

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1323

Monday, February 11, 2019
7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Robert Imber
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Matthew Lavoie
Thomas Curran	Linda Long-Bellil
Michael Dennis	Amy Michalowski
Anthony DiFonso	Asima Silva
Rachel Dolan	Megan Weeks
Maleah Gustafson	

Committee Members Absent:

Scott Brown	Benjamin Mitchel
Stephen Godbout	Michael Rivers
Susan Hitchcock	Charles Witkes
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Donroy Ferdinand	Rianna Massoni-Nesman
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Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He announced the meeting was not being shown live, but will be broadcast on HoldenTV.com.

I. Public Hearing

Jennifer Knipe, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Mary Shepherd, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Kimberley McCormack, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, addressed the School Committee.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills took a moment to thank the four teachers for addressing the Committee, in support of implementation of tuition-free, full-day kindergarten.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Ferdinand, who is a high school senior, shared his disappointment about the low number of snow days this winter season. He expressed his gratefulness for the teachers he has had during his schooling. He also noted that the survey about the high school mascot is a "real hot button issue." Student Representative Massoni-Nesman also commented on the mascot survey, reporting official results have not yet been released, but the general consensus seems to be to keep the mascot as it is, though both students agreed the mascot could use some updating. Superintendent McCall added there has been over 20,000 responses to the survey. The students also raised their concerns about the number of WRHS students who are vaping. Superintendent McCall reported vaping is an issue across all schools/districts, and he has spoken with other superintendents about this problem to learn how other schools/districts are addressing this concern. Superintendent McCall and Principal Beando have discussed this problem on several occasions. Brief discussion about vaping and how students might be able to discourage other students from partaking ensued.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Mills explained the order for discussion of items that need School Committee input. The first order of business will be an update on the Superintendent's 2018-2019 goals, after which the FY20 budget will be discussed, followed by questions and/or comments that members may have of the Superintendent.

7:54 PM Vice-chair Smith left the table.

7:55 PM Student Representatives Ferdinand and Massoni-Nesman left the meeting.

Superintendent McCall called members' attention to Attachment 8 of his February 8, 2019 Report, his February 2019 goals update. He spoke about his goals and action taken thus far on addressing his goals.

8:02 PM Vice-chair Smith returned to the table.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about each of the four goals:

Goal 1 – Student Learning Goal

Standard I: Instructional Leadership; Domains 2 & 3: WRSD Strategic Plan

By June 2019, 100% of principals will utilize the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS), with the Superintendent leading District administrators to identify characteristics that will determine whether students are at risk. Data protocol will be developed by the Superintendent to be used for identification of, plan development for, and assessment of improvements in the performance of these students.

Goal 2 – Professional Practice Goal

Standard I: Instructional Leadership; Standard IV: Professional Culture; Domain 1: WRSD Strategic Plan

The Superintendent will develop leadership capacity in his administrative team by facilitating at least eight (8) administrative leadership meetings that focus on consistency of practice, vision for success, and support of the WRSD Strategic Plan. By June 2019 he will also develop an induction program for each category of administrators (principal, assistant principal, Central Office) to increase the confidence and success of new administrators to the District.

At Chair Mills' inquiry, Superintendent McCall reported on action and interaction to date and planned for the coming months with principals new to WRSD.

Goal 3 – District Improvement Goal

Standard I: Instructional Leadership; Standard II: Management and Operations; Standard IV: Professional Culture; Domains 2 & 5: WRSD Strategic Plan

By July 2019, ALICE training will be provided at all schools, with at least 80% of staff to be trained within year one of a three year roll-out and a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) will be developed for all schools.

Superintendent McCall reported online ALICE training has been completed by the majority of District employees, with positive feedback. He spoke about the transition from the "shelter-in-place" approach to ALICE. In-school training has taken place in schools on some of the professional development half days and also at monthly staff meetings. Member DiFonso asked when students would be trained, to which Superintendent McCall explained this is a three year roll-out and

stressing the importance of adults in the District being thoroughly trained and comfortable with ALICE before students are trained. Superintendent McCall assured members that practical, hands-on training is being done with staff at schools.

Goal 4 – District Improvement Goal

Standard I: Instructional Leadership; Standard III: Family and Community Engagement; Domains 2 & 5: WRSD Strategic Plan

By June 2019, create a protocol by which every school has a consistent approach to working with the Panorama data associated with students' sense of belonging.

Following brief conversation about this goal, Member Long-Bellil requested follow-up to Social Emotional Learning discussions, at some point.

Superintendent's Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee Chair Lavoie asked the Superintendent if he anticipates any roadblocks to accomplishing his 2018-2019 goals, to which the Superintendent commented he is hopeful and is working towards accomplishment of his goals, but did note that some of his time and attention is needed and focused on the search for the next Administrator of Special Education as well as his working with the recently hired Director of Business and Finance.

Upon conclusion of discussion of the Superintendent's goals, Superintendent McCall began conversation about the proposed FY20 budget, including implementation of tuition-free, full-day kindergarten. Vice-chair Smith asked if there would be additional bus/transportation costs associated with implementation of full-day kindergarten for all, and if so, this additional cost be taken into consideration. Superintendent McCall spoke about the need for a .6 FTE HVAC position, which is a new position being proposed. He also mentioned adding a Nurse Leader position would be very beneficial, though this new position is not included in the current FY20 budget proposal. Superintendent McCall reported on just-learned information about health insurance for the coming year, which is now projected to have a 0% increase. Member DiFonso asked if tuition-free, full-day kindergarten is implemented for the 2019-2020 school year, will reimbursement from the state in FY21 cover the costs of full-day kindergarten moving forward, to which the Superintendent answered yes. Superintendent McCall spoke about professional development kindergarten teachers have received this year (Fountas & Pinnell, Eureka Math), with Deputy Superintendent Berlo providing additional details. The question was asked about what could any "additional" funds (i.e. results of 0% increase for health insurance) be used for. Member Dennis asked the result of 0% health insurance increase v the budgeted 8% increase, which is approximately \$700,000. Discussion around the table ensued, with several members asking questions about the proposed FY20 budget, what are the District's "pain points," use of and status of Revolving Funds and Excess & Deficiency. Comment was made that full School Committee discussion, consideration, and development of annual budgets has changed in the last several years. Some members would like to know what the proposed budget

does not address/include in order to fund tuition-free, full-day kindergarten. Additional conversation took place, including funding of OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) does not seem fair to the towns, need to be transparent about offsets, educational issues and concerns (i.e. civics education), etc. There will be a more in-depth discussion about the proposed FY20 budget when the Business/Finance Subcommittee meets on March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Members were invited to attend the meeting if able.

Member Gustafson asked Superintendent McCall for an update on the Administrator of Special Education search. Superintendent McCall provided an overview of preliminary meetings to date and preliminary timeline for interviews.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the use of Excess and Deficiency (E & D) funds in the amount of \$250,000 towards the cost of replacement of the turf field at Wachusett Regional High School.

(R. Imber)
(T. Curran)

Director Deedy spoke briefly about a turf field replacement bid opening he attended in Auburn. Superintendent McCall spoke to the motion. At Member Dennis' inquiry, Superintendent McCall explained the process that must be followed in order to use Excess & Deficiency funds. He explained upon School Committee authorization to use the funds, letters will be sent to the five Member Towns, informing the towns of the District's desire to use E&D funds toward the cost of turf field replacement. The Member Towns then have 45 days to act upon this use of E&D funds. The usual route the towns might follow would be to schedule Special Town Meetings to address the District's request. Comment was made that 45 days from this date is March 28, 2019. Member Dennis asked Director Deedy what is currently certified in Excess & Deficiency, which Director Deedy reported as approximately \$450,000, with the potential for an additional \$600,000 once FY18 E&D is certified by the Department of Revenue. Discussion ensued, including inquiry about District administration's proposal to use E&D for turf field replacement v implementation of tuition-free, full-day kindergarten or purchase of Chromebooks, for examples. Superintendent McCall spoke about the current condition of the field, which was installed over ten years ago during the addition/renovation project at the high school. He provided some history of the high school athletic program during the addition/renovation project, when fields at the WRHS were not accessible for team use/playing of games or Physical Education class use, and how that impacted the high school/District. He explained that during that time period, there were additional expenses associated with transportation to and from athletic contests, enrollment at WRHS dropped during the construction period, the general disruption to high school life/high school athletic team participation. Discussion continued, with several members and Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy participating. Member Dolan asked about the establishment of a capital stabilization fund to plan ahead for earmarked specific capital project(s) (i.e. new roof). Director Deedy explained

that two specific stabilization accounts can be created: a Transportation Stabilization Account; a Special Education Stabilization Account. Member Lavoie referenced and read from M.G.L. 71 section 16 (attachment 6).

There was discussion about amending the motion on the floor; wording was proposed, followed by a grammatical change to proposed language to amend the motion. Some additional discussion took place.

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor, adding the phrase “contingent upon certification of FY18 Excess & Deficiency funds in the amount no less than \$600,000” to the end of the main motion.

(M. Dennis)
(C. Smith)

Motion: To extend the meeting for 30 minutes, to 10:30 PM.

(R. Imber)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

Thomas Curran
Asima Silva

The motion was approved 11-2.

Discussion of the motion to amend continued. Member Imber asked if District administration is comfortable with the amended motion, which Superintendent McCall **and Director Deedy** confirmed.

10:03 PM Vice-chair Smith left the table.

Chair Mills asked how the amended language would impact the start of the 45 days for Member Town action. Superintendent McCall will check with legal counsel. Chair Mills explained the motion to amend requires a simple majority.

Vote on motion to amend:

In favor:

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

Rachel Dolan
Matthew Lavoie

Abstained:

Kenneth Mills

The motion was approved 9-2-1.

10:05 PM Vice-chair Smith returned to the table.

Motion: To authorize the use of Excess and Deficiency (E & D) funds in the amount of \$250,000 towards the cost of replacement of the turf field at Wachusett Regional High School, contingent upon the certification of FY18 Excess & Deficiency funds in the amount no less than \$600,000.

(M. Dennis)

(C. Smith)

Chair Mills re-read the amended motion. Chair Mills explained the main motion on the floor requires a two-thirds (9 in favor) to pass.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

Anthony DiFonso

Rachel Dolan
Matthew Lavoie

The motion was approved 10-3.

Motion: To award the 2019-2020 heating fuel oil contract to Peterson Oil of Worcester, MA at a firm fixed price of \$2.0675/gallon for one year commencing on July 1, 2019 per the French River Education Center (FREC) collaborative purchasing bid on January 3, 2019.

(R. Imber)
(M. Dennis)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$2,700 from the Instructional Support Appropriation to the Pupil Services Appropriation to purchase new AED equipment at Wachusett Regional High School.

(T. Curran)
(M. Dennis)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson

Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$2,275.26 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Debt Service Appropriation to cover the shortfall in Debt Service.

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

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$27,299 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Benefits and Insurance Appropriation to cover the shortfall in the Unemployment line.

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

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar
(L. Long-Bellil)
(R. Dolan)

10:09 PM Member Dennis left the table.

Deputy Superintendent Berlo approached the podium. Some discussion about the school calendar ensued, with Deputy Berlo answering questions posed. Reference was made to the now discharged Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the School Calendar and findings of that ad hoc subcommittee.

10:12 PM Member Dennis returned to the table.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:
Thomas Curran

The motion was approved 12-1.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1322nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 22, 2019

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on January 22, 2019.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(C. Smith)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Robert Imber
Amy Michalowski

The minutes were approved 11-0-2.

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, T. Curran, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock, R. Imber, M. Lavoie)

Chair Mills reported on the February 4, 2019 meeting of this subcommittee.

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, A. DiFonso, R. Dolan, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, A. Silva)

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this meeting. He reported that District administration had received assurance from legal counsel that the two policies on the agenda for first readings this date are in proper form for School Committee approval.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3450 **Policy Relating to Education Instructional Materials ~~Non-Discrimination of Education Materials~~**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Subcommittee Chair Imber gave a brief overview of the amended policy.

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 3341 **Policy Relating to Education Curriculum Adoption**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported on discussions at the meeting of the Education Subcommittee earlier in the evening, and announced the subcommittee will meet next on February 27, 2019.

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

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported on the February 4, 2019 subcommittee meeting and announced the subcommittee will meet next on March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Chair Mills noted the subcommittee meeting is a public meeting, if any are interested in attending.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, S. Godbout, M. Rivers)

In Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock's absence, no report was given.

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

Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported this subcommittee will meet on March 4, 2019.

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (T. Curran, Chair, M. Rivers, Vice-chair, A. Young)

Subcommittee Chair Curran reported on the February 5, 2019 meeting of this subcommittee.

G. Audit Advisory Board

H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

No report was made.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (S. Godbout), Davis Hill Elementary School (S. Brown), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (A. DiFonso), Houghton Elementary School (S. Godbout), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (K. Mills), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School (B. Mitchel), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (A. Michalowski/C. Smith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Gustafson), Early Childhood Center

IX. Public Hearing

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

Due to the time, 10:30 PM, and no motion to extend, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets
- Attachment 2 – Public statement – Jennifer Knipe
- Attachment 3 – Public statement – Mary Shepherd
- Attachment 4 – Public statement - Kimberley McCormack
- Attachment 5 – Draft 2019-2020 School Calendar
- Attachment 6 – Advisory on Regional School Districts

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2019

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME AND YOUR TOWN

[illegible]

Hi

My name is Jennifer Knipe. I teach 1st grade at Houghton Elementary School and I am a full supporter of Full Day K. I started off teaching Morning and Afternoon $\frac{1}{2}$ K when I 1st started in the District. Of course things have changed over the years, but even back then, there was so much to teach and only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours to teach it! I can't imagine teaching the math curriculum and our new literacy curriculum in $\frac{1}{2}$ day now.

When Full Day K became an option in our District, I was asked to teach it at Houghton. I was so grateful for more time to, not only teach the curriculum, but to teach the social skills that many 5 year olds ^{are} lacking. I was able to prepare them more for what they would encounter in 1st grade and subsequent years - for the skills they would need.

Becoming a 1st grade teacher was eye opening because it really showed me how much we are requiring of our students. As a teacher, I can definitely tell just by their behavior who was in

Full Day and who was in $\frac{1}{2}$. For example many of my 1st grade students that were in $\frac{1}{2}$ day will ask multiple times a day when snack is and say how tired they are. They had a more challenging time transitioning into the routine and learning of a first grade classroom.

I am also in support of Full Day K as a parent. My daughter who is now in 2nd grade attended Full Day. She was so much more prepared for 1st grade. My son will also be attending Kindergarten next year and I have already applied for Full Day-whether it is a lottery or if it is being offered I feel so strongly about this. Thank you.

Good Evening, I am Mary Shepherd art teacher at Naquag and resident of Holden, 1320 Wachusett Street.

Let me just start with, I love my job.

It is unheard of in my discipline of art to have elementary students sixty times a year. In this time period, I am able to break complicated lessons into several chunks, and students do not miss a beat, because I see them every three days. My students are always surprised at what they can accomplish. Many of the basic skills we take for granted, such as cutting, writing, painting, and pasting are developed in their formative years. Today, many students come to school with limited background knowledge to excel in the fine motor skill areas. Just as important and emphasize in my art room are the soft skills of resilience, problem solving, perseverance, and kindness. It's a special place.

The caveat is I see the full-day students sixty times a year, including full-day kindergarten. The half-day kindergarteners, well I see them twice in a fifteen-day rotation, which adds up 24 times a year. Full day 60 times, half day 24 times. The half-day

kindergarteners are exposed to nearly one-third of what the full day kindergartens are exposed to. And I truly believe as a society, we need knowledge more today than in times past.

It makes me sad when a first or second grader says; I did not do that lesson in kindergarten. Sometimes they were just absent, but other times it is because time was not allotted in the half-day schedule. I always make do with the time and supplies I have together with prioritizing which 24 lessons they receive. BUT on a deeper level, I know many of the families of half-day students may not have financial resources to pay for full-day kindergarten and the inequity is unconscionable.

Therefore and from an insiders view, I support full-day kindergarten. Thank you for your time.

doubling up Chromebooks

Attachment 4

Benefits of having free full day Kindergarten

It is universally agreed that this situation is less than ideal. And like many districts, ours has seen an increase in high risk students, including in the category of economically disadvantaged families. The children whose families cannot afford the full day tuition, or cannot overcome the challenges of out-of-town transportation, are exactly the children who would benefit most from a full day program.

One priority of the administration, as well as the teachers, is that we align our practice. In other words- horizontal alignment between all kindergarten classrooms in the district, and together move toward “best practice”. The teachers struggle to provide an academically rigorous, yet developmentally appropriate education for all students in their care, whether full or half day.

These challenges are not new to our kindergarten teachers, and certainly not limited to our district. But the concerns have grown increasingly urgent as the kindergarten academic expectations have increased over the last decade. The challenge is also compounded as more and more students enter kindergarten with significant skill deficits- especially in the areas of social and emotional skills.

With half of the time available in half day kindergarten classrooms, you can imagine the sacrifices the teachers voluntarily, or through mandates, have had to make. Often, minimal exposure to anything that is not Literacy or Math, (for example- no or minimal time for science, social studies, art, music, computers, PE, library, etc.) working snack, no time for socialization, no lunch, no recess, etc. A particular concern of many of the teachers is that this subsection of students is moving on to first grade with limited academic skills, and significant social and emotional skill deficits. *There are also concerns that these students are more likely to be mistakenly identified as having a learning disability, or be determined to have behavioral challenges in the future. Consider the significant costs of misidentifying these students.*

I will end with the benefits to a full day program throughout the district.

Socio-economic barriers is the biggest concern

- 1) Time in the building with peers and other school personnel
- 2) Greater opportunity for exploring curriculum.
- 3) Time available to discuss curriculum
- 4) Social connections
- 5) Independent skills that carry over to 1st grade. Don't get me wrong they still need help with those juice pouches, snow gear and tying shoes!!
- 6) Lunch and recess. Everyday they have the ability to interact with peers and develop friendships. Believe it or not lunch is very popular and the games at recess are just as important.
- 7) Stamina. The work load is not as intense but the day is longer. This builds their stamina for 1st grade. A first and second grade teacher can spot a half day student in no time.
- 8) Play or day care is what I hear a lot and that's ok because there are aspects of Kindergarten that have play in them. There should be they are 5 and they learn best through play and discovery.
- 9) Early release days do not affect a full day student. They still come to school!!
- 10) Ability to integrate areas of the curriculum that do not have equal access during half day, like science, social studies, and social emotional learning.
- 11) Planning time for Kindergarten teachers can be consistent. Now teachers have different times of the day to plan. Allowing for teachers to collaborate.

The bottom line is that this is a wonderful opportunity to have all of our children start their education journey on the same page is a no brainer. It is a hit to the budget for one year. The district will see revenues redeemed through chapter 70 the following year.



WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Calendar

2019-2020

Draft - Updated 1/15/2019

DRAFT

DRAFT

JULY

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
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9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F
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NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
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DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
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30	31			

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
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13	14	15	16	17
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27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
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24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
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30	31			

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
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MAY

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JUNE

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15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

First and Last Days of School

First Day of School	Aug 27
Half-Day 180th Day of School	June 11
Half-Day 185th Day of School	June 18

*The District is required to provide a school calendar with 185 days of school scheduled. The last day of school will be a half-day whenever it falls.

Holidays & Vacations




Labor Day	Sep 2
Columbus Day	Oct 14
Veterans' Day	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Recess	Nov 27-29
Winter Recess	Dec 23-Jan 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 20
February Recess	Feb 17-21
April Recess	Apr 20-24
Memorial Day	May 25

Teacher Training

Staff Orientation	Aug 26
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Staff Development Days

Full Day	Nov 8
Full Day	May 11
Half-Day	Sep 26
Half-Day	Oct 24
Half-Day	Jan 30
Half-Day	Mar 12
Half-Day	May 22
Half-Day	Last day of school

-  Half Days
-  School not in Session
-  First day of school

Approved by WRSDC

DRAFT

Advisory on Regional School District Stabilization Funds

G.L. c.71, s.16 G ½ provides for the establishment of stabilization funds by regional school districts. This law was recently amended, by St. 2010, c.188, s.58, to clarify the approvals necessary to make expenditures from these funds.

Establishment and use of a stabilization fund should be based on the district's long range capital plan. A regional school district stabilization fund may be established through a majority vote of the school committee and with the approval of a majority of the local appropriating authorities of the member municipalities. Member municipalities must take a specific vote to authorize establishment of the fund.

Once established, the school committee may include a line item in each year's annual budget to appropriate monies into the stabilization fund. This line item is part of the annual school committee budget and does not require a separate vote by the member municipalities. The amount to be appropriated to the stabilization fund is included in each member municipality's assessment and is apportioned based on the regional agreement methodology for apportioning capital costs. The amount budgeted in any year may not exceed five percent of the aggregate amount assessed to the member municipalities for the preceding fiscal year. A larger amount may be budgeted only if approved by the Director of Accounts in the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services. At no time, however, may the aggregate fund balance exceed five percent of the combined equalized valuations of the member municipalities. The regional school district treasurer is the custodian of the stabilization fund and any interest earned must be added to and become a part of the fund.

Because appropriations into a stabilization fund are a form of capital budgeting, the regional school committee does not have authority to increase or decrease the amount appropriated for the year once the district budget has been approved. On July 1 (or upon approval of the budget if later), the amount appropriated and shown in the budget is credited to the fund. After the annual budget has been approved, the school committee may increase the amount in the stabilization account through the use of excess and deficiency funds or through an additional assessment to member municipalities only by amending its approved budget. Such an amendment must be approved in accordance with CMR 41.05 (5).

Annual appropriations into a stabilization fund should not be reported as an expenditure on the End of Year Financial Report. The appropriations represent revenue to the district and should be reported on Schedule 2 as a capital assessment to the member districts.

Advisory on Regional School District Stabilization Funds
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In any given year, expenditures from the fund may be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the regional school committee. If the funds are to be used for a purpose for which the district is permitted to borrow, no further approval is required. These purposes are listed in G.L. c.71, s.16(d), and generally encompass what are considered capital costs. If the funds are to be used for any other purpose (for example, to cover unexpected increases in operating costs), then the approval of the Director of Accounts is also required.

Expenditures are made directly from the stabilization fund; a transfer into the general fund is not required. Expenditures should be reported on the End of Year Financial Report as an additional appropriation of the school committee.

Unexpended balances in amounts authorized for expenditures close to the stabilization fund when the project or purpose is completed. The unexpended balance of the fund at the end of a fiscal year carries over to the succeeding fiscal year. Balances in the stabilization fund are not part of the district's general fund and do not impact the district's excess and deficiency calculation. However, if the Director of Accounts determines that an annual appropriation into the stabilization fund, or the aggregate balance of the fund, exceeds the applicable statutory limit, the Director may take appropriate action, including but not limited to closing any amount in excess of that limit to the district's general fund. A report of the fund balance and any withdrawals or additions must be prepared annually and presented to the member municipalities.

Questions about this advisory should be directed to Christine Lynch, director of school governance, at 781-338-6520 or clynch@doe.mass.edu .