act funding at potential risk. Some discussion about use of funds took place.

VI. District Indicators

There was discussion about the District Report Card and scheduling a presentation to the School Committee at a future meeting.

VII. Advocacy Updates

Brief discussion about advocacy by town residents on behalf of the District took place.

VIII. Diversity Issues in District

Deferred.

IX. Old Business

- Celebrating Academic Excellence (in addition to recognition of athletic achievements)
- Holden Pupil Population Task Force
- Schedule of 2019-2020 Presentations at School Committee Meetings
- Policy 4713.1 *Audit Advisory Board*
- Draft Policy 5263.2 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Stipend Positions**
- Amended Policy 3510 **Policy Relating to Education Class Size**
- Amended Policy 1410 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation New Member Orientation**
- Posting of Subcommittee Minutes

Deferred.

X. New Business

(Re)Numbering of WRSDC Policies

Deferred.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(C. Smith)
(A. Young)

Vote:

In favor:
Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith
Scott Brown
Matthew Lavoie
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The subcommittee adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Young
Management Subcommittee
AY:rlp

Attachments:

- Evidence-Based Program Examples *Descriptions of example programs identified by DESE for the creation of three-year, evidence-based plans required by the SOA* (attachment 1)

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, April 6, 2020
6:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS

In Attendance: Michael Dennis, Chair, Benjamin Mitchel, Vice-chair, Maleah Gustafson, Jeffrey Haynes (6:05 PM), Linda Long-Bellil, Karl Ottmar (6:16 PM)

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education

Others: Heidi Lahey, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported the meeting is being broadcast live on Channel 194, HCTV. Subcommittee Chair Dennis will amend the agenda, with no objection from members, to begin the meeting with the Director of Business and Finance reporting on the FY20 budget and the FY21 proposed budget.

II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was deferred.

III. Assessment of Budgetary Impact on FY20 due to COVID-19

Director Deedy spoke about conference calls he and Superintendent McCall have participated in with DESE, and other conference calls and virtual meetings scheduled in the coming weeks. Director Deedy noted FY21 proposed budget numbers are not valid at this point.

Director Deedy called members' attention to Attachment A and Attachment B of his April 3, 2020 packet to the Business/Finance Subcommittee, and he reviewed, making the comment the numbers are fluid and subject to change (attachments 1 & 2). Director Deedy reviewed the numbers on his Attachment B, providing detailed explanations. He explained salaries are fully funded through to the end of the fiscal year, and \$169,655 would be remaining after the adjustments under Note 1 (of his attachment) are made. If spring sports do not take place, the stipends for the coaches have been encumbered and that amount would be returned to Salaries & Stipends. Some discussion ensued, with Chair Dennis reminding members of the time limit of this meeting. District administration is addressing and looking into the question about services that are not being provided and how to manage. When asked about possible 9C cuts, Director Deedy reported DESE is not anticipating any, at least at this point in time. District administration will submit an application for Extraordinary Relief to help offset Special

Education Tuitions, funds that would need to be spent by 6/30/2020. Director Deedy will be working with his colleague from Shrewsbury to try to negotiate with AA Transportation about services for the rest of the school year, whether students return in May or not until August 2020. The question how the transportation budget carryover from the previous year will affect the District was asked. Expenses associated with providing lunches for eligible students (F&R) will be eligible for reimbursement, but to what degree is not yet known. Director Deedy reported FY19 E&D (Excess & Deficiency) is \$1,212,703, pending a transfer of \$250,000 for turf field replacement, leaving a balance of \$962,703.

Director Deedy then gave an overview of FY20 Projected Revenue (Attachment D of Director Deedy's April 3, 2020 packet) (attachment 3).

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the FY20 budget. Member Long-Bellil asked if there is an increased need in providing Free & Reduced lunches to eligible students, and if funds from the Stimulus Bill can be applied. Director Deedy reminded members that the District will receive funds to help with expenses associated with providing lunch. Director Deedy reported on Supervisor of School Nutrition Barton reaching out to eligible families to determine need. Director Deedy also mentioned he has submitted an application for MEMA assistance, which has been approved. Subcommittee Chair Dennis asked about spring sports and costs associated with this. Member Gustafson asked about the grab & go lunches, and asked for confirmation that families can apply for F&R lunch when/if their family circumstances are impacted. Member Gustafson asked about paraprofessionals being paid during this school closure time, which Director Deedy confirmed.

IV. Assessment of Budgetary Impact on FY21 due to COVID-19

Director Deedy reported FY21 state revenues projections (Chapter 70, Charter reimbursement, Regional Transportation, etc.) are now invalid. Schools being closed will have a major impact on Medicaid receipts. Investment Income projection is no longer a real number and will need to be reassessed. Director Deedy reported Superintendent McCall received correspondence from the town of Princeton to advise that town cannot support the FY21 proposed budget as approved by the School Committee on March 9, 2020. He noted that Sterling made a similar request of the District to look at FY21 numbers. Director Deedy reported use of E&D (Excess & Deficiency) to lower Member Town FY21 assessments might need to be considered. Director Deedy reported briefly on an April 6, 2020 conference call with DESE Executive Director of School Finance which included some discussion of the Federal Cares Act and the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund. Per Director Deedy, starting Fiscal Year 21 under a 1/12th budget is almost guaranteed for all regional districts, as well as most cities and towns starting the fiscal year under a 1/12th budget. Member Ottmar asked for a brief explanation of a 1/12th budget, which Director Deedy provided. Chair Dennis asked about possibility of a RAN (Revenue Anticipation Note), which Director Deedy will discuss with Treasurer Dunbar.

6:50 PM Member Haynes left the meeting.

V. Next Meeting

The date of the next subcommittee meeting was not determined.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(B. Mitchel)
(M. Gustafson)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel
Maleah Gustafson
Linda Long-Bellil
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Mitchel, Vice-chair
Business/Finance Subcommittee

BM:rlp

Attachments:

- Munis FY20 budget Report by Appropriation (attachment 1)
- FY20 Expense Budget Projections General Fund Only (attachment 2)
- FY20 Projected Revenues (attachment 3)

ATTACHMENT A



04/02/2020 20:29
9820ddee

Wachusett Regional School District
FY20 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 4.2

P 1
glytdbud

FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENC/REQ	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
1 SALARIES & STIPENDS	62,064,715	0	62,064,715	40,463,996.18	21,123,306.70	477,412.12	99.2%
2 BENEFITS & INSURANCE	15,054,973	0	15,054,973	13,087,534.02	2,147,502.00	-180,063.02	101.2%
3 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	3,322,090	20	3,322,110	2,416,731.63	424,492.71	480,885.66	85.5%
4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,606,166	0	3,606,166	2,270,156.39	1,221,652.45	114,357.16	96.8%
5 PUPIL SERVICES	51,241	-20	51,221	69,988.22	2,405.99	-21,173.21	141.3%
6 SPECIAL ED TUITIONS	3,123,545	0	3,123,545	2,000,695.28	742,098.06	380,751.66	87.8%
7 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	1,196,956	0	1,196,956	771,655.00	268,767.00	156,534.00	86.9%
8 TRANSPORTATION	6,919,413	0	6,919,413	4,561,434.87	2,280,981.03	76,997.10	98.9%
9 DEBT SERVICE	2,497,106	0	2,497,106	2,320,275.01	122,931.25	53,899.74	97.8%

GRAND TOTAL 97,836,205 0 97,836,205 67,962,466.60 28,334,137.19 1,539,601.21 98.4%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Dan Deedy **

Attachment 1



REPORT OPTIONS

Sequence	Field #	Total	Page Break
1	6	Y	N
2	0	N	N
3	0	N	N
4	0	N	N

Report title:
FY20 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 4.2

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
Print totals only: Y
Print Full or Short description: F
Print full GL account: N
Format type: 1
Double space: N
Suppress zero bal accts: Y
Include requisition amount: Y
Print Revenues-Version headings: N
Print revenue as credit: Y
Print revenue budgets as zero: N
Include Fund Balance: N
Print journal detail: N
From Yr/Per: 2020/ 1
To Yr/Per: 2020/13
Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
Sort by JE # or PO #: J
Detail format option: 1
Include additional JE comments: N
Multiyear view: D
Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N

Year/Period: 2020/13
Print MTD Version: N
Roll projects to object: N
Carry forward code: 2

Field Name	Find Criteria	Field Value
Fund		001
Location		
Department		
Category		
Dept of Ed		
Appropriate	1:9	
Prog		
Bud		
Character Code		
Org		
Object		
Project		
Account type		Expense

04/02/2020 20:29
9820ddee

Wachusett Regional School District
FY20 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 4.2



p 3
glytdbud

REPORT OPTIONS

Account status
Rollup Code

FY20 Expense Budget Projections
General Fund Only
April 3, 2020.....Ongoing Review
Attachment B

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL APPROP	LESS YTD EXPENDED	LESS ENCUMBRANCE	EST TOTAL TO		AVAILABLE BUDGET	ADD'L EXPENSES	PROJECTED BALANCE	NOTES
				BE SPENT					
1 SALARIES & STIPENDS	62,064,715	40,463,996	21,123,307	61,587,303	477,412		-307,757	\$169,655	See Note 1
2 BENEFITS & INSURANCE	15,054,973	13,087,534	2,147,502	15,235,036	-180,063		25,000	(\$155,063)	See Note 2
3 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	3,322,090	2,416,732	424,493	2,841,224	480,866		-175,000	\$305,866	See Note 3
4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,606,166	2,270,156	1,221,652	3,491,809	114,357		-25,000	\$89,357	
5 PUPIL SERVICES	51,241	69,988	2,406	72,394	-21,153		15,800	(\$5,353)	See Note 4
6 SPECIAL ED TUITIONS	3,123,545	2,000,695	742,098	2,742,793	380,752		-200,000	\$180,752	
7 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	1,196,956	771,655	268,767	1,040,422	156,534		0.00	\$156,534	
8 TRANSPORTATION	6,919,413	4,561,435	2,280,981	6,842,416	76,997		0.00	\$76,997	
9 DEBT SERVICE	2,497,106	2,320,275	122,931	2,443,206	53,900		0.00	\$53,900	
Expense Total	97,836,205	67,962,467	28,334,137	96,296,604	1,539,601		-666,957	872,644	

Note 1

estimate of sub teacher payments for May and June using FY19 figures as a guide for same time period.
Mentor Stipends; confirmed # (110,000)
Sick Leave buyback; confirmed # (23,850)
Sick Leave buyback to custodians; est (38,700)
1-900th Sub Teacher pay; 2 month est (10,000)
Margaret Barton shifted to GF from SL, All pp (14,000)
Andrea Ostrosky shifted to GF from ECC, 6 pp (63,997)
Lincoln Waterhouse shifted to GF from CB, 6 pp (24,231)
(22,979)
(307,757)

Note 2

Journal Entries between General Fund and Title 1 grant; additional adjustments determined based upon May and June revenues which would reduce or eliminate the deficit
25,000

Note 3

Textbook purchase materials (98,000)
Adjustment from Athletic Revolving (100,000)
Journal Entry for Safety Grant -- Cameras. District has been reimbursed. 23,000
(175,000)

Note 4

Journal Entry for Safety Grant -- Go Bucket material. District has been reimbursed 15,800
Created 4.1.20

ATTACHMENT C

03/30/2020 17:02
9820ddeeWachusett Regional School District
FY20 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 3.30.20P 1
glytdbud

FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJUSTMTS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
001 GENERAL FUND						
0000 UNDESIGNATED						
001 401412 GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-19,225,254	-19,225,254	-14,418,940.00	-4,806,314.00	75.0%
001 401413 GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-4,397,455	-4,397,455	-3,298,089.75	-1,099,365.25	75.0%
001 401414 GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-3,565,466	-3,565,466	-2,674,099.50	-891,366.50	75.0%
001 401415 GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-7,226,608	-7,226,608	-5,419,956.00	-1,806,652.00	75.0%
001 401416 GF MIN LOCAL CONT -	0	-8,220,062	-8,220,062	-6,165,046.75	-2,055,015.25	75.0%
001 401422 GF OPER - HOLDEN	0	-7,306,064	-7,306,064	-5,479,549.00	-1,826,515.00	75.0%
001 401423 GF OPER - PRINCETON	0	-1,466,595	-1,466,595	-1,099,946.25	-366,648.75	75.0%
001 401424 GF OPER - RUTLAND	0	-948,577	-948,577	-711,433.50	-237,143.50	75.0%
001 401425 GF OPER - STERLING	0	-3,614,910	-3,614,910	-2,711,182.50	-903,727.50	75.0%
001 401426 GF TRANS ASSESS - HO	0	-2,377,050	-2,377,050	-1,782,787.75	-594,262.25	75.0%
001 401432 GF TRANS ASSESS - PA	0	-2,204,518	-2,204,518	-1,653,388.50	-551,129.50	75.0%
001 401433 GF TRANS ASSESS - PR	0	-442,528	-442,528	-331,896.00	-110,632.00	75.0%
001 401434 GF TRANS ASSESS - RU	0	-286,222	-286,222	-214,666.50	-71,555.50	75.0%
001 401435 GF TRANS ASSESS - ST	0	-1,090,756	-1,090,756	-818,067.00	-272,689.00	75.0%
001 401436 GF DEBT ASSESS - HOLD	0	-717,246	-717,246	-537,934.50	-179,311.50	75.0%
001 401442 GF DEBT ASSESS - PAXT	0	-1,089,974	-1,089,974	-817,480.50	-272,493.50	75.0%
001 401443 GF DEBT ASSESS - PRIN	0	-237,436	-237,436	-178,077.00	-59,359.00	75.0%
001 401444 GF DEBT ASSESS - RUTL	0	-153,566	-153,566	-115,174.50	-38,391.50	75.0%
001 401445 GF DEBT ASSESS - STER	0	-587,031	-587,031	-440,272.50	-146,758.50	75.0%
001 401446 GF CHAP 70 - REG SCH	0	-369,100	-369,100	-276,825.00	-92,275.00	75.0%
001 401450 GF CHAP 71 - REG SCH	0	-28,500,615	-28,500,615	-19,041,768.00	-9,458,847.00	66.8%
001 401451 GF CHAP 70 - CHARTER	0	-2,178,143	-2,178,143	-1,279,469.00	-898,674.00	58.7%
001 401452 GF TXFR - SCHOOL CHO	0	-33,253	-33,253	-42,987.00	9,734.00	129.3%
001 401453 GF TXFR - UNRESERVED	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401454 GF TXFR - MEDICAID	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401455 GF INTEREST	0	-1,137,521	-1,137,521	-115,921.91	-1,021,599.09	10.2%
001 401460 GF REVENUE - MISCELL	0	-21,005	-21,005	-64,333.12	43,328.12	306.3%
001 401462 GF REVENUE - INSUR R	0	-439,250	-439,250	-89,114.74	-350,135.26	20.3%
001 401464 GF PREMIUM - RAN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401466 GF REVENUE - MSBA RE	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401468 GF REV - TRANSFER IN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 497100 GF REV - TRANSFER IN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-69,778,406.77	-28,057,798.23	71.3%
5400 SHORT-TERM INTEREST						
AFC784 401466 GF PREM - REV ANT	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
TOTAL SHORT-TERM INTEREST	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%

03/30/2020 17:02
9820ddee

Wachusett Regional School District
FY20 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 3.30.20



P 2
glytdbud

FOR 2020 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJUSTMTS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-69,778,406.77	-28,057,798.23	71.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-69,778,406.77	-28,057,798.23	
GRAND TOTAL	0	-97,836,205	-97,836,205	-69,778,406.77	-28,057,798.23	71.3%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Dan Deedy **



REPORT OPTIONS

Sequence	Field #	Total	Page Break
1	1	Y	N
2	5	Y	N
3	0	N	N
4	0	N	N

Report title:
FY20 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 3.30.20

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
Print totals only: N
Print Full or Short description: F
Print full GL account: N
Format type: 1
Double space: N
Suppress zero bal accts: N
Include requisition amount: Y
Print Revenues-Version headings: Y
Print revenue as credit: Y
Print revenue budgets as zero: N
Include Fund Balance: N
Print Journal detail: N
From Yr/Per: 2020/ 1
To Yr/Per: 2020/13
Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
Sort by JE # or PO #: J
Detail format option: 1
Include additional JE comments: N
Multiyear view: D
Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N

Year/Period: 2020/13
Print MTD Version: N
Roll projects to object: N
Carry forward code: 2

Field Name Find Criteria Field Value

Fund 001
Location
Department
Category
Dept of Ed
Appropriate
Prog
Bud
Character Code
Org
Object
Project
Account type Revenue

03/30/2020 17:02
9820ddee

Wachusett Regional School District
FY20 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 3.30.20



P 4
glytdbud

REPORT OPTIONS

Account status
Rollup Code

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, April 27, 2020
5:30 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Michael Dennis, Chair, Maleah Gustafson, Jeffrey Haynes, Linda Long-Bellil, Karl Ottmar

Absent: Benjamin Mitchel, Vice-chair

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education
Kenneth Mills, Chair, WRSDC

Others: Peter Bogren, Chair, Paxton Selectboard
Heidi Lahey, President, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. Subcommittee Chair Dennis thanked members for accommodating the earlier meeting start time.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke about Economic Summit of April 14, 2020, and a DESE virtual meeting of this date. Subcommittee Chair Dennis also spoke about budget development, including Member Town assessments (MLC plus Operational Assessment, Debt Service, Transportation), plus revenue from the state. Current proposed FY21 WRSD budget is based on current numbers from the state, prior to COVID-19.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis acknowledged Member Towns likely do not know their budgets at this point. Also, state projections are unknown at this time. He also spoke about operating under a 1/12th budget effective 7/1/2020.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis turned the meeting over to Director Deedy.

II. Contingency Planning for the FY21 Budget

Director Deedy stated the FY21 budget proposal approved by the School Committee on March 9, 2020 will likely not be the District's final budget proposal. The proposed FY21 budget will need to be rethought by the School Committee and the District. Per Director Deedy, the Committee, the subcommittee, and District administration need to keep FY22 in mind. Director Deedy spoke about anticipated FY20 savings (transportation, utilities, Instructional Support, etc.). Director Deedy spoke about use of a Transportation Revolving Fund. School Choice typically is not carried over year to year, but this year perhaps \$26,000 could be carried

over to FY21. Special Education staff has submitted an application for Extraordinary Relief, and the District is awaiting a response to this application.

On the Revenue side, Director Deedy reported the House and Senate numbers will likely be significantly less than the Governor's budget numbers. Director Deedy has had several communications with DESE about the FY21 budget. Director Deedy has asked DESE Christine Lynch about the 45 day deadline for notification to Member Towns about the FY21 budget proposal. If the 45 day deadline is held in place, that would mean a May 8, 2020 timeframe to notify Member Towns of an adjustment to the District' FY21 budget proposal. Director Deedy spoke briefly about a proposed agreement with the regular education transportation provider, as well as what might be agreed to with the special education transportation providers.

Director Deedy projected his spreadsheets (Revenue v Expenses), which had been shared with members in advance of the meeting. Director Deedy spoke about this information and also information he has received from DESE about revenues and expenditures. Director Deedy spoke about operating under a 1/12th budget and he gave a detailed review of the three spreadsheets being projected. Subcommittee Chair Dennis had questions for Director Deedy, asking about FY21 expenses based on FY20 1/12th numbers. Director Deedy said he and District administration are looking at the FY21 budget proposal, in light of COVID-19. Bringing forward remaining/available FY20 funds to FY21 is being looked at. Superintendent McCall spoke about conference call with Jay Sullivan of DESE this date. Superintendent McCall explained a district can operate under a 1/12th budget until December 1st.

Director Deedy next spoke about FY19 revenues, presenting on the screen, giving explanation of data on the spreadsheets.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke about previous years when the District has started the fiscal year on a 1/12th budget. An example, is when there are three payrolls in a one month period, and planning for the additional week of payroll.

School Committee Chair Mills asked for information about RANs (Revenue Anticipation Notes). Superintendent McCall also spoke briefly about the use of a RAN, which Director Deedy said he will discuss with District Treasurer Dunbar. Chair Mills also about retirees and attrition, which Superintendent McCall spoke briefly about. Superintendent McCall reported the District is currently operating under a hiring freeze, except in circumstances where hiring is absolutely necessary.

Director Deedy projected a schedule of deliverables for review and discussion.

Per Subcommittee Chair Dennis, he again spoke about Member Town assessments and he also mentioned the town assessment payment schedules, which would not change.

Member Gustafson asked if the number of FY21 retirees had been factored into the FY21 budget proposal. She asked how the proposed FY21 budget numbers (i.e. proposed new positions) would compare to what Director Deedy presented on FY20. Superintendent McCall, to clarify, asked if FY20 budget v FY21 proposed budget is what was being asked, which Member Gustafson agreed she is looking for, plus adding she is looking at FY21 budget

priorities, in light of the fact some reductions will be necessary for FY21. Superintendent McCall confirmed the District will keep the subcommittee and the full Committee apprised of any adjustments. Superintendent McCall also reminded members that a decision to use E&D (Excess & Deficiency) needs to be made in a timely manner.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis stated he is looking for more information about how to operate under 1/12th budget, based on the FY20 budget. He asked when he/the subcommittee could expect to see this level of detail for review. Member Long-Bellil asked about an early retirement incentive, which Superintendent McCall explained has not been a consideration at this point. He did explain this has been offered in the past, before he became Superintendent, and perhaps it could be looked into at this time. Superintendent McCall explained an early retirement incentive does cost the District money. Member Ottmar's thoughts echoed many of the comments made by other members, and he noted that staff and salaries are the major part of the District's budget. In years past (2008/2009), what happened to state funding during those years? Director Deedy spoke about Federal Stimulus Funds in 2008 -2010 timeline. Member Ottmar asked the amount of state funds that were cut during that time period. Member Haynes asked about the 45 day period to provide Member Towns with an amended budget, but noted that if the proposed budget is reduced, the District is not bound by the 45 day timeline, which both Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy confirmed. Member Haynes is looking ahead to the possibility of remote learning extending into the next school year, and is this the time to address remote learning capabilities now rather than later/into the next school year. Superintendent McCall agreed with Member Haynes, looking to be proactive now rather than later. Chair Mills also mentioned the need to think about staggered school days, busing, adjusting the school calendar, and the possible hiring of CNAs to monitor student and staff temperatures. Member Gustafson suggested that the level of detail provided in a line item budget would be beneficial, if feasible during updates, acknowledging such information is fluid. Superintendent McCall agreed with Member Gustafson's suggestion. Member Ottmar asked about school choice participation for 2020-2021, and how would that play into operating under a 1/12th budget. Per Director Deedy, school choice and school choice revenue would be an option for FY21, even if operating under a 1/12th budget.

III. Contingency Planning for the FY20 Budget

Per DESE, Director Deedy reported on some concerns around Chapter 70, Charter, and Regional Transportation. He confirmed no 9C cuts are anticipated at this time. Only the town of Sterling has requested approval to pay that town's fourth quarter assessment in two payments (May 1st and June 1st), which was approved. No other towns have requested similar. Director Deedy spoke about opening a Transportation Revolving Account. The Business Office is looking at open purchase orders and will close-out these POs where possible. Director Deedy also asked about use of E&D, which will need Member Town approval. Member Long-Bellil asked if the transportation company is eligible for PPP funding, which Director Deedy reported he believes is the case. Subcommittee Chair Dennis asked the Superintendent about District employees that are not working fully during the school closure period. Superintendent McCall reported to date DESE has advised to keep employees employed, but moving forward this may need to be reconsidered since school closures are through to mid-June. This is a topic on the next Staff Meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke about certain items that need to be discussed and considered, in a timely manner (Member Town assessments for FY21, staffing/employees during school closures, etc.) and he strongly asked District administration to think about the timing of these activities, to keep employees, School Committee, and the public apprised.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approved the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Deferred.

Motion: To approved the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Deferred.

V. Next Meeting

The date for the next subcommittee to be determined.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(M. Gustafson)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Wednesday, May 6, 2020
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Michael Dennis, Chair, Benjamin Mitchel, Vice-chair, Maleah Gustafson, Jeffrey Haynes, Linda Long-Bellil, Karl Ottmar

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Brendan Keenan, Director of SEL
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others: Kenneth Mills, Chair, WRSDC
Heidi Lahey, WREA
Kim McCormack, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Subcommittee Chair Dennis announced the meeting was streaming live on HCTV and the recording will also be available on the District website.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis began the meeting speaking about the District operating under a 1/12th budget effective July 1st. He also referred to an email and information share by Senator Gobi this date and a PowerPoint titled *Massachusetts Economic and Fiscal Outlook FY 2020 - 2021*(attachment 1).

II. Contingency Planning for the FY21 Budget

III. Contingency Planning for the FY20 Budget

Subcommittee Chair Dennis turned the meeting over to Director Deedy, asking that members share their questions through the CHAT feature of Google Meet. Director Deedy provided an overview of a call with DESE this afternoon, noting the CARES Act applications will be available in the next several days for the District to apply. CARES Act potential value for WRSD is \$214,000, using the District's FY20 Title 1 allocation and calculating 80% of that amount. Deputy Superintendent Berlo noted that the full amount will not be available to Wachusett, as some will go to Devereux and other private schools.

Director Deedy provided history of development of the FY21 budget, and then noted some reductions being considered. Director Deedy referenced *FY21 Budget Scenario Suggested*

Cuts 5.1.20 and FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios, which had been shared with members in advance of the meeting (attachments 2 & 3). Director Deedy thoroughly reviewed the information on the two spreadsheets. Director Deedy mentioned applying to MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) for funding, approximately \$26,000, which might be used to pre-buy in FY20 for FY21. Director Deedy reported six of the seven new positions included in the original FY21 budget proposal have been cut, save the nurse position. Director Deedy spoke about the current balance in E&D (Excess & Deficiency), and he spoke about possible use of approximately \$450,000 of those funds, pending School Committee approval. If suggested reductions listed in Phase 1 of *FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios* are implemented, the savings would be \$2,346,517. Phase 2 of the same spreadsheet shows a potential savings of an additional \$2,115,750, if 45.75 positions are cut. At the conclusion of Director Deedy's review and explanations, members were given the opportunity to ask questions and share opinions.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis had questions about how cash flow might be impacted when operating under a 1/12th budget, and at what point will Salaries and Stipends exceed a 1/12th budget monthly allocation.

Member Ottmar spoke about the Transportation line, asking if reducing the number of buses can be considered/might be an option to lessen the cut to personnel. Superintendent McCall explained that reducing buses has been looked at several times in the past, and he would be hesitant to plan on being able to go that route. Director Deedy spoke about settlements being negotiated with the transportation providers which could help with this line item. Negotiations about regular education home to school transportation for FY20 have concluded and he is beginning negotiations with special education transportation providers. Director Deedy explained that if FY20 Regional Transportation receipts exceed expenses, then the overage could be deposited in a Transportation Stabilization Revolving Fund for use in FY21.

Member Haynes asked if DESE has presented a timeline for release of guidelines for the reopening of schools in the fall. He noted that there will be expenses associated with reopening of schools and knowing what the extra costs might be will be helpful. Director Deedy responded that to date, he has not received a timeline from DESE. Director Deedy will follow-up. Superintendent McCall spoke about a virtual meeting conducted by Commissioner Riley on May 4, 2020. Commissioner Riley has appointed a Task Force to work on and address reentry plans, with a variety of options. Superintendent McCall has tasked Director of SEL Keenan with working with a task force at the District level, to begin a reentry plan for the Wachusett schools. Possible scenarios might be continuation of remote learning, a hybrid model (remote and in school), or a complete return to school, which Superintendent McCall is very doubtful about. Superintendent McCall reported he and Director Deedy will be participating in a virtual MASBO/MASS meeting on May 14, 2020. In answer to Member Haynes' question about what state aid might be for FY21, Director Deedy reported no information has yet been shared.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis spoke about "three valves:"

- #1 Revenue reductions to FY20 level based on 1/12th budget
- #2 Cash flow restriction due to 1/12th budget (the point at which we do not have sufficient funds to cover payroll + expenses and by how much)

#3 Reductions to state aid from FY20 levels

There was some discussion about the economic downfall of the past (2008 – 2010), with note being made that what the country is now experiences is some different from the downswing in the economy ten years ago.

Member Long-Bellil asked about PPP funds (Paycheck Protection Program) and if any of the District's vendors (i.e. AA Transportation) have applied for these funds, and if so, would there be an adjustment to District costs. Director Deedy did not know if vendors have applied for these funds, but he will make inquiry. Director Deedy reported AA Transportation has indicated applying for PPP funds is "cumbersome and problematic." Director Deedy reported no recent payments have been made to regular education or special education transportation providers. When asked by Member Long-Bellil, Superintendent McCall confirmed there has been no direction from the state about an early retirement package/option, and he also confirmed this option could be on the table at the Wachusett level. Member Long-Bellil asked about the District using the remote learning platform Blackboard, to help reduce textbook expenses. Superintendent McCall explained that use of Google Classroom is free, and Blackboard is very expensive, which explains why not many schools use Blackboard.

At Member Gustafson's questioning about possible FY21 textbook reduction, Deputy Berlo reported it may be necessary to put much of the Textbook Plan on hold for a year. He further explained that some items (i.e. consumables) will need to be purchased. He also noted if remote learning continues in the next school year, it might be necessary to acquire apps, testing materials, online/remote programs, etc. Lastly, Deputy Berlo commented that the Textbook budget was not "chopped to the bone," but cuts were made to that FY21 budget line.

Member Gustafson asked if plans for the ESY (Extended School Year) program have been finalized, which Superintendent McCall answered plans are not definite at this time, but did say that it is likely the summer program will be by remote participation.

Member Gustafson had some additional questions for Director Deedy about the agreement(s) with the transportation providers

Discussion about positions proposed in the FY21 budget and potential cuts in general ensued. Member Gustafson asked that the Business/Finance Subcommittee, as well as the full School Committee, be kept involved and apprised of what District administration is considering/planning by way of cuts. Superintendent McCall reported he has not yet met with representatives of the District's eight bargaining units, but he plans to soon. School Committee Chair Mills voiced he had questions and concerns similar to Member Gustafson's and he encouraged the Superintendent to have conversations about staffing, to be transparent, honest and straightforward about sharing information in the weeks to come, rather than in the months to come. Subcommittee Chair Dennis had the same sentiments, adding having the information on a categorical level would be appreciated.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis had comments and some questions about operating under a 1/12th budget. Director Deedy reported he is not expecting any reductions in Chapter 70, and no 9C cuts are anticipated. He also reported he is not aware of any adjustments in Charter reimbursement and he is hopeful to bring forward to FY21 \$400,000 from Circuit Breaker.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis asked Director Deedy his opinion about using \$450,000 of E&D for FY21. Discussion about E&D and what is currently in that account took place. Subcommittee Chair Dennis asked if it is the intention to submit a new proposed FY21 budget to the Member Towns, which would be \$450,000 less due to use of E&D funds. Superintendent McCall is of the opinion using E&D funds to help reduce the proposed FY21 budget would be well received by the Member Towns. Discussion continued. Subcommittee Chair Dennis reminded all that several of these options (negotiations with the transportation vendors, adjustment to health insurance contributions, an updated FY21 budget proposal using E&D funds, etc.) all have time values and timelines. Director Deedy reported he has heard from DESE that the 45 day deadline to notify Member Towns of a new FY21 budget proposal has been reduced to a 30 day deadline. School Committee action in light of these deadlines and timetables must be kept in the forefront when planning. Discussion about the FY21 proposed budget and Member Town assessments continued.

Member Haynes, referring to previous conversation about what might be needed for technology and planning for remote learning in the future, asked where the District stands with computers. Superintendent McCall reported ChromeBooks continue to be loaned out to students as needed. When asked about looking ahead to 2020-2021 and does the District have sufficient Chromebooks to loan to all students who might need them for home use/remote learning, Superintendent McCall spoke about the possibility of disassembling ChromeCarts to make additional ChromeBooks available, but having 1:1 available District-wide is not a guarantee.

Member Long-Bellil asked that the District look at the possible savings if COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustments) are withheld for the coming year.

WREA President Lahey shared her opinion that children deserve investment in public education. Member Gustafson expressed her concern that when schools do resume, in whatever fashion, it is likely more rather than less staffing will be necessary.

School Committee Chair Mills thanked Ms. Lahey for her comments, mentioned an early retirement incentive, and referenced the costs associated with unemployment when staff is laid off.

Member Gustafson had a process question regarding the overall budget, noting that before the current situation three of the five Member Towns indicated those towns would not likely support the District's proposed FY21 budget, so what is the plan to address the budget if three of the five towns are not supporting the budget. She asked if there is a deadline for submitting a new proposed budget, or will the District just wait to see how it all plays out at the Annual Town Meetings. Superintendent McCall spoke, explaining that lowering the proposed budget is difficult without knowing the state budget. He also reminded members that any budget adjustment must be considered at the School Committee level, with the Superintendent providing a recommendation. Subcommittee Chair Dennis said that the Business/Finance Subcommittee can be a sounding board for the pathways the District might think about and if District administration is thinking about submitting a new budget, bringing any suggestions/recommendation before the Business/Finance Subcommittee first makes sense.

Member Long-Bellil would like to see the cost/savings of furloughs v the cost of layoffs, which Superintendent McCall will work on with the Director of Human Resources.

The uncertainty about state funds and operating under a 1/12th budget was discussed, with Subcommittee Chair Dennis noting operating under a 1/12th budget is temporary (until December 1st, then the Commissioner sets the District budget). It was agreed it does not make sense for the District to put out a revised budget without post-COVID-19 budget numbers/state numbers. Discussion ensued about the District providing the Member Towns with a budget to consider at the June Annual Town Meetings.

Subcommittee Vice-chair Mitchel asked if the District can enact force majeure in our contracts with transportation suppliers based on the pandemic, which Director Deedy will check with District Counsel about.

Vice-chair Mitchel also stated he does not feel there is enough data to give administration a path to know/figure out the budget for FY21, and would be in favor of going forward with the 1/12th budget until there is more direction on how the District should proceed.

Some additional discussion about staffing, staff reductions, the number of FTEs across the District took place.

As the meeting was winding down, Subcommittee Chair Dennis summarized much of the discussions: FY20 funds to bring forward to FY21, the Transportation Revolving Account, pre-buying supplies and materials, closing out open FY20 purchase orders, amendments to the contracts with AA Transportation and working with Special Education transportation providers. Director Deedy made note that the school lunch account is projecting a shortfall, and this account cannot end in the deficit. The ECC Revolving Fund is similar, as it cannot end the year in deficit, so some adjustments will need to be made.

When asked by Subcommittee Chair Dennis about employees who continue on the payroll but whose services are not being used, Superintendent McCall reported that DESE has urged districts to not lay off or furlough staff, in anticipation of when schools will reopen.

Subcommittee Chair Dennis asked Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy what the Business/Finance Subcommittee can do to help District administration. Superintendent McCall thanked Subcommittee Chair Dennis and other members, voicing the difficulty of the situation especially due to not knowing what is coming from the state. Subcommittee Chair Dennis suggested going back to his three valve analogy. Timelines and deadlines are important to follow. Subcommittee Chair Dennis shared his perspective that decisions should be made in a more timely fashion and he also stressed the importance of clarity. Member Long-Bellil mentioned if there are statutory deadlines, it might be worthwhile to speak with legislators about extending, to which Superintendent McCall responded he does not believe the state will be extending.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approved the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Deferred

Motion: To approved the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Deferred

Motion: To approved the minutes of the April 27, 2020 Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Deferred

V. Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting TBD.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(J. Haynes)

Vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel
Maleah Gustafson
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Long-Bellil
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Petersen
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

rlp

Attachments:

- Massachusetts Economic and Fiscal Outlook FY 2020 – 2021 (attachment 1)

- *FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios* (attachment 2)
- *FY21 Budget Scenario Suggested Cuts 5.1.20* (attachment 3)



Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Sen Gobi update

Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>

Wed, May 6, 2020 at 2:04 PM

To: Daniel Deedy <daniel_deedy@wrsd.net>, Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gobi, Anne (SEN)** <Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov>

Date: Wed, May 6, 2020 at 12:31 PM

Subject: Sen Gobi update

To: Loosemore, William (SEN) <William.Loosemore@masenate.gov>

CC: McDiarmid, Lucas (SEN) <Lucas.McDiarmid@masenate.gov>

Good Afternoon

I wanted to provide you with this powerpoint as you deal with your own budgeting.

Please note that an anticipated \$5 billion shortfall is expected for FY 2021. When the last recession hit in 2009, the financial impact over two fiscal years was approximately \$4 billion and resulted in a 28% reduction in local aid. I know these are staggering and damaging numbers but I also know the sooner you have numbers, even bad ones, the better for your planning.

The Senate is anxiously waiting for the US House to release the next CARES funding, it is anticipated that will be in about two weeks. It is also the intent of the Senate to work with our House colleagues to have a local aid resolution as soon as possible once we have a better idea of what financial assistance will be coming.

I am sorry I do not have any better news today.

Thank you for all you are doing and stay safe

Anne

--

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Wachusett Regional School District

1745 Main St.

Jefferson, MA 01522

508-829-1670

darryll_mccall@wrsd.net

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05-05 Massachusetts Economic and Fiscal Outlook Caucus Presentation (003).pptx

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Massachusetts Economic and Fiscal Outlook FY 2020-2021

Senator Anne Gobi

Agenda

- Economic Variables
 - Unemployment
 - Gross Domestic Product
 - Shape of the Recovery
 - Role of the Federal Government
- FY 2020 Tax Revenue Forecasts
- FY 2021 Tax Revenue Forecasts
- Historical Context
- Strengths and Weaknesses of Massachusetts

Virtual Economic Roundtable

- On Tuesday, April 14th, the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and the Secretary of Administration and Finance hosted a number of economists, academics and think tanks to provide their perspectives on the economic and fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Massachusetts.
- Our guests included:
 - Treasurer Deborah Goldberg
 - Eileen McAnneny, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
 - David Tuerck and William Burke, Beacon Hill Institute
 - Marie-Frances Rivera, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center
- Our guests included:
 - Evan Horowitz, Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University
 - Michael Goodman, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
 - Alan Clayton-Matthews, Northeastern University
 - Beth Ann Bovino, S&P Global
 - Nick White, Moody's Analytics

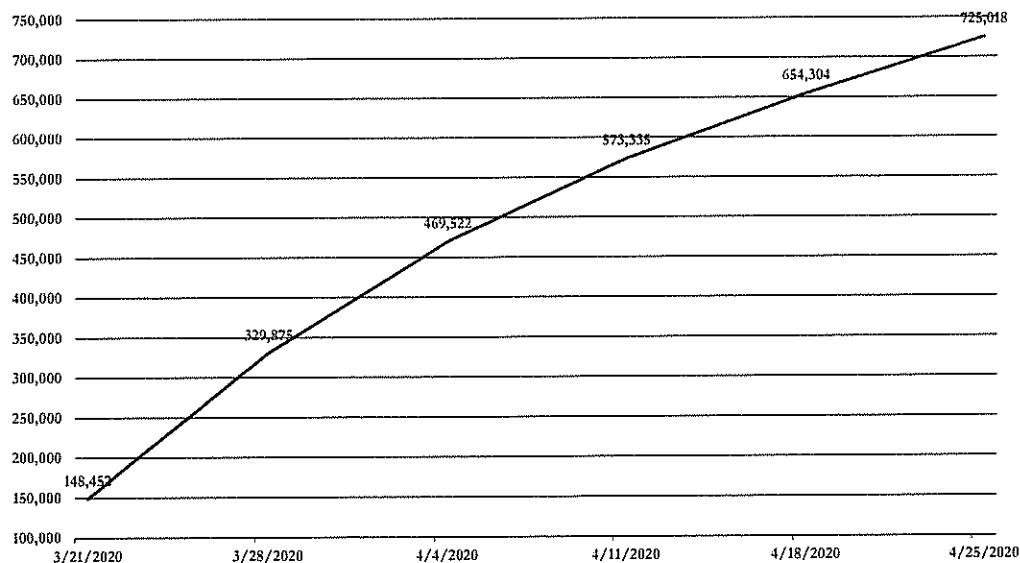
Economic Variables

- Before diving into our experts' tax revenue forecasts, it is important to look at some of the economic variables we are monitoring throughout the pandemic.
- The items listed below touch on some of the issue areas discussed during the roundtable:
 - Unemployment
 - Gross Domestic Product
 - Shape of the Recovery
 - Role of the Federal Government

Unemployment

- Between March 15th and April 25th, U.S. unemployment claims skyrocketed to over **30M**.
- In Massachusetts, the same six-week period saw more than **720K** initial unemployment claims filed.
- This data does not include previously ineligible workers, such as contractors and self-employed individuals – which is estimated to add another **172K** workers to the unemployment insurance system.
- Several of our roundtable experts projected highs in unemployment of between **15-18%** - however, our estimated claims from last week's data suggest somewhere between **24-26%** of the workforce is unemployed or furloughed during the peak of the public health crisis.

Bureau of Labor Statistics: MA Cumulative Unemployment Claims
(Weeks of 03/21-04/18)



Gross Domestic Product: Quarter 1 2020

- According to estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. real GDP for the first quarter of 2020 contracted at a **4.8% annualized rate** – the worst contraction for the U.S. since the 2008 financial crisis.
 - The economic indicators used to estimate growth for the quarter primarily occurred **before** the non-essential business closures, massive layoffs and furloughs, and stay-at-home advisories.
 - In fact, Goldman Sachs believes the true U.S. decline for the quarter to be **closer to 8.25%**.
- MassBenchmarks estimates that Massachusetts real GDP declined by **6.1%** over the same period.

Gross Domestic Product: Remainder of 2020

- Our experts cited that, while Q1 2020 will be bad, some of the larger financial institutions predict that **Q2 2020 will be dramatically devastating for the United States and lead to historic losses in GDP for the year:**

Financial Institution	2020 Quarter 2 Est. Change	2020 Annual Est. Change
Bank of America	-30%	-10.4%
Goldman Sachs	-34%	-6.2%
Morgan Stanley	-38%	-5.5%

- These estimated annual declines would all represent **the worst annual contraction since 1946.**
- Based on current unemployment levels, Prof. Clayton-Matthews believes “the actual decline in Massachusetts gross domestic product in the second quarter is expected to be on the order of **25-50%** on an annualized basis.”

Shape of the Recovery

- As Dr. Anthony Fauci has said, “you don’t make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline.”
- This point was emphasized by our experts in terms of the timeline for an economic recovery.
- Modeling has become extremely challenging due to unknown variables like the peak of the virus, consumer confidence, and the odds of reoccurring infections.
- Our experts articulated that the shape of this economic recovery is particularly bound to the cause of our recession – the virus.

Shape	Characteristics
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most optimistic recovery model; • Starts with sharp decline in GDP and spike in unemployment; • COVID-19 peak occurs in April/May and the recovery begins in the summer; • Federal programs to help businesses avoid layoffs are successful, helping production, manufacturing and services to start up immediately; • Pent up demand brings economic output back to pre-COVID-19 levels by end of 2020.
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More elongated recovery model; • Starts with sharp decline in GDP and spike in unemployment; • COVID-19 peak extends into the summer with stabilization/recovery in the second half of 2020; • Consumers are not totally confident, despite pent up demand; • Businesses and factories do not immediately return to full capacity and not every job lost due to the crisis is won back; • Recovery would occur more gradually between late 2020 and early 2021.
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up and down recovery model; • Starts with sharp decline in GDP and spike in unemployment; • COVID-19 peak appears to be controlled, leading to loosening of stay-at-home advisories, business shutdowns and economic growth; • COVID-19 infections reemerge, leading to a second wave of stay-at-home advisories, business shutdowns and economic contraction; • Cycle continues until there is a widely available vaccine or other medical means of reducing the severity and spread of the virus.
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp decline in GDP and spike in unemployment persists due to continued threat of COVID-19 into second half of 2020; • Extension of stay-at-home advisories and business closures disallows recovery; • Consumers demonstrate little confidence and largely limit spending; • Debts built before or during the crisis become more difficult to pay off, causing defaults and business bankruptcies.
✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery model characterized by slow and steady recovery through 2021; • Starts with sharp decline in GDP and spike in unemployment; • Loosening of stay-at-home advisories and business closures is done slowly, gradually and methodically; • Consumers remain cautious, causing gradual return to pre-crisis economic levels.

Role of the Federal Government

- The federal government has provided more than **\$2.6 trillion** in multiple economic and public health assistance bills.
- The series of bills – the largest being the **\$2 trillion** CARES Act – projects to provide Massachusetts with over **\$5.7B** for COVID-19 supports, including:
 - **\$2.67B** from the Coronavirus Relief Fund
 - **\$1.2B** from the Federal Transit Administration
 - **\$546M** from the Department of Education
- Also, MA is one of only 9 states receiving more than **\$10B** from the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program.
- Additionally, the Federal Reserve has been and must continue to be active in order to assist with the recovery.
 - To date, it has made up to **\$2.3B** available in relief loans for businesses and state and local governments.
 - It also lowered its **target interest rate to a range of 0 to 0.25%** at the start of March to promote borrowing.

Challenges:

- In many ways, the current federal assistance bills are restrictive on allowable spending, particularly **disallowing funds from being used backfill revenue losses**. Federal funds during the Great Recession were much more flexible.
 - As an example, we were able to use enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) funds to backfill revenue losses.
- The CARES Act explicitly prohibits states from using the Coronavirus Relief Fund for the state share of Medicaid – thus removing a valuable tool.

FY 2020 Tax Revenue Impact: Current Performance

Tax Type	Total April Collections	\$ Comp. to April Benchmark	Year-to-Date Collections	\$ Comp. to YTD Benchmark
Income	\$1,122	-\$1,895	\$12,609	-\$1,944
Income Withholding	\$1,053	-\$34	\$11,521	\$2
Income Non-Withholding	\$69	-\$1,860	\$1,088	-\$1,946
Sales & Use	\$469	-\$139	\$5,791	-\$174
Corporate & Business	\$209	-\$111	\$2,434	\$101
Other	\$181	-\$23	\$2,212	\$85
Total	\$1,981	-\$2,168	\$23,045	-\$1,932

FY 2020 Tax Revenue Forecasts

- The majority of our experts refrained from providing FY 2020 tax revenue forecasts due to the extreme uncertainty of COVID-19.
- A 2% revenue loss from benchmark between March and June is much more significant, as the state does not have as many tools at its disposal to close a budget gap as it would at the start of the year.

Expert	FY20 Est.	\$ Diff. from Bench.	% Diff. from Bench.
FY 2020 Benchmark: \$30,288.00			
Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts (average)	\$29,663.00	-\$625.00	-2.1%
Alan Clayton-Matthews	\$29,692.00	-\$596.00	-2.0%
Average	\$29,677.50	-\$610.50	-2.0%

FY 2021 Tax Revenue Forecasts

- Some of the biggest challenges in forecasting the upcoming fiscal year is once again the uncertainty of the timing and reemergence of the virus' peak, consumer confidence, as well as the impacts of federal stimulus bills.
- It is worth keeping in mind that these estimates were provided in mid-April. Given the continued shutdown and spread of the virus, more pessimistic economic outlooks are most certainly likely.

Expert	FY21 Est.	\$ Diff. from CR	% Diff. from CR
FY 2021 Consensus Revenue Agreement: \$31,151.00			
MassBudget (average)	\$25,801.00	-\$5,350.00	-17.2%
Alan Clayton-Matthews	\$26,112.00	-\$5,039.00	-16.2%
Mass. Taxpayers	\$26,756.00	-\$4,395.00	-14.1%
Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts	\$28,970.00	-\$2,181.00	-7.0%

Historical Context

- To put these estimated revenue losses into perspective, consider the tax revenue declines experienced during the first two fiscal years of the Great Recession:

- Over the course of FY 2009 and 2010, the Commonwealth saw an aggregated tax revenue decrease of **\$4.14B** compared to the two respective consensus revenue agreements.
- Based on our experts' testimony, FY 2021 tax revenues will likely eclipse those aggregated losses in one year.

FY	CR Agreement	Actual Collections/ Projected Estimate	Difference	% Change
2009	\$21.23	\$18.26	-\$2.97	-14.0%
2010	\$19.71	\$18.54	-\$1.17	-5.9%
Total Difference			-\$4.14	-10.1%
2021	\$31.15	\$26.43	-\$4.72	-15.1%

*FY 2021 projected estimate is based on the average updated forecasts from annual consensus revenue hearing participants.

Historical Context

- The Great Recession, while different in terms of the root cause of the economic downturn, can provide us with some important context relative to the challenging budget decisions ahead of us.
- Over the course of FY09-10, some of the difficult cuts and policy solutions made by the Legislature and Governor included:
 - \$378M (28.8%)** for UGGA;
 - \$195M (29.7%)** for institutions of higher education;
 - \$96.9M (42.1%)** for Special Education Circuit Breaker;
 - \$20.8M (30.5%)** for Regional School Transportation;
 - \$18.5M (31.7%)** for Regional Transit Authorities;
 - \$20.5M (10%)** for energy and environment programs;
 - \$48.4M (8%)** for the Trial Court;
 - Increasing the sales and use tax from **5%** to **6.25%**;
 - Increasing state employees' health insurance premium contributions by 5% with the highest contributions rising from **20%** to **25%**;
 - Extending the state pension schedule by two years;
 - Layoffs of more than 1,600 state employees and furloughs across state government.

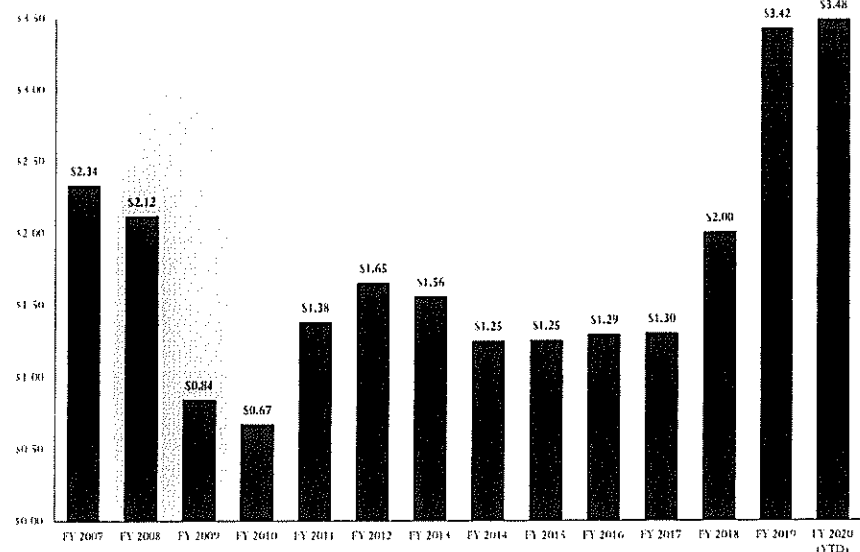
Strengths and Weaknesses of Massachusetts

- Moody's Analytics has run state "stress test" models and indicates that Massachusetts has typically performed well in tougher economies due to robust healthcare and education industries – given historical data, their model still suggests that we will be buoyed by those sectors.
- Professor Goodman agrees, saying that "even through some of the worst economic experiences that we've had, our health care institutions have grown and added jobs. Similarly, higher education has had its challenges during downturns, but both have been stalwart counter-cyclical employment stabilizers."
 - However, Professor Goodman notes that, given the public health crisis, hospital systems have been forced to cancel elective procedures, forgoing billions of dollars.
 - Similarly, institutions of higher education are in a state of complete unknowing in terms of enrollment, revenue streams and simply the ability to house students on campus in the fall.
- All of these points return to the fact that this pandemic is unlike anything we have ever seen in terms of the public health implication, as well as the economic ramifications.

Strengths of Massachusetts

- **Stabilization Fund:** since FY 2017, we have added **\$2.18B** to our reserves.
- While this seems substantial, keep in mind that between FY 2007-2010 we drew down the fund from **\$2.34B** to **\$670M**.
- **Tax Structure:** Moody's notes that MA has a stable tax revenue base compared to other states, and has done a fair job de-risking our budgeted tax revenue sources by not overly relying on volatile collections like capital gains.

Stabilization Fund Balance (FY 2007-2020 YTD)



Weaknesses of Massachusetts

- Massachusetts has been one of the most severely impacted states by COVID-19. Based on the magnitude of the public health crisis here, it is fair to assume that we will lag behind the nation in terms of our economic recovery.
- Moody's Analytics lists **Massachusetts as one of the most vulnerable states**, based on some of the following demographic features:
 - **Exposure to the virus** – calculated by the number of infections, as well as the level of international travel
 - **Demographics** – based on population density, portion of population ages 65 and older, and levels of migration
 - **Global interconnectedness** – number of airline passengers and percent of export trade
 - **Finance** – reliance on securities industry, as well as investment income share
 - **Tourism** – levels of employment in accommodations
- **Bottom line:** the public health aspect of this recession potentially positions Massachusetts in a worse position than historic recessions, meaning the playbook on how to counter this economic downturn will likely need to be revamped.

FY21 Phased Cut Scenarios

Phase 1

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
3.9.20	SC Voted Reduction to Current FY21 Budget		-\$100,000.00	\$4,279,179.00	SC Approved Budget 3.9.20
5.12.20	FY21 Textbook Reduction	0.00	-\$400,000.00	\$3,879,179.00	9.7% Overall decrease to Instructional Supp
5.12.20	FY21 Operations and Maintenance Reduction	0.00	-\$70,000.00	\$3,809,179.00	
5.12.20	FY 21 Pupil Services Reduction	0.00	-\$1,517.00	\$3,807,662.00	
5.12.20	FY21 New Positions and Benefits	7.00	-\$650,000.00	\$3,157,662.00	No new positions
5.12.20	Using Existing E&D to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$450,000.00	\$2,707,662.00	Pending School Committee Vote
5.12.20	School Choice Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$150,000.00	\$2,557,662.00	Estimated
5.12.20	Circuit Breaker Carry Forward to Supplement FY21	0.00	-\$400,000.00	\$2,157,662.00	
5.12.20	Contracted Services	0.00	-\$100,000.00	\$2,057,662.00	
5.12.20	Summer School Running Remotely	0.00	-\$125,000.00	\$1,932,662.00	
		7.00	-\$2,346,517.00		

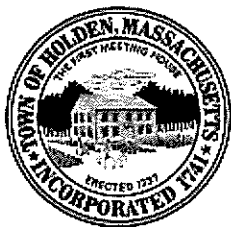
Phase 2

<u>Target Date for Completion</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Reduction Cost</u>	<u>Running Total for Reductions</u>	<u>Notes</u>
5.21.20	All Positions	45.75	-\$2,115,750.00	-\$183,088.00	Various positions across unions
		45.75	-\$2,115,750.00		
	Totals	52.75	-\$4,462,267.00		

Created 5.4.20

FY21 Budget Scenario
Suggested Cuts
5.1.20

	2.5.2020 FY20	3.9.20 SC FY21 Rate	3.9.20 SC Approved Rate	3.9.20 SC Approved	3.9.20 SC Approved	3.9.20 SC Approved	5.1.20 Suggested Cut	5.1.20 FY21 Adjust Rate w Cut	5.1.20 \$ Change from FY20	5.1.20 % Change from FY20	5.1.20 \$ Change from 3.9.20 SC Appr	5.1.20 % Change from 3.9.20 SC Appr
Appropriation												
Salary and Stipends	\$ 62,064,715.00	\$ 65,282,485.00	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 65,182,485.00	\$ 3,117,770.00	\$ 3,117,770.00	\$ (1,625,000.00)	\$ 63,557,485.00	\$ 1,492,770.00	2.41%	\$ (1,625,000.00)	-2.49%
Benefits and Insurance	\$ 15,054,973.00	\$ 16,144,699.00	\$ (96,886.00)	\$ 16,047,813.00	\$ 992,840.00	\$ 992,840.00	\$ -	\$ 16,047,813.00	\$ 992,840.00	6.59%	\$ -	0.00%
Instructional Support	\$ 3,322,090.00	\$ 3,392,969.00	\$ 96,886.00	\$ 3,489,855.00	\$ 167,765.00	\$ 167,765.00	\$ (650,000.00)	\$ 2,839,855.00	\$ (482,235.00)	-14.52%	\$ (650,000.00)	-18.63%
Operations and Maint	\$ 3,606,166.00	\$ 3,738,231.00	\$ -	\$ 3,738,231.00	\$ 132,065.00	\$ 132,065.00	\$ (70,000.00)	\$ 3,668,231.00	\$ 62,065.00	1.72%	\$ (70,000.00)	-1.87%
Pupil Services	\$ 51,241.00	\$ 52,758.00	\$ -	\$ 52,758.00	\$ 1,517.00	\$ 1,517.00	\$ (1,517.00)	\$ 51,241.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (1,517.00)	-2.88%
SPED Tuitions	\$ 3,123,545.00	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ (353,545.00)	\$ (353,545.00)	\$ -	\$ 2,770,000.00	\$ (353,545.00)	-11.32%	\$ -	0.00%
Other Operating Costs	\$ 1,196,956.00	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ -	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ (20,146.00)	\$ (20,146.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,176,810.00	\$ (20,146.00)	-1.68%	\$ -	0.00%
Transportation	\$ 6,919,413.00	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ -	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ 322,288.00	\$ 322,288.00	\$ -	\$ 7,241,701.00	\$ 322,288.00	4.66%	\$ -	0.00%
Debt Service	\$ 2,497,106.00	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ -	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ (81,375.00)	\$ (81,375.00)	\$ -	\$ 2,415,731.00	\$ (81,375.00)	-3.26%	\$ -	0.00%
	\$ 97,836,205.00	\$ 102,215,384.00	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 102,115,384.00	\$ 4,279,179.00	\$ 4,279,179.00	\$ (2,346,517.00)	\$ 99,768,867.00	\$ 1,932,662.00	1.98%	\$ (2,346,517.00)	-2.30%



Town of Holden MASSACHUSETTS

Peter M. Lukes, Esq
Town Manager

May 7, 2020

Dr. Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Wachusett Regional School District
WRSD Business Office, Holden

Dear Darryll,

The Holden Board of Selectmen and I would like to respond to comments that were attributed to you in the April 30, 2020 edition of The Landmark. We understand that the Wachusett Regional School District will be financially impacted in FY 21 due to the ongoing Corona Virus pandemic. We also understand that WRSD will need to seek out new or undiscovered sources of revenue to counteract the negative financial consequences that are out of everyone's control.

However, the Holden Board of Selectmen disagree wholeheartedly with opening "School Choice" for out of district students as a way to raise revenue. Both the WRSD and Town of Holden officials have been engaged in discussions to build additional school space in the coming years in order to address what may be an overcrowding issue in the future. Bringing out of district students into the WRSD may provide short term revenue but will greatly increase the speed and expectancy of overcrowding in our Holden schools. If we then request that Holden taxpayers fund the construction of a new school, it would be unfair in that we would be paying upwards of seventy million dollars for the construction of a new building that will have been necessitated by the addition of non-Holden students.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at their May 4, 2020 meeting to send this letter to you and the Wachusett Regional School Committee in order to express their thoughts on the matter. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Lukes, Esq
Holden Town Manager

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Kenneth Mills, Chair

1745 Main Street

Jefferson, MA 01522

May 12, 2020

Ms. Rianna Massoni-Nesman
83 Nichols Street
Jefferson, MA 01522

Dear Rianna:

On behalf of the WRSDC, please accept my very sincere thanks for your service the past two years as a Student Representative to the School Committee. You and Leah did an amazing job representing your peers, bringing before the Committee many straightforward and direct questions, sharing insight and updates about "happenings at Wachusett," reporting the news from the middle schools, and always providing the Committee and the listening audience with a moment or two of levity!

As mentioned at the May 11th School Committee meeting, in these times of school closure and local elections being delayed until the end of June, the seat on the School Committee will remain yours until the new School Committee is in place. Please know you are welcomed to continuing attending our meetings, scheduled for May 26th, June 8th, and June 30th, if you are interested and available. Your input and perspective always add to our meetings.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, in whatever format, and we wish you continued success at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Enjoy the summer.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
William Beando, Principal, WRHS

KM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Kenneth Mills, Chair
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522

May 12, 2020

Ms. Leah Michalowski
28 Pinecroft Avenue
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Leah:

On behalf of the WRSDC, please accept my very sincere thanks for your service this past year as a Student Representative to the School Committee. You and Rianna did an amazing job representing your peers, bringing before the Committee many straightforward and direct questions, sharing insight and updates about "happenings at Wachusett," reporting the news from the middle schools, and always providing the Committee and the listening audience with a moment or two of levity! We wish you continued success as a WRHS senior.

As mentioned at the May 11th School Committee meeting, in these times of school closure and local elections being delayed until the end of June, the seat on the School Committee will remain yours until the new School Committee is in place. Please know you are welcomed to continuing attending our meetings, scheduled for May 26th, June 8th, and June 30th, if you are interested and available. Your input and perspective always add to our meetings.

Enjoy the summer.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
William Beando, Principal, WRHS

KM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

*Kenneth Mills, Chair
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522*

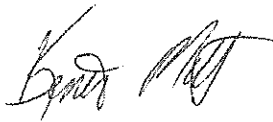
May 12, 2020

Mrs. Sheila Dibb, Chair
Rutland Selectboard
250 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543

Dear Mrs. Dibb:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the School Committee for sharing your thoughts and opinions at last evening's virtual School Committee meeting. Input from parents, residents, and town officials of our District is always welcomed, and we appreciate you taking the time to join us Monday evening.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools

KM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Kenneth Mills, Chair

1745 Main Street

Jefferson, MA 01522

May 12, 2020

Mr. Michael Dubzinski
2 Jaimie Ann Drive
Rutland, MA 01543

Dear Mr. Dubzinski:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the School Committee for bringing before the Committee a statement on behalf of your colleagues. District administration will be in contact with those you represented to address their request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Mills', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources

KM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Kenneth Mills, Chair

1745 Main Street

Jefferson, MA 01522

May 12, 2020

Mrs. Heidi Lahey
166 Bullard Street
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Heidi:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the School Committee for sharing your thoughts at last evening's virtual School Committee meeting. Your continued and very strong support of Wachusett students and staff is always heard, and your willingness to advocate on behalf of our district is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Mills', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools

KM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Kenneth Mills, Chair

1745 Main Street

Jefferson, MA 01522

May 12, 2020

Ms. Kristina Naiman
21 Michael Drive
Rutland, MA 01543

Dear Ms. Naiman:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the School Committee for sharing your thoughts and questions at last evening's virtual School Committee meeting. Input from parents and residents of our District is always welcomed, and we appreciate you taking the time to join us Monday evening.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Mills', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Mills, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools

KM:rlp