

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1310

Monday, March 26, 2018

7:00 PM

Media Center

Wachusett Regional High School

1401 Main Street, Holden

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Matthew Lavoie
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Amy Michalowski
Scott Brown	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Harriet Fradellos	Asima Silva
Stephen Godbout	Robin Van Liew
Susan Hitchcock	Charles Witkes
Robert Imber	Adam Young
Sarah LaMountain	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Michael Dennis	Benjamin Mitchel
Lauren Maldonado	Megan Weeks

*Committee Members Participating Remotely:*

Linda Long Bellil

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent  
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent  
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Kimberly Merrick, Administrator of Special Education  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Philip Baird

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

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:54 PM. He announced the meeting is being shown live on Channel 194 and on HoldenTV.com. Chair Mills reported Member Long-Bellil will be participating remotely, therefore, all votes will be by roll call.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills explained that Member Van Liew's request of a review of the WRHS mascot has been remanded to the Management Subcommittee.

Chair Mills gave an overview of the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, which the full Committee will act on at the April 30, 2018 regular meeting. In advance of April 30<sup>th</sup>, all members will be provided with an online/electronic evaluation document by which they will provide and submit their evaluation of the Superintendent. Standing subcommittees will provide input to the Chair of the School Committee, and Chair Mills asked that the Superintendent's annual evaluation be included on agendas for upcoming subcommittee meetings.

With no objection from the Committee to taking the Report of the Student Representatives out of order, Chair Mills asked Student Representative Baird for his update.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Baird reported on the successes of winter sports teams – Girls' Basketball won Districts, the Cheer Team won a National Championship in Florida, the Girls' Indoor Track team won States. Student Representative Baird further reported that four member of DECA will be competing in Georgia in April. Lastly, he noted that high school seniors have 37 days left of school.

At the conclusion of Mr. Baird's report, Chair Mills welcomed Guidance Department Head Jon Krol to the meeting and invited him to the podium.

Mr. Krol explained his role at the high school and spoke about what services are offered and available to students.

8:04 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

Mr. Krol showed a PowerPoint and provide details and explanations about information contained in the presentation (attachment 2). At the conclusion of Mr. Krol's presentation, members were given the opportunity ask questions, which Mr. Krol

answered. After the Q&A session, Chair Mills thanked Mr. Krol for attending the meeting.

8:33 PM Member Godbout left the meeting.

#### IV. Superintendent's Report

##### A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall spoke about an ALICE train-the-trainer workshop that four school administrators participated in at the beginning of March. He also explained what a "lockdown bucket" consists of and thanked Holden Police Chief Armstrong, who has been successful obtaining a donation from Home Depot of 800 buckets, which will now be prepared/readied as "lockdown buckets" to be available in classrooms across the District.

Superintendent McCall encouraged members to review enrollment projections prepared by NESDEC (New England School Development Council), copies of which were a part of his most recent Report. This information will also be shared with the Member Towns and school principals.

8:37 PM Member LaMountain left the meeting.

At Member Imber's inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about the Digital Connections Grant recently awarded by the state. Superintendent McCall explained that these funds will be used to enhance wifi at the high school. He reported that this infrastructure upgrade will be done over the summer months, anticipating the project will be completed by the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Member Imber asked the status of full-day kindergarten. Superintendent McCall reported the lottery is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, March 30, 2018, and it is anticipated that only Mayo Elementary School and Paxton Center School will need to participate in a lottery for the full-day kindergarten program.

Member Rivers asked the Superintendent his opinion of the accuracy of the NESDEC enrollment projections. Superintendent McCall feels the long term projections are quite accurate, but is not as confident in the short term projections.

Student Representative Baird asked the Superintendent if students could assist with/contribute to the contents needed for the "lockdown buckets," adding this could be a project for Student Council or other student service projects. Superintendent McCall thanked Mr. Baird for the smart and generous suggestion.

8:43 PM Member Rivers left the meeting.

Member Fradellos asked for clarification about the kindergarten lottery. Superintendent McCall explained that, upon review of full-day applications to date, Mayo Elementary School and Paxton Center School are the only two schools that have more applicants than available seats. The other elementary schools in the District have seats available for all who have applied for full-day kindergarten. He went on to say that he and Central Office staff will continue to review the numbers and the interest, in advance of the March 30<sup>th</sup> lottery.

Member Michalowski suggested that Science Seminar staff and mentors be invited to the May School Committee meeting, along with the students who are competing.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To affirm the accuracy of Policy 6613.2 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Athletic Head Injury and Concussion Policy*.

(R. Imber)

(H. Fradellos)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 317<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 12, 2018.

Motion: To approve minutes of the Special Meeting of the WRSDC held on February 12, 2018

(J. E. Novak)  
(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

The minutes were approved unanimously.

- B. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of the WRSDC held on February 12, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on February 12, 2018, not to be released.

(R. Imber)  
(C. Witkes)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran

Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

The minutes were approved unanimously

- C. Approval of 1309<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 12, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on March 12, 2018.

(R. Imber)  
(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*

Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

D. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of the WRSDC held on March 12, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the executive session of the WRSDC held on March 12, 2018, not to be released.

(R. Imber)  
(C. Witkes)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

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, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock)

Chair Mills reported this subcommittee will meet Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. LaMountain, L. Long-Bellil, L. Maldonado, A. Silva, R. Van Liew, M. Weeks)

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

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3311.1 Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)

(M. Lavoie)

Subcommittee Chair Smith gave a brief overview of the amendments and the steps the Education Subcommittee went through while amending the policy. Discussion ensued, with several members having questions about the proposed amendments and high school credit requirements, including questions about World Language sequence requirements and Social Studies/World History requirements. Mr. Krol approached the podium to help address concerns of some members.

Motion: To remand Amended Policy 3311.1 Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements back to the Education Subcommittee for further review.

(T. Curran)

(J. E. Novak)

At Member Long-Belli's request, Chair Mills re-read the motion on the table. Chair Mills explained a simple majority is needed to pass the motion to remand.

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Thomas Curran  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew

*Opposed:*

Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Harriet Fradellos  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Amy Michalowski  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young



*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion failed 6-8-1.

Chair Mills re-read the motion to approve the first reading.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3311.1 Policy Relating to Education Graduation Requirements, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)

(M. Lavoie)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Harriet Fradellos

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Amy Michalowski

Jon Edward Novak

Asima Silva

Charles Witkes

Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Thomas Curran

Robin Van Liew

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

Linda Long-Bellil

The motion passed 11-2-2.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, Adam Young, Vice-chair, L. Long-Bellil, B. Mitchel, J. E. Novak, C. Witkes)

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis' absence, Vice-chair Young reported on the March 19, 2018 meeting of this subcommittee. Director Scanlon approached the podium and spoke about the annual evaluation of District Treasurer Dunbar and he also explained the RFP (Request for Proposals) process for selecting the next firm to provide District auditing services.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Hitchcock, Chair, S. Brown, Vice-chair, T. Curran, H. Fradellos, Stephen Godbout, Michael Rivers)

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported four contracts with bargaining units remain to be finalized and that Amended Policy 1312 *Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Evaluation of the Superintendent* is being reviewed but is not yet ready for full Committee consideration.

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

Chair Mills reported this subcommittee is scheduled to meet on April 2, 2018. He explained the anticipated timeline for the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools:

April 9, 2018 regular School Committee meeting – the electronic evaluation tool will be reviewed with the Committee

April 13, 2018 – Superintendent McCall will share with the full School Committee his evaluation update/narrative and supporting artifacts

April 20, 2018 – due date for School Committee members to submit electronic evaluation of the Superintendent, to provide direction on creation on final evaluation document

April 30, 2018 – full School Committee to vote on annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools

- F. Audit Advisory Board (C. Witkes, Chair, B. Mitchel, Vice-chair)

AAB Chair Witkes reported a meeting of the Audit Advisory Board will be scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

- G. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Budget Sustainability (K. Mills, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair, M. Lavoie, L. Long-Bellil)

Chair Mills reported this ad hoc subcommittee is scheduled to meet on April 2, 2018.

- H. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

No update was given.

- I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (J. E. Novak), Chocksett Middle School (S. Godbout), Davis Hill Elementary School (A. Silva), Dawson Elementary School (A. Young), Glenwood Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Houghton Elementary School (S. Godbout), Mayo Elementary School (T. Curran), Mountview Middle School (S.

Brown), Naquag Elementary School (C. Witkes), Paxton Center School (B. Mitchel), Thomas Prince School (M. Weeks), Wachusett Regional High School (S. LaMountain/M. Rivers), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (A. Young), Early Childhood Center (L. Maldonado)

Member Young – SEPAC, March 27, 2018 workshop for parents, to be held in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office, and a fundraiser at Papa Gino's on March 29, 2018

#### IX. Public Hearing

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, addressed the School Committee.

#### X. New Business

Member Imber requested that the Management Subcommittee consider drafting a resolution on school safety and security, and gun violence prevention, which could be shared with local and national legislators.

#### XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(T. Curran)  
(H. Fradellos)

#### Roll call vote:

##### *In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Harriet Fradellos  
Susan Hitchcock  
Robert Imber  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Jon Edward Novak  
Asima Silva  
Robin Van Liew  
Charles Witkes  
Adam Young

##### *Opposed:*

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – sign-in sheets
- Attachment 2 – Social and Emotional Programming/Supports at WRHS

## Attachment 1

**Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 26, 2018**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND REVIEW IN ADVANCE OF SPEAKING, PLEASE TAKE A COPY OF THE *GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC HEARING* (printed on light yellow paper).**

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**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 26, 2018**

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME AND YOUR TOWN

[illegible]

# **Social and Emotional Programming/Supports at WRHS**

— Jon Krol - March 26, 2018 —

# Overview/Agenda

- SBIRT
- SOS
- BRYT
- Interface





# **SBI RT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment**

- In March 2016 - Massachusetts lawmakers enacted MGL, Chapter 71,

## **Section 97**

- Paraphrased - Each Massachusetts school district shall screen pupils for substance abuse. Screenings should take place every year at two different grade levels - one middle school and one high school
- WRSD is screening students in 7th and 10th grade



# **SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment**

- At the high school, all 10th grade students (unless opted out by themselves or a parent) will meet individually with a member of our school's SBIRT screening team:
  - Our two school nurses
  - Two of our assistant principals
  - Head of Guidance
- Students will be introduced to how the program works, be asked the same verbal questionnaire (**screening**), will discuss their choices with their screener (**brief intervention**), and will be asked if they want additional help (**referral to treatment**) if applicable

# **SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment**

During the past 12 months, did you:

Drink any alcohol?

Smoke any marijuana?

Use anything else to get high?

Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone who was “high” or had been using alcohol or drugs?

Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to relax, feel better about yourself or fit in?

Do you ever use alcohol or drugs while you are by yourself?

Do you ever forget things you did while using alcohol or drugs?

Do you family/friends ever tell you that you should cut down on your drinking or drug use?

Have you ever gotten in trouble while you were using alcohol or drugs?



## **SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment**

- Referral to treatment will consist of a referral to their guidance counselor who will work with them to find the best course of action and hopefully involve the parent





# **SBI RT - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment**

Implementation

- Trainings for the school based team followed by several meetings together
- Letter to parents
- Class meeting with all of the sophomores (half at a time) in the auditorium during Activity Period on February 27th
- Parent meeting on March 6th
- Currently meeting with all sophomores (about 470 students - as approximately 50 students opted out)

# SOS - Signs of Suicide

- We are running this program in full for the second year in a row
- Current freshmen are being “trained”
- The program takes place during their Freshman Seminar class
  - Students are shown a video with various scenarios related to difficult situations that they might come across with their peers and have discussion with their teacher about it
  - Students are trained on the “right” way of approaching a problem
    - The wrong way is to promise secrecy or ignoring the problem (e.g. “oh you’ll be fine”)
    - The right way is to handle things is to validate the student’s concerns (e.g. “Things seem really tough for you and I’m concerned”) and get a trusted adult involved immediately (a guidance counselor, a coach, a parent, a teacher, etc.)
- Students are then asked to fill out a questionnaire (BSAD screening form)
- Essential message from the SOS program - ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell)

# SOS - Signs of Suicide

Why do we do this program?

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 11 and 18
- This is a data and research based program that works - SMH (Screening for Mental Health, Inc.) and is in schools across Massachusetts and the Nation
- The reality is that students don't know how to react in these cases and by us helping them, we're making our students safer



# SOS - Signs of Suicide

- Last year (2016-2017), the district screened all 8th graders and 9th graders
- This year (2017-2018), the district is screening all 7th, 8th, and 9th graders
- Next year (2018-2019), the district will screen all 7th, 9th, and 11th graders





# SOS - Signs of Suicide

- Results from the screening forms the students filled out are divided into different categories of needing follow-up support (urgent, 24-48 hours, 1 week, etc.)
- Our high school data from last year
  - Out of the 506 students we screened, the guidance counselors and school psychologists followed up with about 240 students/parents
    - Urgent - 5%      24/48 Hours - 10%      1 Week - 30%
    - No follow-up needed - 54%

# BRYT Program at WRHS for 2018-2019

BRYT - Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition

- This is a program designed to help students who are absent from school for an extended period of time reintegrate back into the school environment
- It's a physical room in the school where students would go during the school day - anywhere from 10% of the day to 100% depending on the student's need
- The program is *temporary* and the sole goal is to help reintegrate students back into the building and their regular classes full-time



# BRYT - Bridge for Resilient Youth in

## Transition

- Who would be a candidate for the BRYT program?

- Students who are hospitalized during the course of an academic year
- Students suffering from major concussions
- Students with other circumstances (DCF involvement, etc)

- Our data....

	Last Year (2016-2017)	This Year (2017- 2018)
Hospitalizations	39	51 so far
Concussions	55	42 so far

- We estimate based off of our numbers and what other high schools who have BRYT report, we would likely have 100-150 students go through it next year



# BRYT - Bridge for Resilient Youth in

## Transition

- Who would staff the BRYT program?

- Adjustment Counselor
- Academic Support Person - typically a teacher

- How many schools have a BRYT Program?

- 80 schools across Massachusetts have a BRYT Program

- Some examples include...

- Acton-Boxborough, Algonquin, Bay Path, Blackstone Valley, Concord-Carlisle, Fitchburg, Framingham, Hopkinton, King Philip Regional, Lexington, Lincoln-Sudbury, Minuteman, Monty Tech, Natick, Sharon, Shrewsbury, St. John's, Wayland, Westborough, Westford, Woburn

- In addition, many more have something similar

# Interface

Counseling Referral Agency - Based out of William James College in Newton, MA  
- previously the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology



# Interface - Counseling Referral

## Agency

Before Interface (2016-2017 and prior)

- Families would get list of counselors in the area from school or the pediatrician
- They would call many of those providers, in the hopes of finding one who had availability AND who took their insurance
- They would get placed on a waitlist of anywhere from 4-12 months
- They would hopefully eventually get an appointment with a provider who was a good match and had expertise in the presenting problem

With Interface (2017-2018 and beyond)

- Families call Interface
- They immediately speak with a Master's level clinician who does the intake over the phone
- They are matched with an area provider and typically get an *appointment* within 2 weeks

# Interface - Our Data

- WRHS launched our partnership with Interface in September 2017
- Between September 2017 and December 2017...
  - 33 of our families used the service
    - Biggest concerns were anxiety and/or depression
  - We'll get a second report from Interface at the end of the school year
- Interface has been pure “magic” at the high school as it's given our families some hard and fast solutions
- We hope to continue this partnership for many years to come and expand it to the other schools in the district

**Questions?**