#### WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

#### Minutes

Regular Meeting #1311

Monday, April 9, 2018 7:00 PM

Media Center Wachusett Regional High School 1401 Main Street, Holden

# Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair
Christina Smith, Vice-chair
Scott Brown
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Linda Long Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Charles Witkes

Matthew Lavoie

# Committee Members Absent:

Harriet Fradellos Amy Michalowski Stephen Godbout Benjamin Mitchel Sarah LaMountain Adam Young

#### 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 Donroy Ferdinand

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

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM. He announced the meeting is streaming live on Channel 194 and on HoldenTV.com.

# I. Public Hearing

Tracy Kasparian, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

Jennifer Lee, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 3)

Sarah Lefebvre, WREA member, read a prepared statement (attachment 4)

Lauren Salmon-Garrett, on behalf of *I Am Wachusett*, read a prepared statement (attachment 5)

# II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills acknowledged the remarks made by WREA members and he explained that the Committee and District administration continue to research the legal issues of the March 26, 2018 ratification vote by the School Committee. Chair Mills assured all that the School Committee and District administration are looking to resolve the ratification question quickly and respectfully.

Former Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan approached the podium, along with former TPS Assistant Principal Karen Baer, both of whom are Project 351 volunteers. Ms. Cringan explained she was representing Project 351 Executive Director Carolyn Casey in introducing this year's WRSD Project 351 Student Ambassadors to the WRSDC:

Caleb Keogh, Mountview Middle School Jordan Stanley, Paxton Center School Paul Zgurzynski, Thomas Prince School Jayna Schmohl, Central Tree Middle School Madelyn Fisher, Chocksett Middle School

Ms. Cringan gave a brief history of Project 351, she spoke about some of the projects/activities the Student Ambassadors will be or have been involved in this year, and she explained there is an Alumni Leadership Council that some Student Ambassadors continue to be involved with through their high school years. At Ms. Cringan's invitation, each of the Student Ambassadors approached the podium and explained their first service project since being named Student Ambassadors. At the conclusion of the five reports, the students and Ms. Cringan and Mrs. Baer were thanked for their attendance.

# III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Baird reported on a women's self-defense course that will be offered, being coordinated by the Student Council, and a blood drive being coordinated by the National Honor Society. Due to these two activities, addressing a project to help with obtaining contents for "lock down buckets" and how students can assist with this initiative has been delayed. Student Representative Ferdinand reported on the success of the recent performances of Man of La Mancha, April 6, 7, 8.

At 8:15 PM Chair Mills called for a two minute recess.

The Committee returned to session at 8:17 PM.

# IV. Superintendent's Report

# A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall reported he has been working on his evaluation narrative and rubric and evaluation questionnaire that members will use to provide input for this annual evaluation.

Superintendent McCall thanked Student Representative Baird for his willingness to help facilitate student interest in undertaking a project to assist with preparation of lock down buckets.

# B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the transfer of \$1,524.90 from the Salaries, Substitutes & Stipend Appropriation to the Pupil Services Appropriation for the purchase of athletic supplies.

> (R. Imber) (S. Hitchcock

Chair Mills explained that two Mountview Middle School coaches wish to donate their coaching stipends.

#### Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado

Jon Edward Novak

Michael Rivers

Asima Silva

Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

# 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 318<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 26, 2018.

Motion: To approve minutes of the Special Meeting of the WRSDC held on March 26, 2018

(M. Weeks) (S. Hitchcock)

# Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Jon Edward Novak

Michael Rivers

Asima Silva

Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

#### Opposed:

None

#### Abstained:

Michael Dennis

Lauren Maldonado

The minutes were approved 13-0-2.

B. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of the WRSDC held on March 26, 2018

At Member Novak's request, action on these minutes was deferred until executive session.

C. Approval of 1310<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 26, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on March 26, 2018.

(M. Weeks) (C. Witkes)

# Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Jon Edward Novak

Michael Rivers

Asima Silva

Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

# Opposed:

None

#### Abstained:

Michael Dennis Lauren Maldonado

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 on the April 4, 2018 meeting of this subcommittee. Chair Mills reported the subcommittee reviewed two policies, Draft Policy 5235.1 *Employee Harassment* and Amended Policy 3510 *Class Size*. He reported the subcommittee's discussions and conclusion that policy may not be the proper place for class size presentation language. With regard to Draft Policy

5235.1, subcommittee members did not believe the draft language did justice to such an important topic and requested that District administration re-work the draft policy for future review.

Chair Mills mentioned Director Scanlon's resignation and had words of appreciation for Director Scanlon. Chair Mills reported on discussions at the Management Subcommittee about the supervision of the Director of Business and Finance position, explaining when Director Scanlon was hired in 2013, this position reported to the School Committee, which is not common practice. Moving forward, the Director of Business and Finance will report to the Superintendent of Schools.

At Member Novak's inquiry. Chair Mills reported that the Management Subcommittee had brief discussion about the high school mascot, which was on the agenda for the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chairs Mills reported the history of the mascot will be researched.

At Member Imber's inquiry, Chair Mills reported on brief discussions about the Management agenda item about a possible resolution on school safety and guns in schools.

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 second reading of Amended Policy 3311.1 <u>Policy Relating to Education</u> Graduation Requirements, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith) (R. Imber)

8:30 PM Superintendent McCall left the table.

There was discussion about MassCORE and Curriculum Frameworks. Deputy Superintendent Berlo approached the podium and spoke about MassCORE v Curriculum Frameworks, explaining these are two separate entities that are intertwined.

#### Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Michael Dennis

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado Jon Edward Novak Michael Rivers Asima Silva Megan Weeks Charles Witkes

Opposed:

Thomas Curran

The motion was approved 14-1.

8:33 PM Superintendent McCall returned to the table.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported this subcommittee will meet on April 23, 2018.

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

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee met immediately before this School Committee meeting and completing contract negotiations is a top priority. She also reported the subcommittee is reviewing Policy 1312 Evaluation of the Superintendent.

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

Chair Mills outlined the timeline for the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools:

April 13, 2018 – Superintendent McCall will share with the full School Committee his evaluation update/narrative and supporting artifacts April 24, 2018 – due date for School Committee members to submit electronic evaluation of the Superintendent, to provide direction on creation on final evaluation document

April 26, 2018 – meeting of the Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

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

With the assistance of Supervisor of Information Services Barry Sclar, the evaluation rubric and online evaluation questionnaire were projected on the screen and Chair Mills reviewed and explained. Chair Mills encouraged members to provide comments when preparing their evaluation input. Chair Mills also encouraged all members to participate in the evaluation of the

Superintendent of Schools, noting that 2017 evaluation participation by members of the Committee was very low. Superintendent McCall spoke of the process, noting he is working on his narrative, which will be shared with the Committee the end of the week. Some discussion ensued.

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

AAB Chair Witkes reported on the April 4, 2018 meeting of the Audit Advisory Board, when the AAB evaluated three RFPs (Requests for Proposals) for District auditing firm. The recommendation of the AAB will be forwarded to the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

#### 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 on the April 2, 2018 meeting of this subcommittee. At that meeting it was suggested and agreed to that contacting a professional for advice on the best steps to move forward might be wise.

# 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 Weeks - Thomas Prince School

#### IX. Public Hearing

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

# X. New Business

Member Long-Bellil requested District administration provide a report on the Curriculum Frameworks and proposed changes, specifically associated with civics education.

Member Lavoie publically thanked Director Scanlon for his services.

# XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(T. Curran) (C. Witkes)

# Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Christina Smith

Scott Brown

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Lauren Maldonado

Jon Edward Novak

Michael Rivers

Asima Silva

Megan Weeks

Charles Witkes

# Opposed:

None

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

# Attachments:

• Attachment 1 – sign-in sheets

- Attachment 2 public address, Tracy Kasparian
- Attachment 3 public address, Jennifer Lee
- Attachment 4 public address, Sarah Lefebvre
- Attachment 5 public address, Lauren Salmon-Garrett

# WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE Regular Meeting Monday, April 9, 2018

SIGN-IN SHEET FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DURING PUBLIC SESSION. THIS SHEET SHALL BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME, YOUR ADDRESS, AND THE TOPIC YOU WISH TO DISCUSS, IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DURING PUBLIC SESSION.

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

NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
Tray Kaspanan	a sprucewood Ln, Worc, MA	WREA ratification process and bylaws
Jennifor Lee	155 Schol Street N. Brookield, MA	legal response to the School committee vote
Sarah Lefebure	27 Lancelot Detan NA Orace	
LAUDEN SALMON GARD	+ 49 COOK (+ HOLDEN	I AN WARHUETT

# WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE Regular Meeting Monday, April 9, 2018

# THIS ATTENDANCE SHEET IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK BUT WHO WISH TO BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

# PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND YOUR TOWN

NAME		TOWN
Laura	IAME Kirshenbaun	Holden.

On February 26th, I sent the first of many emails regarding the WREA ratification process for our contract. It stated that on:

- Friday, March 2: Contract info would be reported to all members
- Wednesday, March 7: Two general discussion meetings at WRHS (but these were cancelled due to snow so we rescheduled them March 12)
- Thursday, March 8: Two more general discussion meetings at Mountview (but these were also cancelled due to snow so we rescheduled them for March 13 and then we had more snow on the 13th so we rescheduled the meeting again for March 15)
- Wednesday, March 14: Voting locations, times, and names of those conducting the vote were posted in each building
- Friday, March 16: Member list for each site and ballots HOD reps
   Then...finally...we were ready to vote on Wednesday, March 21

After voting, teachers from each district school had to meet me at Mountview so votes could verified and officially recorded.

This seems like a very lengthy process...because it is.

However, we need to follow this process to ensure that members get all the vital information they need so they are able to make an informed vote.

We also need to follow this process because that is what is stated in our bylaws.

Merriam-Webster indicates that bylaws are defined as "rules adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs" According to Article III, Section 4 of your bylaws, any "Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote of Committee members voting"

This means that any motion being voted on this evening will pass if more than half of you vote in the affirmative.

On March 26th, 10 of you voted in favor of ratifying our contract, 8 of you were opposed, and one of you abstained. As a result, your bylaws indicate that **this motion passed with a simple majority**.

I know that a long-standing school committee member mentioned precedent after your votes were counted.

While I appreciate that, our contract is voted on approximately every three years -- and I know that you have the PEC and other contracts that are voted on -- but should something that happens less than regularly be considered precedent-setting?

I'm not sure....

What I am sure about is that bylaws are created so that organizations like ours (WREA and SC) have direction on how to conduct their business. These aren't optional and they can't be violated.

If as a body, you feel that something as significant as a contract vote ought to include the majority of the full committee, then perhaps they need to be changed but there is a process for that.

And clearly...it is in your bylaws.

# Attachment 3

My name is Jennifer Lee and I live at 155 School Street N. Brookfield. I'm a third grade teacher at Glenwood Elementary School and I'm the Vice President of Negotiations for the WREA. While I wish I were here to thank you for ratifying our contract, I'm unfortunately, here to voice my tremendous frustration and concern with the outcome of the School Committee's ratification vote held on 3/26/18. I'm now going to read the letter written to the School Committee from the WREA in response to this vote.

March 28, 2018

Kenneth Mills, Chair Wachusett Regional School Committee 1745 Main Street Jefferson, MA 01522

Dear Ken,

On Tuesday February 20, 2018, the Wachusett regional Education Association and the Wachusett Regional School District Committee reached a tentative agreement for successor contracts from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021. On Wednesday March 21, 2018, the WREA ratified this agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement was brought to the WRSDC at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday March 26, 2018. At that meeting, a roll call vote was taken to determine if the school committee would ratify this agreement. The roll call vote was as follows:

In favor Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Harriet Fradellos
Robin Van Liew
Amy Michalowski
Thomas Curran
Megan Weeks
Adam Young
Ken Mills

Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed Charlie Witkes
Sarah LaMountain
Michael Rivers
Ed Novak
Asima Silva
Matt Lavoie
Bob Imber
Christina Smith

Abstained - Scott Brown

The result of the vote was ten (10) in favor of the agreement, eight (8) opposed to the agreement and one (1) abstention.

Following this vote, you, as the chair of the committee, ruled that the motion did not pass due to not having a majority of members voting to support the agreement. This ruling is in direct conflict with the bylaws of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee. Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws state:

# Section 4. Vote of the Committee

Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote of Committee members voting unless otherwise specified by law, by the School Committee's by-laws, or by the Regional Agreement.

Your ruling, as Chair of the Committee, is in direct conflict with the standard established in the bylaws that a majority of members voting is required for a motion to carry. Additionally, we find no support of your ruling in the Regional Agreement or in M.G.L. requiring any other standard for the ratification of a Memorandum of Agreement to occur.

As a result of this, the WREA takes the position that the Chair's ruling is out of order and the ratification of the Agreement did occur at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. All terms and conditions within the Memorandum of Agreement are in force effective March 27, 2018. We are beginning to integrate the Memorandum of Agreement into the contract and expect that the School Committee, through its agents, are abiding by the now in-force agreement and are preparing to pay any and all retroactive payments due our members and will execute the fully integrated Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Kindly respond to me within seven (7) calendar days as to the progress on enforcing the terms and conditions contained within the agreement.

Sincerely,

Heidi Lahey, President Wachusett Regional Education Association

Cc: Darryll McCall, Superintendent

<u>Closing remarks separate from the above letter:</u> Lastly, over 50% of WREA members live in the five Wachusett towns, and as elected officials you didn't even follow your own bylaws. We are tremendously disappointed by your choices.

Attachment 4

# Wachusett Regional Education Association Petition for Contract Acknowledgment

We, the WREA, petition the members of the school committee to acknowledge the Wachusett Regional Education Association contract that was ratified by this body on March 26, 2018 in a 10 in favor, 8 opposed to 1 abstention vote.

Over the past 16 months, the WREA has been in negotiation with school committee and central office. At mediation, the two sides reached an agreement on February 20, 2018. Then our members went through a four week long ratification process: postings, meetings, voting etc., where members overwhelmingly voted in favor of the contract. We followed our by-laws.

On March 26, the school committee, after an executive session discussing bargaining, took a vote on a motion to approve the tentative agreement. The result of the vote was ten (10) in favor, eight (8) opposed, with one (1) abstention.

Following this vote, due to uncertainty over the required number for a majority, the chair of the committee ruled that the motion did not pass. This ruling is in direct conflict with the bylaws of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee. Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws state:

#### Section 4. Vote of the Committee

Action of the Committee shall require a majority vote of Committee members voting unless otherwise specified by law, by the School Committee's by-laws, or by the Regional Agreement.

The WREA takes the position that the bylaws were violated and the ruling was incorrect. The correct ruling per the bylaw is that the motion passed.

Since this date, informal communication from the superintendent to the WREA president has continued to insist that the WREA needs to accept revised language in the tentative agreement; they have sent amended language without returning to the bargaining table or setting up mediation dates. This is completely unacceptable. The WREA is pursuing legal action at the Department of Labor Relations to Rule on the decision if this matter cannot be settled here.

The teachers union works hard to educate members about ongoing negotiations. We ensure our members are in agreement with language and salary throughout the process. The no voices in this vote suggests to us a lack of communication between the school board members. Declaring this contract failed indicates to us a blatant disregard for the board's own rules and policies as well as disrespect for the teachers in the district.

Thereby, we, the WREA, petition the committee tonight to recognize this ratified contract and put into effect immediately the negotiated language and salaries.

Signatories:
Linda Il Econo
Traget agram
Liva Swalton
Muly a. Doul
Hud lake
Boar Ana
Melinda Pare
Magan Bela
1 Kula Forter
Day Francisco
Donnes Lougians
alanaltern
Managa Juliana
May & Depherd
a of he las
Our la Edo
Lawren Golf a
La Cauche
Park Mbershine
Gaves (lorgnene

Signatories: Ryw Zagami
John Kindle
Chlyll Sawrel
Suyme Hard
hem mcc
Stage & Detter
Meloso Beiley
Beterwood
Mengan McCarth
Janes B. Foley
Jula White
Megan Hughes
Maura Andare
(acolynther)
0 11 11
Leg Not
Dandema Bolduc

Signatories: What Bullium	_
For Am	
William D. Enger	
Justin 7. Mit Just	
Tarken Dell	
18 Wills	
Gessien L Levergre	
Swank Sudd	
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Kelmon /	
Marsheld	
KAST	
MUSDE	
James Devol	
Jesuin receip	
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Fairl Liller	
Ev lan M	
· Jemse Adams	
Mananne Lanton	

# Signatories:

Hernifea Relly
Parthy ARulla
Jam a Carba
Mary Katt Site -
Maybord Valles
and nexten
Jahry Lla.
Annie Jachse
Ericka Humphrey Cawl-Januahn
Mon Harley
More Brespois
*Wacau
Andte
dynn Dordan
Labrie Grat
Alan gongh
Whitney Marsh, M
74 1
Trema Leavens

Signatories:
John Et Bran
Angela Ja a Olee
Kun Redor
Wice S- Suy -
Law XII
Auluh A Rh.
Oskly Lislone
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Know Band
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Carthislada
Angela Meere
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Ma Mayer
Janus Corang

In behalf of I than Wach useful to

I would like to take this time to thank the Wachusett Education Association, its members and president Heidi Lahey for their tireless advocacy efforts for the WRSD. Not only do they advocate on a daily basis by giving Wachusett students a great education under dire budgetary circumstances, but they also join community advocacy efforts. They have spent time in their meetings and their own personal time writing letters to legislators about transportation funding. They have communicated with other regional school districts to get them involved in the 100% transportation funding campaign. They are also assisting with I Am Wachusett's current campaign to get 5 out of 5 members towns to pass the full FY19 budget. So, teachers, thank you for all that you do to give our students a great education.

I wanted to effectively and publicly communicate this thanks to the teachers and let the school committee and administration aware of their advocacy efforts. I say this specifically about effective and public communication because there seems to be a disconnect when it comes to effective communication in this district. I think what occurred in this room two weeks ago is a perfect example of the communication breakdowns that are becoming more and more pervasive.

I Am Wachusett will be working toward bridging some of these communication gaps in the near future as town meetings get closer. We need the public to know where we stand so that they can make an informed decision about the school budget.

In the future, I hope that you will work with I Am Wachusett. We've teamed up with a state-wide advocacy group called Support MA Regional Schools. We'll be asking for people to call their regislator's later this week once the amendments for the FY19 House budget are filed. There will be 2 amendments - one for 100% transportation funding reimbursement and one for a regional school district foundation budget review commission.

As I always do with my advocacy efforts, I am going to take the hopeful view. Moving forward, let us communicate and work TOGETHER - parents, teachers, SC members, administration, students, and citizens of these five towns to share the story of our district and advocate for the full funding of our budget and even bigger budgets to get back to giving our Wachusett students the education they deserve.