



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 22, 2021

To: *Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Megan Weeks, Chair	Kenneth Mills
Michael Dennis, Vice-chair	Benjamin Mitchel
Melissa Ayala	Karl Ottmar
Krista Bennett	Michael Pantos
Scott Brown	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva
Sherrie Haber	Christina Smith
Robert Imber	Jeffrey Sullivan
Laura Kirshenbaum	Kelly Williamson
Matthew Lavoie	Linda Woodland
Linda Long-Bellil	Adam Young

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

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

Posting and Training/Presentation

Attached is the updated posting of the School Committee and subcommittee meetings scheduled for the coming months (attachment 1). You will note that a special meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 PM on Monday, January 25th, with the lone agenda item being a presentation by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher. Chair Weeks asked Mr. Koocher to provide an overview of parliamentary procedure and to answer questions that members may have about Robert's Rules and other matters. On a somewhat regular basis, representatives from MASC have been invited to, and have always been very willing to oblige, a School Committee meeting to share their knowledge and expertise on the many facets of School Committee operation. I look forward to hearing what Mr. Koocher will have to share Monday evening.

As has been the practice, Monday evening's regular School Committee meeting will be by remote participation via Google Meet. An invitation to the meeting has been sent/shared with members of the School Committee, the Student Representatives, 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 Meet connection is preferable, though calling in by cell phone is also an option, though not the preferred way to participate.

Monday's School Committee meeting will be streamed for the public through YouTube Live. A link to the stream can be found on the WRSD homepage. The meeting will also be broadcast live on HCTV.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to have their questions asked/comments made to be read by Chair Weeks at the meeting. A link to submit a public comment has been posted on the WRSD website.

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

Project 351 Ambassadors

This year's Project 351 Ambassadors have been selected by the District's five middle schools (attachment 2). Wachusett's five 8th graders, along with ambassadors from across the Commonwealth, will begin their year of service on Launch Day, which will be held, virtually, on March 7th. This is the 11th Class of Project 351 Ambassadors and we are proud of all our students who have served in these roles. We have invited Ekaavli, Leighla, Charlie, Emma, and Jordan, and their parents, to join us, virtually, at our January 25th regular meeting, to allow us the opportunity to congratulate these students on this honor.

For many years, former TPS Principal Mary Cringan has been a very active and involved volunteer with Project 351. We have extended an invitation for Mary to join us Monday evening to introduce the newest class of WRSD Project 351 Ambassadors. Mary has provided a bit of Project 351 history as well as an outline of the year ahead for the ambassadors:

"The Class of 2021 begins the eleventh year for Project 351 with a modified program in response to COVID-19. Project 351 is a youth-led movement for positive change that unites an eighth grade ambassador from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns for a transformative year of leadership development, enrichment, and impact. Through unique service opportunities, ambassadors gain valuable skills, create positive change in their communities, build a statewide network of values-aligned peers, and unite the Commonwealth in common purpose. Project 351 is an independent 501c3 registered nonprofit and does not receive state or federal funds.

The Ambassador Journey is a year full of service and leadership. Together they support their neighbors affected by the causes and consequences of poverty; as well as elevate hope, gratitude and kindness across the state.

Their journey begins in February with their enrollment in the four week Service Leadership Academy. This online programming will focus on team building and civic engagement with inspirational special guests.

On March 7th, Launch 2021 Virtual Celebration will kick off the year with Governor Charles and Lauren Baker as special guests.

The month of April will bring the ambassadors first service project to support Cradles 2 Crayons. This is the first of four statewide campaigns guided by Project 351's unique leadership development and mentorship model.

The month of May will bring ambassadors with their family and friends the opportunity to take part in the Hope and Gratitude Walk. Participants walk/run/bike for 3.51 miles in their hometown. Money is raised to support nonprofits selected by the Class of 2021 Ambassadors.

June will bring ambassadors together in the virtual Leadership Reunion to celebrate with inspirational speakers and celebrate service impact with special guests.

9.11 Tribute Service takes place in September to honor and remember while promoting peace and unity through ambassador led service.

The journey ends in December with a fall service campaign to end hunger in their communities. Over an inspirational, enriching year of service and leadership development, the ambassadors develop courage, compassion, as well as, capabilities to lead positive change. In unity with diverse peers from across the state, ambassadors mobilize their schools and communities in service and realize transformative impact for nonprofit partners."

I look forward to the opportunity to celebrate these students on Monday evening.

The Implementation of Hybrid on January 19th



As I shared with the Committee earlier this week, I am very pleased with how the reopening of our schools proceeded this past Tuesday. I had the opportunity to be at the high school as students arrived on Tuesday and it was wonderful to see how excited they were to be back in the building. Typically, on the first day of school, there are several transportation issues that must be dealt with but this year it has been much smoother with little if any issues.

Our main problem will continue to be the staffing of our buildings. Over the past week, we have had several issues associated with close contacts and positive COVID cases that have forced us to be as creative as possible in terms of keeping our schools open. In this week's *Wachusett News* I will be sharing information about how to apply to serve as substitute staff, hoping to increase our pool of qualified and available staff to fill temporary vacancies in our schools.

Next week, I look forward to and anticipate a continued smooth transition having students in school. I again want to thank our teachers and staff, our students and families, our building administrators, and the community at large for the hard work and the patience over the last many months. With positive thoughts and upbeat attitudes, enthusiasm and confidence I know we can make the second half of the 2020-2021 school year one that will be beneficial to our students.

Reopening of Schools

- Remote to Hybrid

At a member's inquiry, below are listed some of the issues/concerns/lessons learned in the first days of hybrid instruction:

- Students are excited to be back in school.
- Staff are adaptable, willing, and enthusiastic to teach children in whatever method used.
- The pandemic is not over and the need to be vigilant to help stop the spread cannot cease with the implementation of hybrid.
- Contact tracing and managing the reporting and documentation of positive cases is extremely time consuming, but the WRSD team overseeing these tasks is to be commended and thanked for their efforts, dedication, knowledge, and time.
- The relationships the District has with the Member Town officials and boards are strong, and the towns and the school district want only the best for the Wachusett community.

- Technology Update

1:1 Chromebook Plan: Chromebooks for grade 6 and 7 students have been prepared and distributed to all applicable schools. School administrators are managing the process of handing them out to students. Chromebooks for grade 8 students are expected to be delivered by the end of January. Once received, they will be prepared for distribution by the technology team as quickly as possible.

Chromebook Purchase for 2021-22 School Year: In anticipation of continued Chromebook shortages through the summer, 600 additional units have already been ordered for incoming 6th grade students in fall 2021.

Central Tree & Naquag Bandwidth Upgrade: Traffic monitoring has shown that the internet circuit servicing Central Tree and Naquag is seeing higher than expected activity. This increase in traffic may lead to less than optimal performance at times. Though no significant disruptions are anticipated, some users have reported brief periods of slow internet speeds. A bandwidth increase has already been ordered and is expected to be in place by the end of January. A rush on the order has been requested.

PC Upgrades: In response to reports of performance issues related to presenting videos through Google Meet sessions, teachers' desktop computers are being upgraded ahead of previously planned refresh schedules. All teacher desktop computers are now being

replaced with a completion target date of February 19th. To date, over 100 computers have been replaced.

Hotspot Update: Through mid-January, the District has issued approximately 30 hotspots to families with difficulty accessing the internet. The District has also applied for additional free hotspots through T-Mobile's Project 10 Million program.

Tech Help Center: Parents may request support through the District's Tech Help Center website (<https://www.wrsd.net/techhelp>). IT staff has responded to all inquiries within the same day - almost always in less than an hour. IT personnel have contacted a number parents by phone, as needed, to resolve urgent issues in a timely manner. Many parents have also requested help through email, either to a teacher or administrator, or directly to the IT staff. These requests have also been promptly addressed.

- Update on Enrollment Numbers

Homeschooling	
Total Number of Homeschooled Students (as of 1/22/2021) (no change since 1/6/2021)	316 students
Number of New Homeschool applications for the current school year (as of 1/22/2021) (no change since 1/6/2021)	219 students
District Enrollment	
October 1, 2020 Report enrollment	6,586 students
October 1, 2019 Report enrollment	7,010 students
October 1, 2018 Report enrollment	7,007 students

School Year	Homeschool	Private	Public	Out-of-District
2018-2019	124	386	381	75

2019-2020	115	385	360	67
2020-2021	316	465	427	65
	<i>* Count indicates number of students *</i>			

Requests for Information/Updates

As of January 20th, the enrollment across the District is 6,676. Of the 6,676 students, 1,961 have chosen to stay in the remote model, and the remaining 4,715 students (Cohorts A, B, D, and students in our District-wide programs) are in-person at least some part of the school week. In my November 6, 2020 Report, it was reported that 5,105 students were opting to be hybrid, with 1,392 students wishing to remain remote. The November numbers were based upon the results of the parent survey in the fall which asked parents/students to indicate their intentions in anticipation of schools reopening mid-November. Please keep in mind that not 100% of parents/students completed the fall survey, and by November some of our higher needs students were already back in-person, which accounts for the lower (5,105 + 1,392) enrollment numbers. Again, the November numbers were based on surveys completed.

Update on Goals of the Superintendent

I am sharing with the full Committee a mid-cycle update in reference to my goals. Attached is a summary of action taken on my 2020-2021 goals (attachment 3). At the beginning of this week, I shared this information with members of the Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee and I am now sharing with the full Committee to keep all apprised of where I stand with achieving my annual goals. Also attached is the approved Administrator Plan Form, which outlines my goals and planned activities to address the goals (attachment 4).

I wish to state for the record that I consider my goals important and working toward accomplishing my approved goals is one of my top priorities each school year. I do also want to state that during this unprecedented school year, my "top priorities" on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis are numerous, and most take a significant amount of time - my time, principals' time, Central Office administrators' time. "Top priorities" are student/staff/school safety, contact tracing and managing (which needs to be done at the local/District level but also needs to be recorded and documented at the state level), the reopening of schools and all that involves, as well as overseeing the "ordinary" day to day tasks associated with our district.

Donation

On the agenda for Monday's meeting is the School Committees acceptance of a gift of office and conference room furniture from the Unum Group of Worcester. We are extremely grateful to this local company for thinking of and reaching out to the District offering this like-new furniture as they prepare for the company transitioning to conducting business remotely.

Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

After the vote of the Committee at our January 11th meeting, I submitted to the state Wachusett's plans for use of SOA funds (attachment 5). As explained at our last meeting, there is no guarantee these funds will be available and awarded in this fiscal cycle, but we are hopeful that at least a portion of SOA funds will be provided to our district to assist with some of the initiatives outlined in our submittal.

Third Payment Assessment Notices

District Treasurer Dunbar has sent FY21 third payment notices to the towns of Holden, Rutland, and Sterling (attachment 6).

Conflict of Interest Training

Every two years School Committee members, as municipal representatives, are required to complete Conflict of Interest online training. Below is the link to the site to complete this training. When completed, please share a copy of the Certificate of Completion with Rebecca Petersen (rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net) and with the Town Clerk in your hometown.

Conflict of Interest

Executive Staff Reports

- Director of Business and Finance Dan Deedy's Report to the Superintendent, dated (attachment A)
- Director of Human Resources Jeff Carlson's Report to the Superintendent dated (attachment B)
- Director of SEL Brendan Keenan's Report to the Superintendent dated (attachment C)

Chair's Correspondence

- January 12, 2021 correspondence to Natalie Dellecese (Chair's Correspondence 1)
- January 12, 2021 correspondence to Student Representative Kathryn Mangus (Chair's Correspondence 2)

Subcommittee Minutes

- Minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 1)
- Minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 2)
- Minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 3)
- Minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 4)

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

Special Meeting #330

Monday, January 25, 2021

6:30 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

- I. Call to Order
- II. Presentation by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher
Parliamentary Procedure
- III. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the January 25, 2021 Wachusett Regional School District Committee special meeting, please contact Rebecca Petersen at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 230.

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

Agenda

Regular Meeting #1357

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Chair's Opening Remarks
 - Recognition of Project 351 Ambassadors
 - Update/Report by SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
 - Discussion of WREA Statement of No Confidence and possibility of the need to form a task force to look into concerns
- III. Student Representatives' Reports (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Discussion of Report
 - B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 - 1. Motion: Acceptance of donation of school and office furniture from UNUM of Worcester, Massachusetts, with an estimated value of \$20,000
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. Secretary's Report
 - A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District held on August 24, 2020
 - B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 14, 2020
 - C. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 29, 2020
 - D. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 9, 2020
 - E. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 17, 2020

- F. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 7, 2020
- G. Approval of the #1356 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on January 11, 2021

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (M. Weeks, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Brown, K. Mills, A. Silva, C. Smith, A. Young)
- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)
- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, K. Mills, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar)
- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, M. Weeks)
- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, L. Kirshenbaum, Vice-chair, K. Williamson, L. Woodland)
- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, K. Bennett, M. Pantos)
- G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (A. Silva, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, M. Ayala, K. Bennett, M. Gustafson, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil)
- H. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair)
- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
- I. Building Committees
- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (K. Williamson), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Williamson), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (TBD), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (S. Haber), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Gustafson), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland)

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

January 25, 2021 Agenda

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IX. Public Hearing

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the January 25, 2021 Wachusett Regional School District Committee meeting, please contact Rebecca Petersen at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 230.

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN □ PAXTON □ PRINCETON □ RUTLAND □ STERLING

DRAFT Minutes

Regular Meeting #1356

Monday, January 11, 2021
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Megan Weeks, Chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Michael Dennis, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala	Karl Ottmar
Krista Bennett	Michael Pantos, Jr.
Scott Brown	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson (7:11 PM)	Asima Silva (7:04 PM)
Sherrie Haber	Christina Smith (7:07 PM)
Robert Imber	Jeffrey Sullivan
Laura Kirshenbaum	Kelly Williamson
Matthew Lavoie	Linda Woodland

Committee Members Absent:

Benjamin Mitchel	Adam Young
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Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
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:

Kenichi Gomi	Kathryn Mangus
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Others:

Natalie Dellecese

Chair Weeks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chair Weeks announced the meeting was being conducted remotely, via Google Meet, and was being broadcast live on Channel 194 and holdentv.com. Members of the public could access the meeting via YouTube. Chair Weeks explained that a new method for members of the public to

submit comments for Public Hearing has been implemented, and she will read the several comments submitted.

Chair Weeks explained that Agenda Item I, Executive Session, will be passed over.

- I. Executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with bargaining units (Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), SEIU Local 888 (ABA PAs), and Wachusett Administrators Association); to discuss potential litigation; and to report on progress of negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, as the Chair deems discussions in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, to return to public session.

Passed over.

- II. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: Upon the recommendation of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, the WRSDC exercises the two (2) option years of the existing home to school bus contract with AA Transportation as delineated in the current contract.

Deferred

Motion: Upon the recommendation of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, the WRSDC award a three (3) year contract with AA Transportation for Special Education In-District Transportation effective July 1, 2021.

Deferred

Motion: Upon the recommendation of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, the WRSDC accept the settlement agreement between AA Transportation and the WRSD, as written.

Deferred

- III. Public Hearing

Chair Weeks read what member of the public submitted for Public Hearing (attachment 1):

Erik Greenwell, 10 Maple Street, Sterling

Yuet Tai, 51 Lexington Circle, Holden

Rachael Catlow, 34 Beaman Road, Princeton

Angel Squier, 6 Cider Mill Lane, Princeton

Kristine Baez, 109 Autumn Circle, Holden

Stacia Hemphill, 20 Birch Drive, Sterling

Erin Pickett, 361 Chapel Street, Holden

Alison Spar, 30 Sandy Ridge Road, Sterling

Jennifer Kremer, 151 Nola Drive, Holden

Sue Stowe, 154 Blair Drive, Holden

Wendy Sanders, 12 Malvern Drive, Sterling

Sandra Taubert, 8 John Dee Road, Sterling

Karen Valcarce, 17 East Park Road, Sterling

Alison Ludden, 150 Nola Drive, Holden

Deanna Homoliski, 277 Quinapoxet Street, Holden

Kristine Turner, 469 Shrewsbury Street, Holden

Julie Hurley, 444 Marshall Street, Paxton

William Lahey, 166 Bullard Street, Holden

Melissa Martin, 310 Marshall Street, Paxton

Jeannette and Joe Appel, 236 Newell Road, Holden

Elizabeth Bennett, 9 Osgood Avenue, Holden

Mellyn Shurtleff, 107 North Row Road, Sterling

Debbie Jackson, Autumn Circle, Holden

Gary Hreschuk, 126 Jennifer Drive, Holden

Jean Gough, Holbrook Lane, Paxton

Allison Borging, 5 Arline Drive, Rutland

Erin Knowlton, 235 Mirick Road, Princeton

Barry Dellecese, 28 Patriot Way, Holden

Kristin Palko, 117 Wachusett Street, Holden

Christine Penzone, 92 Jamieson Road, Holden

Tom Rosoff, 67 Prospect Street, Rutland

Shannon Laptewicz, 482 Wachusett Street, Holden

Mary Shepherd, 1320 Wachusett Street, Holden

- Student Opportunity Act (SOA) – Public comment/Stakeholders' Input

No members of the public had comments or input regarding the Student Opportunity Act and the District's plan for use of these potential funds. Superintendent McCall will submit the District's submission by the January 15, 2021 deadline.

IV. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Weeks explained that school reopening is not on the agenda for this meeting, so it will not be addressed or acted upon at this meeting. Chair Weeks did reference the vote of November 17, 2020 about implementing hybrid no sooner than January 19, 2021, explaining that vote does not need to be revoked.

WRSD COVID Community Task Force Update

Chair Weeks welcomed Natalie Dellecese to the meeting, and she projected the PowerPoint created by the WRSD COVID Community Task Force (attachment 2). Ms. Dellecese addressed the Committee and spoke to the information and data included in the slideshow. Chair Weeks thanked Ms. Dellecese for attending the meeting, and Ms. Dellecese departed the meeting.

V. Student Representatives (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)

Student Representative Mangus reported that sports have started, which is beneficial for student social emotional health.

Student Representative Mangus make a presentation on MCAS Survey Results. Student Mangus spoke to the information, explaining that the presentation has been updated since she presented it to the Management Subcommittee. At the conclusion of the presentation, members were given the opportunity to thank Student Representative Mangus.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall opened his remarks, speaking to Student Representative Mangus' presentation, as well as information he has learned from the state about MCAS being administered this school year.

Transition to Hybrid Planning Update was projected, and Superintendent McCall walked through the information (attachment 3). Superintendent McCall gave a very detailed explanation of the information in the presentation, and further explained that the plan to implement hybrid on January 19, 2021 is still the direction the District is moving.

Chair Weeks opened the meeting to questions and comments from members.

Comments were made about “pool testing.”

Member Lavoie asked Superintendent McCall for clarification about hybrid being implemented on January 19th, and Superintendent McCall explained that the current plan is to have all students who have opted for hybrid to be back in school, under the hybrid model, on January 19, 2021. At Member Long-Bellil’s inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke about the cohorts and that students in Cohort A and Cohort B will transition to hybrid on January 19th, with Cohort A students being in-person Mondays and Tuesdays, Cohort B students being in-person Thursdays and Fridays, and Wednesdays being remote for both Cohort A and Cohort B.

Member Mills asked about learning plans for students who will be fully remote, as well as remote days for the two cohorts, and he requested this information be provided as soon as possible, hopefully before implementation of hybrid on January 19th. Member Mills also asked about staff being in schools on Wednesday afternoons.

Chair Weeks asked that members email their requests for information to her, and she will share with Superintendent McCall to address.

Member Ottmar asked what the District’s plan is to address when staffing is impacted due to teachers/others having to quarantine. Superintendent McCall acknowledged these sorts of situations will arise, but may need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis and “on the fly.” Superintendent McCall explained providing a safe environment for students and staff is essential and will be a top priority.

Member Pantos mentioned the importance of committing to the date of implementation of hybrid. Member Pantos asked Superintendent McCall how much time will be provided to parents if there is a need to transition from hybrid to remote due to incidences in a school. Superintendent McCall explained it might be a very close call, similar to when snow days are called. Member Pantos had additional questions about CO2 levels and readings, a flow chart to follow when exposure is questioned or known. Member Pantos lastly asked that District administration be mindful of closing individual classrooms/schools if needed, rather than closing the entire District or transitioning back to remote.

Member Silva expressed concern about fully remote students and how they will be taught, and she also asked about teachers being vaccinated. Deputy Superintendent

Berlo listed some of the online technology brought onboard during the period of remote.

Member Smith voiced her concerns about several items related to the reopening of schools, for example sufficient social distancing in classrooms.

Member Williamson thanked the Superintendent for the presentation. She spoke about the need to be patient with initial implementation of hybrid, acknowledging there will be some issues as this begins, including teachers teaching in-person students and students who will remain remote. She suggested another survey be conducted after a fashion, to get input and feedback from all stakeholders.

Member Woodland asked about pool testing, which Superintendent McCall spoke to, explaining this is a very new rollout by the state.

Member Ayala stressed the need for the message to be sent to parents asking them to be flexible as hybrid gets implemented and if there is a need to transition back to remote, flexibility needs to be paramount.

Member Brown understands there is anxiety being experienced by some about implementation to hybrid, and he stressed the importance of clear and constant communication between the schools and parents.

Member Dennis would like to second Member Mills' request to see learning plans for remote students.

Member Gustafson feels a walk-through video of the individual schools would be beneficial for students returning to school, to show them what they will be returning to. She also asked what the plan would be "when" the transition to remote happens, which Superintendent McCall confirmed the District would hope to keep the higher needs students in-person, program students as well as higher needs students not in a program.

Member Haber asked if the Professional Development link which was included in the Superintendent's Report could be re-shared. Member Haber had questions about data on the COVID dashboard, which Director Keenan spoke to and explained how the data is compiled.

Member Lavoie asked Superintendent McCall if he will consider filling positions not yet filled, for example Elementary Counselors.

Member Gustafson asked for updated information on where the budget stands since the start of the pandemic.

Member Kirshenbaum asked for clarification about Wednesdays and if teachers are expected to be in school or if they can work remotely.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To support the Student Opportunity Act Submission, as presented
(R. Imber)
(S. Brown)

Superintendent McCall spoke about the SOA, explaining this process first began a year ago, and was then halted when the pandemic hit. Member Gustafson voiced her opinion of the importance of this plan, which needs to be submitted to the state, and that she does not believe what has been prepared and is up for a vote by the School Committee addresses the intent of use of SOA funds. Superintendent McCall spoke about the process used when writing the plan, which he stated can be modified after initial submission, per DESE. Vice-chair Dennis asked Superintendent McCall to explain how public comment was solicited. Superintendent McCall explained he had reached out to stakeholders in March 2020, seeking comments and input which he did receive, and that the opportunity to provide new input was on the agenda for this meeting, which upon consultation with DESE was approved as a method to solicit stakeholder input. Vice-chair Dennis questioned moving forward with this submission, on such a short turn around and the limited opportunity for public comment/stakeholders input.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Deidre Shapiro
Christina Smith
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

Maleah Gustafson
Laura Kirshenbaum
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva

Abstained:

Megan Weeks
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Jeffrey Sullivan

The motion passed 12-5-3.

2. To award the 2021-2022 heating fuel oil contract to Peterson Oil of Worcester, MA at a firm fixed price of \$1.6999/gallon for one year commencing on July 1, 2021 per the French River Education Center (FREC) collaborative purchasing bid on November 19, 2020.

(K. Mills)

(K. Williamson)

Director Deedy spoke briefly to the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. Secretary's Report

Chair Weeks explained, for new members and for the viewing public, about approval of the executive session minutes and that the minutes cannot be released until the matter(s) in the minutes are settled.

Vice-chair Dennis explained he has questions or comments about all executive session minutes, except for the December 21, 2020 minutes; therefore approval of the executive session minutes (with the exception of December 21, 2020) will be held until the executive session minutes can be reviewed, discussed, and approved in an executive session.

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District held on August 24, 2020

Deferred

Motion: To extend the meeting until 10:30 PM.

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

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

Matthew Lavoie
Asima Silva

The motion passed 18-2.

Chair Weeks asked members to hold onto executive session minutes in a safe place for confidentiality purposes.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 14, 2020

Deferred

- C. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on September 29, 2020

Deferred

- D. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 9, 2020

Deferred

- E. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on November 17, 2020

Deferred

- F. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 7, 2020

Deferred

- G. Approval of #1355 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 7, 2020

Motion: To approve the regular meeting minutes of the WRSDC held on December 7, 2020.

(K. Mills)

(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills

Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

- H. Approval of the #328 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 9, 2020

Vice-chair Dennis had corrections to the minutes, which will be incorporated.
Member Gustafson offered clarifications to the minutes, which will be incorporated into the minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of the WRSDC held on December 9, 2020, as amended.

(K. Mills)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson

Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The minutes were unanimously approved

- I. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 21, 2020

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the WRSDC held on December 21, 2020, not to be released.

(K. Mills)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Linda Long-Bellil

The minutes were approved 19-0-1, not to be released.

- J. Approval of the #329 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 21, 2020

Motion: To approve the special meeting minutes of the WRSDC held on December 21, 2020.

(K. Mills)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

IX. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Weeks 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.

X. Committee Reports

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

Chair Weeks reported the Management Subcommittee will meet on January 20, 2021.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)

Subcommittee Chair Smith spoke about the meeting of the subcommittee held before this School Committee meeting.

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

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported on the meeting of December 21, 2020 and that the subcommittee will meet next on January 19, 2021.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, K. Mills)

Subcommittee Chair Brown spoke about the meeting of this subcommittee held on January 4, 2021 and he spoke about ongoing negotiations.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, L. Kirshenbaum, K. Williamson, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Mills reported that Superintendent McCall will provide an update on his goals the week of January 18, for discussion at the January 25, 2021 regular School Committee meeting.

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, K. Bennett, M. Pantos, L. Woodland)

Vice-chair Woodland reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (A. Silva, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, M. Ayala, K. Bennett, M. Gustafson, J. Haynes, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil)

Subcommittee Chair Silva reported this subcommittee will meet on January 14, 2021.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair)

No report was made.

- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- J. Building Committees

- K. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (K. Williamson), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Williamson), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (N. Amos), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (S. Haber), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland), Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) (M. Gustafson)

Member Gustafson – SEPAC

Member Haber – Naquag Elementary School

Member Brown – Mountview Middle School

XI. Public Hearing

Chair Weeks read what member of the public submitted for Public Hearing (attachment 4):

Dana Sandoval, 95 Winthrop Lane, Holden

Philip Gransewicz, 14 Laurel Lane, Princeton

Dana Saradova, 95 Winthrop Lane, Holden

Michaela Becker, 335 Chapel Street, Holden

Michele Van Reet, 230 Charnock Hill Road, Rutland

Aiden Kearney, 111 Mason Road, Holden

Suzanne Lovejoy, 3 Juniper Lane, Holden

Philip Gransewicz, Laurel Lane, Princeton

Nicole Daly, 35 Kilburn Road, Sterling

Kristina Naiman, 21 Michael Drive, Rutland

Ryan McMullin, Princeton

XII. New Business

Chair Weeks asked members to email any items for New Business to her.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Eider Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Public comments
- Attachment 2 – WRSD COVID Community Task Force PowerPoint
- Attachment 3 – *Transition to Hybrid Planning Update*
- Attachment 4 – Public comments

Eric Greenwell
10 Maple Street
Sterling

Attachment 1

Nothing has improved since the decision was made to remain on full remote learning. As much as I would LOVE to have my daughter back in school, please do not bow to pressure. You have made the correct decisions so far. Please delay opening again, until at least March, to allow the situation to improve.

Yuet Tai

51 Lexington Cir

Holden

Health officials said in the School Committee meeting back in November that hybrid should not begin because of the rise in cases in the 5 towns. Since then, cases have gone way up. If it wasn't safe to start hybrid in November when the numbers were lower, why is it safe to do so now? Also, are there consistent 6ft social distancing within the schools as recommended by the CCD? The November School Committee meeting said that the schools did not have consistent 6ft social distancing in place.

Rachael Catlow
34 Beaman Road
Princeton

The safety of our children, teachers, school staff and administrators is the highest priority. It is not safe for them to be gathering in person when the virus is so rampant in our State. Hybrid learning should be delayed indefinitely. In person learning will only increase the caseload.

Angel Squier
6 Cider Mill Lane
Princeton

[I would like to remain Anonymous] I have concerns about going back to school. Although I am remaining remote, I worry about teachers and peers that will be attending the hybrid plan soon. Some students have already tested positive for COVID-19 and it is very likely that more will test positive especially because of the current spike in cases. I do not think it is safe to go through with the hybrid plan until the vaccine is distributed.

Kristine Baez
109 Autumn Cir
Holden

Why can most of the state offer hybrid learning and Wachusett can't?

Stacia Hemphill

20 Birch Dr

Sterling

Wondering if district is going to take advantage of pool testing that the governor is setting up for public schools. Said first 6 weeks will be free for all school systems. Can participate if your school intends/trying to start up hybrid. I think we should take advantage of at least the initial six weeks for free. Said can use federal money given to school to pay for additional testing after initial six weeks. Says it cost 75% less than individual tests. Can do groups of up to 20 at a time. Believe there will be info emailed to district and a call next Tuesday to go over all the necessary info.

Erin Pickett

361 Chapel St.

Holden

Dear Dr. McCall & SC Members,

One of the main reasons my family, like many others moved to this district was its reputation of having a strong school system. Fast forward almost 18 years, and I'm truly wishing that we chose any of the number of surrounding districts that haven't failed their children this year. A strong school system would not let their students suffer the way we have let ours suffer. Their mental health is crumbling, and their academic needs are not being met in this current model. Dr. McCall's and the School Committee's sole goal right now needs to be getting these kids back into school buildings - not in 4 weeks or 8 weeks but on January 19th. Data has proven minimal COVID transmission is happening in schools, so there is no reason to keep them home any longer. Districts of comparable size have made it work, so we need to do the same - no more excuses.

Thank you,

Erin Pickett

Parent of a 10th grader and 7th grader

Alison Spar
30 Sandy Ridge Road
Sterling

Per Governor Baker's educational announcement today, there should be no question as to the return of the student's of our community to in-person learning on January 19th. As Baker stated, "there is an overwhelming body of scientific research to show that in-person learning can be done without spreading the virus regardless of community transmission rates". Baker mentioned this has been evident in parochial schools, with many located in areas with high transmission rates. Many districts, not including our own, have already been bringing students back into the classrooms. Baker stated unfortunately still too many are either remote or in complicated hybrid programs.

Per Baker "the evidence is clear that in-person learning is "essential" to kids educational, developmental and emotional well-being". Per Secretary Peyser today, medical experts have confirmed that when standard health protocols are followed schools can get back to in-person learning even without universal testing. Commissioner Riley also discussed the option of pool testing that is set to roll out within the next month, however, this is NOT required for in-person learning.

As the representing body of our community, it is the responsibility of the school committee members to advocate for our children. It is time to start holding the administration within this district accountable to safely get our children back to in-person learning as this has gone on far too long. Most of our children, including my own special needs child, are being denied their right to FAPE. They are continuing to fall further and further behind. Please be our voice and advocate for our children. "Transmission occurring in schools is rare" according to a statement made by Commissioner Riley today. Do not let the administration bring in their "so-called" experts in the field to persuade your opinion. As a healthcare provider myself, I questioned the validity of experts being called upon when presenting to the school committee prior to the last anticipated re-opening. After Baker's press conference today, it is evident our children should be returning to in-person learning as expected.

I also ask the members of the committee to please take a closer look at the hybrid program being rolled-out by the administration of the WRSD. As Baker stated in his press conference today schools are also operating complicated hybrid programs. It appears that when children are remote learning as part of the hybrid program, far too much asynchronous work will be provided. How is this considered educating? You can't expect most children, especially of the elementary school level, to carry out work independently without the assistance of a teacher. Some students won't even have the support of a parent. These children deserve more! They deserve to at least receive remote synchronous learning on their at home days. Please ask about the hybrid plans in regards to the amount of asynchronous learning that will occur. Asynchronous learning should not be taking the place of synchronous learning on remote days.

Thank you for your time and for your assistance with advocating for the children of our community.

Sincerely,
Alison Spar

Jennifer Kremer

151 Nola Drive

Holden

Those of us working in Pediatrics are in the majority, in favor of our kids returning back to in-person learning. The benefits of in-person/hybrid learning encompass much more than just academics-access to resources (food, safe adults, etc.), social/emotional learning and structure and security.

Having provided medical care to children and families since the beginning of the pandemic, none of us felt completely prepared for COVID. Nevertheless, our kids need us to follow through with the COVID policies put in place for in classroom learning.

Our community is counting on you to address your reservations and join the rest of the essential workforce and provide the education, resources and support to our children that they so desperately need during these difficult times.

Jennifer Kremer, MSN, CPNP

Sue Stowe
154 Blair Dr
Holden

With numbers rising will students still be starting hybrid 1/19? Also, I have sent multiple emails requesting chromebook assistance for my 2 middle schoolers. In August was told if we had a device to take names off the list to borrow that 1:1 chromebooks will be coming for middle schoolers. In October I emailed that our Chromebooks were not sufficient to support the small amount of online work they were assigned. We have had charter come out, we have sit down restarted everything we can. They are older and slow. Have email the superintendent as well requesting 1:1 chromebooks. I still have not heard back. With the additional classes in the new schedule since November, and assignments they need to do on their chromebooks will we be receiving adequate devices. If not, why can't there be assignments that can be done off screen?

Wendy Sanders
12 Malvern Hill Rd
Sterling

We think the numbers are too high to send kids back. We need to wait until more people are immunized.

Sandra Taubert
8 John Dee Road
Sterling

My 10th grader has been thriving with the fully remote schedule. Starting school an hour later has been a God send as well. If the school goes back to fully onsite this year I feel it would be best to offer a fully remote option for homes like ours where we want to avoid all exposure to the virus and have no issues with learning remote. Thank you.

Karen Valcarce
17 East Park Rd
Sterling

All students and staff should be remote. Infection rates and deaths are high. The new strain could spread like wildfire through a school population. Why are we taking such risks?

Alison Ludden
150 Nola Drive
Holden

I would very much like our children to have the opportunity to go back to school. Research indicates that the likelihood of kids getting Covid in school is very low, especially when guidelines are in place. Research also indicates that kids are struggling in terms of mental health without any in person contact with their peers and teachers. I should know, I have a PhD in education and psychology, my expertise is in adolescent development, and I have taught adolescent health at Holy Cross for 15 years. So many towns have done this successfully and our kids have been deprived of the opportunity to go hybrid. Many of us feel very strongly that we should have the opportunity to do hybrid if we would like. We need stronger leadership, greater advocacy for what is best for kids (not just what is easiest), and more parent input. Keeping kids fully remote increases health and educational inequities. Not all parents have the opportunity to work from home as I do. The longer we stay remote, the greater the disadvantages become. Thank you.

Deanna Homoliski
277 Quinapoxet St
Holden

If we are moving forward with return to Hybrid despite community spread being so high and hospital resources being stretched so thin, will the district be considering the federally funded Pool Testing program Gov. Baker announced this past Friday? With teacher health and safety a big concern until vaccinations are available, this should be something seriously considered by the District to reduce the spread even further.

Kristin Turner
469 Shrewsbury St
Holden

Members of the Wachusett Regional School Committee and District Administration,

As of today, Monday January 11, 2021, our district has had 305 days to prepare to safely get kids into buildings. I ask you today as I have asked before - how many more days are needed to prepare? How many more consultants, meetings, documents, matrices, arguments, motions, amendments, and votes are needed to get our students back to school?

I'd also ask - Are we not in school because of current metrics OR because of lack of preparedness?

Are schools prepared and waiting for students with desks lined up at 6 feet, sanitizing stations set up, distance markers on the floors, bandwidth capacity expanded, professional development completed, adequate technology handed out and set up, and staff with sufficient PPE? Or is there a list of outstanding items that still need to be completed?

If our schools ARE NOT ready, why are high needs students at school in an unsafe and unready environment? Why are sports continuing unhindered? What is on the list that still needs to be completed? How can the community help?

If the schools ARE ready, and we are not at school because of the metrics - why are other schools with similar (or worse) metrics currently at school with little to no in school transmission? Why are we basing our decision on metrics when other districts are instead deciding on a case by case, school by school, in school transmission, assessment? If the metrics are too high why do sports continue unsafely?

It's popular to say that we shouldn't worry about our students falling behind because it's a pandemic after all - but I can tell you as someone who teaches in person every day - our kids ARE falling behind. I leave my house each morning to go teach students who live 20 minutes from here in a district where k-5 students have been back in person since the first week of school. Cases that do come up in schools have few if any close contacts because of the protocol and mitigation procedures that have been put into place. Our elementary schools didn't have extra remote days after winter break - but instead went right back to school - not waiting to see how bad things got - but instead maintaining our strict protocols for keeping everyone safe and prioritizing the very best learning that can be provided.

How can it be so unsafe here and not there? Why can't we do better for our children?

A year ago - we all would have agreed that children shouldn't spend too much (if any) time in front of screens - we're now going on a full year of on screen school now.

Our children deserve better.

Their parents who have quit or lost their jobs, given up on career advancements, or had to hire help to support this district deserve better.

We ARE falling behind.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Turner

Julie Hurley
444 Marshall St
Paxton

As we are approaching the hybrid state date of the 19th this month-which as of today we mark 10 months that the Wachusett School District has not only had no in-person learning but also failed to deliver a plan. I'm sure I speak for many others that the time we've lost is irreplaceable and cannot ever be recovered. I've written to the committee numerous times, I'll remind you I had a Kindergartner and a 2nd grader both whom are not excelling as they should be if they were in person. Let me ask the committee are your children are doing remote learning in this district? Have you moved districts for any of your children? Do they go to private school? What is your vested interest in getting kids back. Sure the numbers have sky rocketed - some of which are your teachers that are a part of those growing #s - you realize that right? I hope you also have done your research that shows children are not spreaders of the virus. A recent article from a family member that is a pediatrician for your reference shared with me - https://www.contemporarypediatrics.com/view/aap-updates-guidance-for-in-school-education?utm_source=sfmc%E2%80%8B&utm_medium=email%E2%80%8B&utm_campaign=01092021_unsponsored_CP_eNL%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B&eKey=dGFyYS5yaWNoYXJkc29uQHVtYXNzbWVtb3JpYWwub3Jn

The children are not thriving in this environment in fact they have anxiety now of the conversation when its mentioned "well you guys will be returning to school soon" and they respond with "I want to stay home!" That is not good. Its not the "new normal"

Get the kids back to school already enough damage done, do the right thing.

Regards

Julie Hurley

William Lahey
166 Bullard Street
Holden

Dear Chair Weeks,

I request that the email below be read in public comments at the regularly scheduled Wachusett Regional School District School Committee meeting on Monday January 11, 2021.

Dear Chair Weeks,

I have made a written request to Dr. McCall per school committee policy P1660 to have an item placed on the agenda for the regularly scheduled Wachusett Regional School District School Committee meeting on January 25, 2021.

The public has had no opportunity to hear any discussion from our elected School Committee representatives about the teachers statement of No Confidence. Members of the school committee have requested that discussion of the statement be added to School Committee agendas. Yet several meetings have happened without this topic being added as an agenda item.

I believe the public deserves transparency from our local elected officials, and I'd like to be able to hear discussion of what concerns teachers have that were serious enough to warrant them to take such a step.

Yours truly,

William F. Lahey, Jr

Melissa Martin
310 Marshall St
Paxton

I am writing to you today in regards to the SOA funds that the School Committee will be voting on. The SOA funds that the district received were targeted for the Special Education area. As I look at the proposal, I see that the funds are geared toward the Social Emotional needs in the district. While that is an important area, we need to apply the funds where they were targeted to go (Special Education). Our special education children have suffered and lost much since this pandemic started. There are many areas in which funds could be applied that directly improve the daily life of our Special Education children. There are staff that could be hired, training in many areas, and direct services or tools. I ask that the Committee not approve the proposed funds and in turn as Administration to review their proposal and gear their funding toward the Special Education children in the district. These children are who the state directed funds to be spent on, and they should be receiving the benefit of those funds.

Thank you

Jeannette n Joe Appel

236 Newell Rd

Holden

Our son is graduating. What is the plan to get kids back to school? Enough is enough. The covid situation has been high n won't change for a while n other districts have been open. We demonstrated horrible leadership n our kids haven't been to school one day since March. This is unacceptable. There is absolutely no evidence that the kids will get covid in school. Holden numbers are up n kids aren't in school. The state will have pool testing. We got a consultant n voted and made a decision n I am sick n tired of the SC n superintendent changing their minds. The superintendent needs to stop bringing in people, so-called experts with opinions that are biased on his side to speak on calls as many of us are exceptionally well read n don't need wrong information. Demonstrate leadership n do your job. The schools need to teach n teach in person. If parents are worried then their kids can stay remote. Its like some parents don't want to send their kids but also don't want anyone else to make our own decisions and send ours. Personally, I saw the plan for seniors. It would be another atrocity if these seniors didn't have a semblance of a senior year given that none of these kids have been in school one day. Sports were played but kids didn't go to school one day!! Where are the priorities? Enough is enough!!!! Get these kids back to school. There will always be a risk a s there will always be a teacher or parent who won't be happy. Do what is right for these kids. Mendon/Upton has been hybrid, Shrewsbury has been hybrid, Northboro has been hybrid. It's an embarrassment n atrocity that Wachusett students haven't gone to school one day. The psychological damage being done to some Wachusett students is on the decisions n poor leadership of our superintendent and inability of our too large SC to make decisions.

Elizabeth Bennett

9 Osgood Ave

Holden

I want to start first by saying thank you for all the members, superintendent and others who have put countless hours into preparing our schools and teachers for the return to school on the 19th. I say this with confidence as you have had over 300 days to prepare for this. Schools should be ready. Our kids are falling behind. They can't sustain this for much longer. The time is now. Schools are open and ours should be open as well. No more excuses!!

Mellyn Shurtleff

107 N Row Rd

Sterling

Which Response Level will we be at, according to the Decision Matrix, on January 19th?

Debbie jackson

Autumn Circle

Holden

Please be clear on the reasons for schools to be closed. Multiple surrounding towns are hybrid and it is working well. Having a ghost date is misleading and creates hope. If the school is not planning to open due to money/logistics or whatever the reason please be transparent. The transmission rate in schools is clearly not something that is showing to be of a great threat. If we follow proper protocol, what is the challenge?

Gary Hreschuk
126 Jennifer Drive
Holden

Dear Central Office Leadership and School Committee:

I am writing to express my ongoing disappointment with the district administration and the School Committee as it plans its return to in-person learning. I have been observing the ongoing process and discussions since this summer. I agree that our school district's scope does present unique challenges, but these characteristics should not be insurmountable. However, like many, my patience has diminished, and my frustration has increased. As a parent, educator, and community member, I feel that remaining silent and not my expressing my concerns would only signal to the School Committee that this course of action is acceptable. However, in a time like this, I am reminded of John F. Kennedy's quote, "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction." I hope this is a sentiment that rings true for the school committee.

As an educator working in a district 25-minutes away from Holden, I want to share that my district has been in person in a hybrid model since September 29th. Our elementary students have been in person from the outset of the year. The work to prepare for this school over the summer was relentless. However, there was a goal, a vision, and a drive to provide this opportunity for our students. It took the work of a superintendent, the school committee, multiple leadership teams, and ongoing feedback and teachers' contributions to develop this plan. In fact, it was four simultaneous plans that needed to be developed; a remote learning model, a hybrid model, a 100% capacity model, and a stand-alone remote program for those who could not attend in-person learning this year. The goal of the work was to have the ability to shift from one model to the next, based on ongoing health metrics. Admittedly, when we began this process, many of us assumed we would be remote by Halloween. However, we are still in a hybrid model due to safety protocols, cleaning measures, testing, and community commitment. In addition, there are discussions within my school district and many other school districts across the Commonwealth to have students back at 100% this spring. Not to mention, there are school districts currently that are already back at 100% capacity.

I recognize that there are committee members who are currently teaching under a hybrid model in their respective school districts. I have yet to hear their voice about the value of having students in person. I've yet to hear how their school districts have successfully opened their schools at the outset of the year. I wonder if their first-hand experience would push thinking of this school committee? Perhaps, they can add their own experience as educators to help drive policy?

As I sit and watch the school committee meetings, I'm consistently reminded that this body is driven by fear and not facts. I have heard that contact tracing would be extensive and complicated. Yes, it is. When a positive case comes into the school, it is anxiety-provoking, and it consumes a health team's night and weekends, but contract tracing can be done with safety and efficiency. I have heard the concern about staff needing an extended absence because they are a close contact or family member has contracted COVID. Yes, this happens, but the staff circle the wagons for one another, and teachers and administrators become creative and resourceful to take care of the students. Of course, I have heard the concern of in-school transmission. Again, the data across the Commonwealth has been consistent, and the rate of in-school transmission is minimal. If there were high rates of in-school transmission, it would be the district's responsibility to return to the remote model for a prescribed amount of time. This potential shift was a charge that all school districts were required to plan for at the summer's outset. Lastly, for those who feel it is still unsafe to have their children return to the classroom, the district will have a stand-alone remote program to accommodate those students and families. If these are the reasons driving the decision-making, I cannot support this line of thinking and rational because it runs contrary to my own experience and dozens of school districts across the state. Suppose other mitigating factors are driving this current policy. In that case, I implore Superintendent McCall and members of the School Committee to have a level of transparency to support this current plan if our children do not return to school by January 19th.

Although this letter is intended to share my disappointment, I want to publicly thank our teachers and administrators in the district for their continued efforts, creativity, and resourcefulness under the most trying circumstances. I have been nothing short of impressed with their ongoing commitment to our children.

I fear that based on the district's current guidelines that our district is using, at best, our children will return to school just in time for MCAS, and at worse, they will not see the inside of the classroom this school year. I ask that the School Committee approve and finalize the plan to return to in-person instruction under a hybrid by January 19th

Respectfully,
Gary Hreschuk

Jean Gough
Holbrook Lane
Paxton

Dear Dr. McCall and School Committee Members,

Firstly, I want to thank you for all the very difficult work you have done as we weave our way through this extraordinary time. I can certainly appreciate the many tough decisions you have had to make in your guidance and planning.

I need to express my concerns about the schools returning to hybrid instruction next week. I have been in the district a very long time as a music specialist and have seen many ups and downs, but there has really been nothing as serious and deadly as this time has been, as we know. With being an older employee, and in light of the very high Covid numbers in our towns, I am very concerned about returning to the classroom with the very likely possibility of Covid being brought into the school and teachers, staff, and children becoming sick. My getting sick is not my biggest concern, as I have a very compromised husband at home. I am greatly distressed with concern for him and would be absolutely devastated if I did get him sick in this process.

In light of the vaccine being available to teachers very soon, I implore you to hold off on the return to school until we are better protected from this deadly virus and when our towns are no longer in the red. I know I am not the only Wachusett employee feeling very anxious and concerned, and trust you will give our families, teachers and staff more time to stay safe.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jean Gough
WRSD Music Specialist

allison borging
5 arline drive
Rutland
are the kids go to school

Eric Knowlton
235 Mirick Road
Princeton

Parents and families have been left in the lurch on everything related to the return of in person learning since last Summer. Several last minute decisions have been made by the school committee in support of the continuation of all remote learning, despite the fact that there is no data, specifically related to in person learning, to support these decisions. In fact, the opposite is true, where we now have hard evidence to support in-school learning. We now know that it is MUCH safer for kids to be in-school vs. remote. When kids aren't in school, kids, families, and school staff are clearly compensating for it by congregating in other settings to support both social and learning activities (including teachers in our district as evidenced by social media). 80+% of infection occurs in these social settings, not schools!

It's more than disappointing that this district has been unable to pull together a plan to provide at least 2 days of in person learning a week for the more vulnerable younger grade levels. A 5 or 6 year old can not learn comprehensively via Zoom, not to mention the social and emotional skills that are suffering. We are one of the very few school districts throughout the state that have had ZERO in person learning since March 2019, nearly one year ago.

Everyone fully recognizes that these issues are complicated and no one would envy your positions but this is a clear failure of administrative/committee leadership. Because it's hard, doesn't mean we can't find a way to support a better way forward. If the school had to be open to survive, similar to a business, we would most certainly be in a different position today with fully functional in-person models in place, being done so safely. If we're waiting for any and all risk to be removed, we're not living in reality.

Lastly, we can not end up in a position like last Summer where the entire off season appeared to be 'wasted' and we stumbled into the Fall with no comprehensive plan in place. Anyone who cares about our students and learners (vs. political interests) is banking on full, in-person learning by this upcoming September (2021) so please make it your priority that we are ready BEFORE you break for this current school year.

1. "Dr. Christina Hermos, a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at UMass Memorial Health Care, who believes enough evidence has emerged to suggest students may be better off in school than at home during the pandemic. Key to her and other medical experts' argument is data they say shows schools, despite being indoor spaces that would typically contribute to the spread of the virus, have not been big contributors to the current uptick in COVID-19 cases. "There is good evidence now that having kids in school at least part of the time is safe," she said, adding there are a "lot of health benefits for children" to be in school right now, despite the virus. At UMass, Hermos said she and other pediatricians have seen homebound students develop issues like obesity and poor mental health, which are on top of the learning loss she believes is happening. "You can't expect a 5-year-old to learn on a computer," she said. "You shouldn't."

https://www.telegram.com/story/news/2020/12/28/worcester-students-staff-contracting-virus-outside-schools-despite-hundreds-infections-expects-unsub/4012465001/?fbclid=IwAR33a4B_agR6-V7g0AT_BRz6k0g6HBzflHxQQ65qYW3e_1sP7aV1-Yyelv4

Barry Dellecese
28 Patriot Way
Holden
Members of the WRSD School Committee,

At the time of submitting this public comment we are at 305 days since our kids have been in our schools. The district's plan is for the kids to return to school on January 19th under the details previously shared by the School Administration for hybrid learning.

However, there is a lot of speculation, and probably better worded as expectation, across the community that a motion will be raised for the School Committee to vote on a further delay. I am commenting today to call on you, the School Committee, to keep the plan as-is and not create yet another disruption in our community.

Yes, the community positive case volumes are above the 2.5% metric that Dr. McCall established as the Risk Level 1 measurement. With that metric by itself, we cannot expect a return to school this year for hybrid, never mind full-time, will be feasible this year. You must look at the example countless other schools and districts have set in being able to return to school safely. This includes single towns as well as multi-town districts. This includes districts that have fewer schools, staff and students, and those that are bigger than Wachusett. There are many in this community, including members of this School Committee, who work in other districts that have gone back and have cited that it as being successful.

The data shows schools are low transmission sites when the proper protocols and measures are in place. This is why Governor Baker and the DESE continue to recommend in-school learning despite rising numbers in the community. Of course this is predicated on safe protocols in place and followed by staff and students when in school. I trust with the 305 days we have had, our administration has done everything they can to prepare us. Dr. McCall's recent note indicated they are ready.

I also understand there is no right answer for every family. We all have to make the decision that is best for our situation. For our family, we are desperately hoping our 1st grader and 4th grader can get back into school this year. Please give us the option to do what we know is best for our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak publicly on this matter

Barry Dellecese

Kristin Palko
117 Wachusett Street
Holden

The continued remote learning has taken a toll on my elementary age children. We were getting through it up until recently. My 5th grader had become withdrawn and lacks motivation to participate. My 4th grade daughter is experiencing depression and loneliness. We are doing everything possible to support our children but they desperately need to return to the classroom. Continuing remote could be detrimental to my children's mental health and future learning.

Christine Penzone
92 Jamieson Rd
Holden

Even though I know that our numbers are up from previous months, but I still push you to open up schools for hybrid learning. As stated in various studies, COVID transfer in school is incredibly low. For many students, being in schools with mandatory masks, distancing, and disinfecting is safer than being shuffled amongst learning centers or being left to their own devices. I work in a district that has been back hybrid since the end of September; cases have been minimal and only one is linked to possible in school transfer. Most come from activities or decisions that the families make outside of school.

The students are the ones suffering through all of this. The teachers in the district, especially Davis Hill, are going above and beyond to give their students a meaningful experience, but there is a limit to what can be done fully remotely. My daughter's teacher is amazing when working with her students. Being a teacher myself, I am often in awe of how she handles her class of 2nd graders who are all on different paces and just shouting out. However, these students haven't ever met their teacher in person or walked into their classroom. This is a big deal for building the teacher-student relationship for our young learners. I know for many, including my daughter, their love of going to school is really starting to change. In addition to the loss of learning, this desire to even go to school will affect them for years to come.

I would really like to push to vote for opening up our schools for hybrid learning on the 19th. I think that even if it is only possible for some of the students, this is the way we need to be moving. Please help support our students at this time.

Tom Rosoff

67 Prospect St

Rutland

Please allow our children the right to attend school. The lesson we are teaching our children is that when things get tough, we give up and hide. We need to try and make hybrid learning work like the other communities around us have. We are no longer the norm, but more the exception at this point and the people suffering are the kids. Educationally and emotionally they are suffering and it is not fair to them.

Shannon Laptewicz
482 Wachusett Street
Holden

Our daughter is six years old and a first grader at Mayo Elementary in Holden. She is doing well with remote learning, although is beginning to loose interest. I am writing with concern for her social and emotional health. Our daughter is an only child. We try our best to accommodate as many outdoor, socially distant visits and virtual play dates. She speaks with friends/family in different districts and states regulary, all of which have returned to in person learning. She asks a good question - why can they be safe in school, but I can't? Answer me that - WHY? As the months have gone on, her bright spirit, sense of adventure and imaginative play has diminished. She is angry, emotional and has begun talking more and more about NEEDING to return to school as opposed to wanting to return. She recently wrote a letter to her grandparents, who support us with remote learning, stating that she loved them although did not want to see them as often as she had been. She goes on to say that she misses her friends and needs to be back in school with them.

It has been disheartening to listen to recent school committee meetings and listen to an ongoing debate on metrics, remote teaching plans and logistics of transportation. The debate continues within out district as many other schools in our region have successfully returned to hybrid or full time in person learning. Many of those districts have had outbreaks and clusters of COVID cases. This WILL happen. And it WILL be okay. The continuing debate as to whether or not it is SAFE to return to school needs to end. If we're waiting for cases to stabilize, the children of our district will not step foot within ours schools during the 20/21 academic school year.

The teachers of our district are doing an amazing job - truly, they are! We owe our children SO much more though!

Mary Shepherd
1320 Wachusett Street
Holden

Dear Chair Weeks, members of the school committee, and residents of the five towns tuning in tonight,

The WREA would like to clarify some of the misleading statements made by Dr. McCall in his response to our letter of no confidence that he made during the meeting held on December 7th 2020.

First, it is worth remembering that the WREA statement of no confidence is not something we arrived at lightly. Our membership voted to condemn district leadership after careful thought and deliberation. It is also worth noting that our statement came after Dr. McCall narrowly escaped a no-confidence censure from the school committee earlier this fall. Currently, there is a statement of no confidence circulating that originated organically from parents in the district. Context matters, and given that the all three of the key stakeholders--the school committee, the teachers, and the parents--felt it necessary to formally undergo the process of crafting a statement of no confidence in the superintendent speaks volumes.

First, Dr. McCall tried to immediately deflect any responsibility for his lack of leadership by stating that many other districts are facing hardship at this time. Though that is undeniably true, many of the comparable districts to our own have not experienced the same levels of dysfunction and lack of transparency as we have seen in our district. For example, Shrewsbury has had a well crafted return-to-school plan in place since early June. On multiple occasions over the summer, WREA met with Dr McCall and the district negotiations team and asked them to consider discussing a reopening plan that addressed the entire district, and not just ESY summer services. This request was rejected. WREA even suggested that WRSD use large parts of other district plans that were well thought out and would be easy to negotiate in a manner that would benefit students, the districts and teachers alike. As members of this committee (and parents) are painfully aware, Dr. McCall did not create a reopening plan that was shared with community stakeholders until September. We would invite viewers to revisit the catalogue of past school committee meetings to see how many times Dr. McCall was asked to be more transparent and share basic information with the committee, only to repeatedly disappoint members who made their displeasure known during these meetings.

Next, Dr. McCall attempted to blame the lack of funding our district receives due to the state funding formula. Though we agree with Dr. McCall entirely that the funding formula is deeply flawed, this is more misdirection. Parents and teachers wanted answers to big questions about what reopening was going to look like. Nothing related to the budget or per-pupil spending was stopping Dr. McCall from adopting large sections of other districts reopening plans to use as a foundation for bargaining. Again, the WREA suggested we do this back in June to avoid having to scramble in the fall. This never happened. In fact, Dr. McCall was absent without reason for three out of seven crucial bargaining sessions we held over the summer.

In addition, Dr. McCall referenced his push to hire a deputy superintendent (chiefly responsible for organizing and developing PD) as an indicator that he is competent. This position was actually the result of a grievance filed by WREA because teachers were worried that the district was not offering a pathway to recertification through mismanagement of PD. It was not the brainchild of Dr. McCall. Additionally, it is worth noting that since the deputy superintendent was hired, PD concerns remain. It may surprise members of the committee to learn that--at the high school--there has only been one district run PD offering during the Wednesday half-days since September. It is January. Even when teachers are informed of PD offerings it has been poorly planned and communicated last minute, usually 18-36 hours before the PD takes place.

Fourth, Superintendent McCall audaciously claimed credit for having "contacted an outside environmental specialist" to examine the health and safety of the HVAC systems in the district schools. This was a demand made by WREA. Dr. McCall had no intention of bringing in any outside specialist to test air exchanges and fought against these measures at the bargaining table. He also fought against specific metrics the WREA proposed that were based on CDC and WHO data that would indicate if the air was unsafe because the HVAC systems are not functioning properly.

Put plainly, the WREA was disturbed by Superintendent McCall's misleading response to our statement of no confidence. We could not, in good conscience, allow his dishonest remarks to continue to mislead the committee and the public at-large.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this corrective rejoinder.

Sincerely,

The WREA Executive Board

WRSD COVID Community Task Force

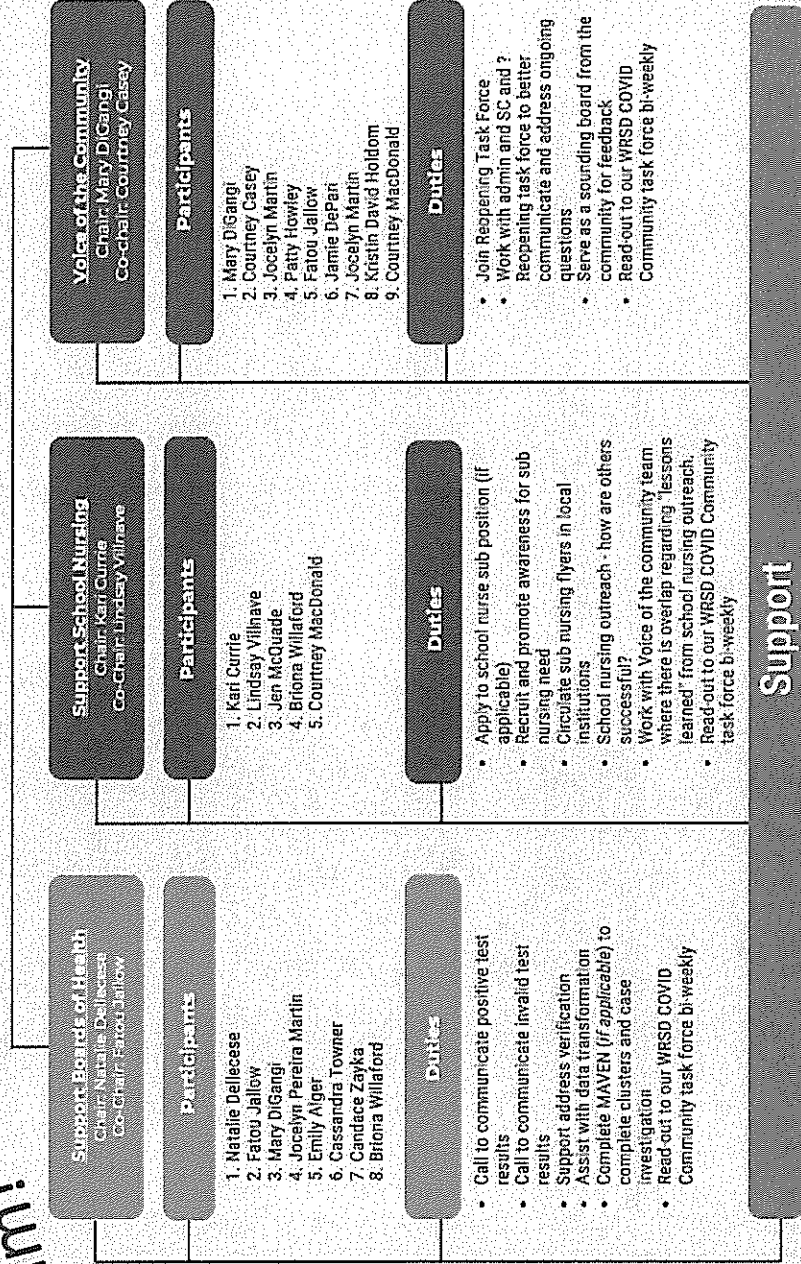
School Committee Readout

as of January 7, 2020

Welcome to the
Team!



WRSD COVID Community Task Force



This group includes 13 "floating" members that attend bi-weekly meetings, spread the word of ongoing efforts, and are able to plug into our existing groups where they are able.

Support Local Boards of Health

- **Communications with Local Boards of Health:**
 - Assistance offered to **all 5 towns** within WRSD
 - **Holden and Paxton** have engaged
 - Paxton has requested Task Force be enabled in MAVEN
 - Task Force is currently onboarding **6 new volunteers** in MAVEN
 - **Rutland, Princeton, and Sterling are currently supported** by Wachusett Medical Reserves.
 - Task Force has requested engagement with the Director of Wachusett Medical Reserves.
- **Current Work Efforts:**
 - Already completed **197 calls** to people that have tested positive or inconclusive for follow up and containment
 - Already assisted with cluster case data transformation for contact tracing

Support School Nursing

- Promoted WRSD School Nurse Substitute flyers in **4 local hospitals, 2 schools of nursing, and 3 private practice facilities**
- Achieved **new applicants**
 - **3 nurses** have already applied/plan to apply from the task force
- Completed outreach to **5 local districts** for “lessons learned”

Voice of the Community

- Requests to join COVID Reopening Task Force and see meeting resume
- Provide feedback to WRSD School Committee and WRSD Administration
- Determine how to better inform the WRSD community



"I think one of the issues I have is the absence reporting variance for schools. They are different between each and no questions asked regarding COVID."
—TPS and WRHS parent

"There are too many emails and videos to watch. I would like it to all be posted to the school website under COVID protocols." — Mayo parent

"I still really don't understand what is the entrance criteria for them to get into the building? What do the numbers have to be (based upon this matrix)? Is there anything left to be done?" — Dawson parent

"I know we are considering only closing affected schools, but is the district also considering shutting down classes for close contacts? Should parents be advised to keep siblings in other schools home too?" — WRHS parent

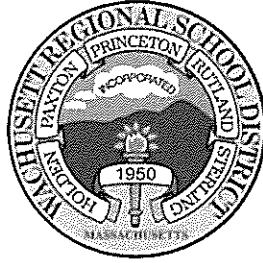


*Where do we go from
here?*

Opportunities for Improvement

We need your help!

- Problem: Disparate, confusing, and/or untimely communication surrounding COVID 19 and return to school criteria
- Potential Solutions:
 1. Increased Visibility to meaningful information – post information to the WRSD website
 2. Larger community feedback - Town Hall / Roundtable / Open Meeting Format for Stakeholders
 3. Additional Support from the WRSD School Committee - 2 liaisons to meet regularly with the Task Force



Transition to Hybrid Planning Update

Report of the Superintendent
January 11, 2021

1

Facilities/PPE

2

Actions

- We have received additional sprayers so each school now will have at least two disinfectant sprayers for use in deep cleaning of classrooms
- We have meters to measure airflow rates and carbon dioxide levels and have begun to train School Admin and Head Custodians on how to measure air change rates (air changes per hour) using the airflow meter.
- Additional personal protective equipment is arriving at all our schools. This order will provide each school with enough PPE to last for 2-4 months of in-person teaching. Additional PPE will be purchased in early March as we determine usage rates.

Transportation

Actions

- Transportation routes have been developed by cohort group
 - Regular yellow bus routes
 - Specialized transportation van routes
 - Cohort groups and bus routes are finalized

Next Steps

- Parent Notification of bus pick up and drop off times - Wednesday

Instruction

Actions

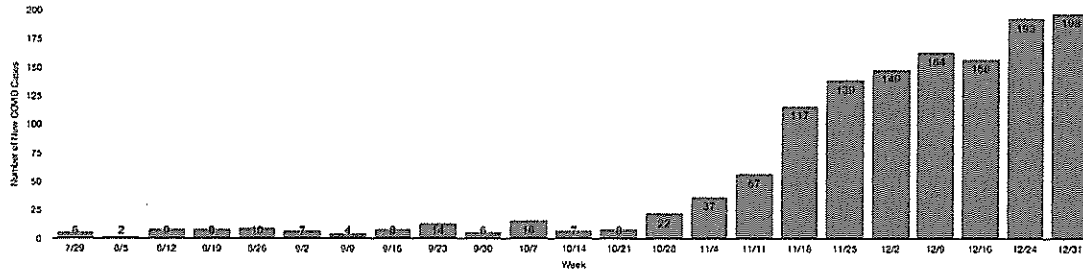
- Central office administration has met individually with each Principal in regard to school readiness
 - Logistics
 - Staffing
 - Resources
 - Professional learning
- Professional development in Blended Learning - Catlin Tucker Online PD course is available for all teachers to take
- January 4th - All Teachers reported back to School buildings
 - Classroom set-up day
 - Instruction is currently being delivered from classrooms

Health & Safety Metrics

Weekly Update COVID-19

Compiled by Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at UMass Medical School

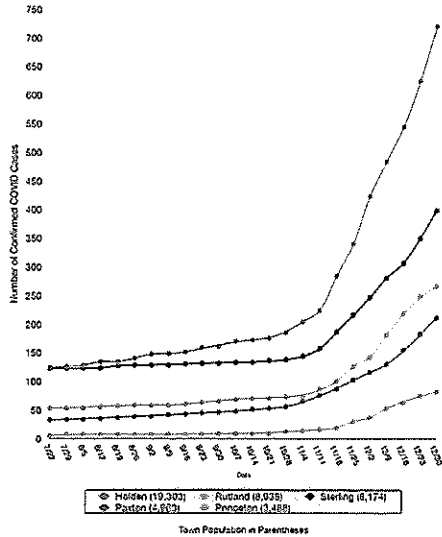
Wachusett Region New COVID Cases Per Week



Includes all 5 towns: Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling

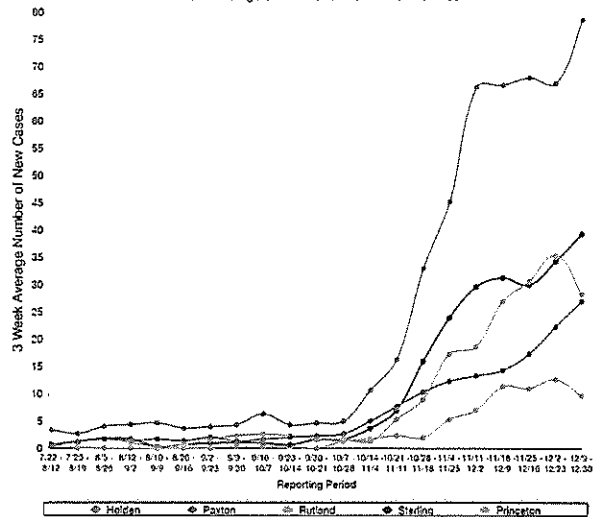
Data extracted from www.mass.gov by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School

WRSD Town Cumulative COVID Cases



Data extracted from www.mass.gov by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School

3 Week Average of Number of New Cases Per Week



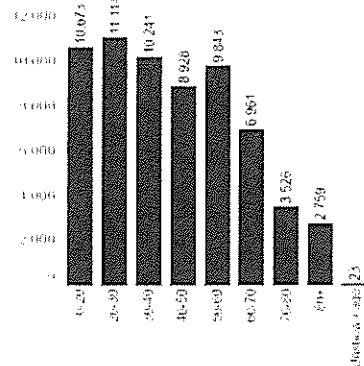
Data extracted from www.mass.gov by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School

MA COVID Statistics by Age Group

Age groups

Confirmed and probable cases, hospitalizations and deaths by age group

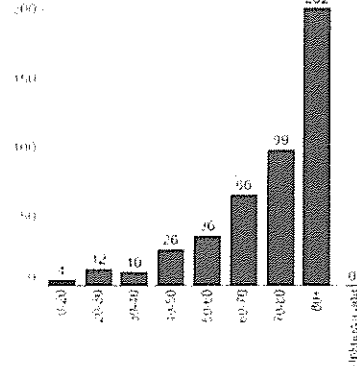
Dates during the last two weeks



Age groups

Confirmed and probable cases, hospitalizations and deaths by age group

Hospitalized patients during the last two weeks



WRSD Learning Model Decision Matrix: COVID-19 Pandemic

Forward and Assumptions:

It is assumed that all district schools are adequately prepared for in-person instruction with appropriate health and safety protocols, supplies and planning, as well as having necessary infrastructure readiness in place as per DESE and MA DPH guidelines. It is assumed that a hybrid plan is approved which can nimble pivot to remote learning and back. For return to fully in-person learning, it is assumed that transportation/bussing issues are resolved. It is further assumed that there exist no governmental orders which supersede this plan.

These parameters are intended to serve as guidelines, and it should be understood that given the unprecedented nature of pandemic COVID-19, that adjustments may be warranted as more information and/or resources become available.

MAJOR CRITERIA				
DOMAINS	Risk Level 1	Risk Level 2	Risk Level 3	Risk Level 4
Available Staff Resources	Staffing is typical for pre-pandemic levels	4% of staff members per school is absent due to isolation/quarantine, schools are easily able to backfill, nursing services are available.	8% of staff members per school are absent due to isolation/quarantine, or current absences can be filled with available resources but resources are anticipated to be diminished, nursing services remain available	Greater than 8% of staff members per school are absent due to isolation/quarantine events, or adequate backfill is no longer possible, or nursing services are not available
Available PPE/Cleaning & Sanitizing resources	Supply is adequate for the semester, no shortages are anticipated	At least 3 months supply on hand	5-8 weeks supply on hand	2-4 weeks supply on hand
State/Regional Healthcare Resources	Mostly unaffected but for visitation and pretesting procedures, etc. There is no surge capacity in use and elective procedures are able to proceed	Minimal impact to hospitals. Some surge capacity may be in place and utilized. Staff are redeployed for testing purposes only. There are adequate hospital beds available and hospitals are not using command centers.	Hospitals are using significant surge capacity, but still able to meet needs with available resources. Staff are being redeployed to handle COVID surge. There remains capacity in ICU's and adequate ventilation supplies.	Surge capacity is being utilized, elective procedures have been deferred, staff are being redeployed to handle surge cases. ICU beds and/or ventilation supplies are limited. Staffing is deteriorously affected by viral spread to staff members.
Presence of Multiple Cases in District Schools (Reference: Massachusetts DESE Guidance)	No confirmed COVID cases among school community members	If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (students or staff) in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders and the superintendent should work with the local board of health to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening in school.	When there is suspected in-school transmission beyond one cohort or a small number of cohorts, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps should include a review of the specific COVID-19 public health metrics for the municipality and could lead to, for example, making a decision to a) close part of the school or the entire school for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) close the school partially or fully for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.	Should there be circumstances where there are multiple cases in multiple schools, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps should include a review of the specific COVID-19 public health metrics for the municipality and could lead to, for example, making a decision to a) shut down the district for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) shut down the district for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.
Community positivity rate (calculated for district as a whole, not including higher end surveillance testing)	0 - 1.5%	1.6% - 2.5%	2.6% - 4.9%	≥ 5%
Response Level				
Response Level Definitions:	Response Level 1	Response Level 2	Response Level 3	Response Level 4
	Fully in-person learning except for Cohort C	Hybrid Learning in place	All students remote except for Cohort D	All students fully remote except for those most at risk / in need of in-person instruction

Important Note: The Risk Level assessment (see above) informs a decision about the Response Level. Response Level decisions made by district administration will analyze the Risk Level in the corresponding domains. Response Level decisions may impact a particular classroom, a group of classrooms, an entire school, or the entire school district depending on the prevalence and severity of the current Risk Level.

Current Status

DOMAIN	RISK LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Available Staff Resources	2	4% of staff members per school are absent due to isolation/quarantine, schools are easily able to backfill, nursing services are available.
Available PPE/Cleaning & Sanitizing Resources	1	Supply is adequate for the semester, no shortages are anticipated.
State/Regional Healthcare Resources	3	Hospitals are using significant surge capacity, but still able to meet needs with available resources. Staff are being redeployed to handle COVID surge. There remains capacity in ICU's and adequate ventilation supplies.
Presence of Multiple Cases in District Schools (Reference: Massachusetts DESE Guidance)	2	If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (students or staff) in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders and the superintendent should work with the local board of health to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening in school.
Community Positivity Rate (calculated for district as a whole; not including higher ed surveillance testing)	4	≥ 5%
RESPONSE LEVEL	2	Hybrid Learning in place

1/11 Boards of Health Meeting Summary

- Current Cases are remain high in each of the towns
 - Holden 228, Paxton 63, Princeton 21, Rutland 53, Sterling 37
- Positivity Rates %
 - Holden 8.99, Paxton 12.8, Princeton 7.37, Rutland 6.46, Sterling 9.8
- Expressed concern about the rates that have increased during second spike
- Weighing the balance between health & safety and providing the best educational environment and opportunities
- May not know how the transition to hybrid will affect COVID community numbers until we try it
- Stress that students and/or teachers cannot attend school if they are sick

Pooled Testing

- Pooled testing involves mixing several test samples together in a “batch” or “pool” and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-2.
- This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested using the same amount of resources as a single PCR test.
- The test is performed at least once per week with anterior nasal swab for all students and staff members. Results are delivered within approximately 24-48 hours.
- If a pooled test result is negative, then all individuals within that pool are presumed negative and may continue to remain in school. If a pooled test result is positive, then all individuals in the pool must quarantine until they are retested individually.
- The Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen test will be the primary source of this individual follow-up testing.

Pooled Testing - 6 Week Launch

- During an initial 6-week period, participating districts and schools will receive the test kits, support from a testing service provider, and the testing software to track results, all at no cost to them.
- Following the initial 6-week launch, districts and schools may continue using pooled testing by purchasing the tests and any other accompanying testing materials, software, or support from a statewide contract using their federal stimulus dollars.

Dana Sandova
95 Winthrop Lane
Holden

Attachment 4

I have a Senior , Freshmen, and a 2nd grader. These kids have missed out on enough already, they need interaction with their peers and teachers. I am concerned of the long term impact this will have especially on the younger kids.

Philip Gransewicz
14 Laurel Ln
Princeton

In case you forgot my email...

Please read in the public comment segment at the start of the WRSD SC meeting on Dec. 21, 2020.

December 21, 2020

Dear Wachusett Regional School Committee Members,

I would like to comment on your desire for metrics on which to base the re-opening of our schools in the near future, also known as "NOT EARLIER THAN January 19, 2021".

Where were these metrics in August, 2020? Where were these metrics in September, 2020? Where were these metrics in November, 2020? Of course, you didn't have them because you did not need them. The DEFAULT position of the State of Massachusetts, the Governor, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the CDC is that schools SHOULD BE OPEN for in school learning using the proper safety guidelines. Many other schools in this state, around our country and around the world HAVE BEEN OPEN, yet our district schools remain closed, denying many of our students the education they need and deserve. Everybody looking at the data and science knows that schools and children are NOT a primary source of the transmission of the virus, but that seems to carry no weight with the WRSD SC. So much for following the data and the science.

I get the feeling the insistence on metrics at this stage is not meant to open the schools, but instead to keep the schools closed based on an unattainable metric, and worse, a metric NOT RELATED to our schools. I would like to remind WRSD SC members your responsibility is to our school system, and our childrens' education. You are NOT a regional Board of Health. The only metrics you should be considering are how to manage any COVID cases that might arise within the school system once opened. It is NOT your responsibility to keep our schools closed in order to keep a state wide case count down, especially at the cost of our childrens' education.

Speculation and fear should have no place in this discussion and decision because very real damage is being done to thousands of children in this district by being kept out of school for nearly a year. This damage is NOT being done by the virus. This damage is self inflicted by keeping the schools closed when all of the data, science and experts say they should be open. I once again ask, after 9 months, "What is left to do to open our schools?" If the answer is nothing, then your fiduciary responsibility is to open the schools and manage them, and the virus, the same way all others are doing it.

Best Regards,

Philip Gransewicz
14 Laurel Lane
Princeton, MA 01541

Dana Sandova
95 Winthrop Lane
Holden

I'd like to know what the district plans to do about our Seniors in High School, they are missing out on what should be great times and memories. I want to see a plan on how to handle Graduation, Prom, and other senior activities.

Michaela Becker

335 Chapel St

Holden

Remote has been very difficult and a lot of anxiety. My daughter has been remote and missed so much going from Mountview to WRHS during this time. Her Strong classes from home are ok but if it is a struggling class it is almost impossible. I also have a 10th Grader at Monty Tech that has successfully been hybrid since September with a much more robust hybrid program than you have put forward. 2 half days really? My child has lost so much already. There should be more support for kids that are struggling and having anxiety.

Michele E Van Reet
230 Charnock Hill Rd
Rutland

It's nice that you invited 'Natalie and her nurses' so quickly to present to the School Committee in an open meeting. Could we also get an update on the status of the initial reopening task force the community members volunteered to work on over the summer? Has that task force been disbanded? Why hasn't the original task force been meeting?

Aidan Kearney
111 Mason Rd
Holden

My daughter is a kindergarten student at Davis Hill. She's never stepped foot in her school. She has no friends, as her peers are nothing more than faces on a computer screen for her. Although she's making the best of it she desperately wants to go to school. Watching her do gym class by jumping over a piece of paper in her bedroom is painful to watch as a parent. She has sacrificed enough and done her part, now it's time for her to go to school. We moved here from Worcester specifically for the schools, something we have not experienced yet. This is unacceptable. There are no studies that show schools are high transmission areas. If anything a controlled environment where kids see the same small amount of kids every day is much safer than parents sending kids to learning pods. Enough of the fear-mongering.

Suzanne Lovejoy
3 Juniper Lane
Holden

Dear School Committee members and Superintendent McCall,

Please let me first thank everyone so much for the dedication you have to our school district.

As both a parent of a student at WRHS and an employee of WRSD, I would like to respectfully request that Hybrid Learning be postponed from 1/19/21 if the newly created extensive metrics show that postponement is full-fills the results. These metrics were requested so many times by the school committee and finally developed and presented at the Dec 21st meeting.

At this point, it seems that some well-intentioned commentators now do not want to follow these metrics as determiners for remaining remote. Please do not change the plan that was set in place in December to ensure safety for employees, students, community and beyond. (Overburdened hospitals, for example).

My youngest daughter is a Senior this year and is successfully navigating the Remote Learning Model. She has actually gained skills in many areas with independence and self-advocacy as two examples.

My serious underlying medical conditions make me high risk for severe Covid, which concerns both myself and my doctor, even with the PPE provided by the District. I'm hoping the vaccine arrives sooner rather than later for my older colleagues and those with pre-existing conditions.

Though my plan is to return to the job I love, the recent extreme increase in Corona cases in addition to the close contacts and tracing limitations, as well as unpredictable happenings that cannot be avoided in an elementary school setting, make me question: Why, especially now? As the threat of Covid spread is becoming much more dangerous and vaccines are so near. (Please take into account the new Covid strain, which is much MORE contagious).

As indicated by a recent parent survey, most students are doing well remote learning. Also, I know of some children in other districts who ARE distressed by being in hybrid school with the stringent mask rules and extensive limitations on true social interactions. Unfortunately, social/emotional learning during hybrid is NOT a positive experience for all young students.

I believe that an extension of Hybrid Learning will be our safest path based on current data, if our long-awaited approved Metrics are used and show the indication to remain remote ----- not only for my family, but also for our school community, and the community as a whole.

Respectfully,

Suzanne

Philip Gransewicz

14 Laurel Ln

Princeton

Will younger children (K-2) be exempted from this testing or will there be less intrusive testing methods for younger children? If kids are traumatized by testing, it will be impossible to get them to go to school.

Nicole Daly
35 Kilburn Road
Sterling

Dr. McCall stated at tonight's School Committee meeting that buildings will be deep cleaned on Wednesday afternoons with the disinfecting equipment. As a WRSD teacher, this is contrary to information that I received from Jeff Carlson in a December 30th email response that the disinfecting fogging would NOT be done on Wednesday afternoons. It is ALSO different from the information my principal shared last week about the fogging happening in our building on Monday-Friday evenings.

Kristina Naiman
21 Michael drive
Rutland

Dear members of School Committee and Central Office,

I'd like to politely ask that the district considers sending an email to all district staff and all district families prior to 1/19 outlining the health and safety protocols we all must follow surrounding masks and hygiene. I realize this has been shared in various places, but having the most important aspects for health in safety in one place as a reminder would be important.

Specifically, it would be important to highlight:

1. Hand hygiene surrounding mask wearing (putting on and taking off)
2. Hand hygiene surrounding entering/exiting buildings
3. Hand hygiene surrounding entering/exiting classrooms
4. Sanitization of desks/tables surrounding eating and also switching of students
5. Mask protocols

Thank you for your consideration to highlight some of the most important ways to mitigate COVID spread prior to hybrid opening on 1/19.

Sincerely,
Kristina Naiman

Ryan

McMullin

Princeton

In regards to the pooled testing, will the percentage of each respective school community that consents to testing (and conversely, declining consent) be published to inform the WRSD community so they may assess the impact and validity of interpreting case rate positivity of such testing?

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Special Meeting #330

Monday, January 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet**AGENDA:**

- I Call to Order
- II Presentation by MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher
Parliamentary Procedure
- III 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

Monday, January 25, 2021
7:00 p.m.Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet**AGENDA:**

- I Public Hearing
- II Chair's Opening Remarks
 - Recognition of Project 351 Ambassadors
 - Update/Report by SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
 - Discussion of WREA Statement of No Confidence and possibility of the need to form a task force to look into concerns
- III Student Representatives' Reports
- IV Superintendent's Report
 - A. Discussion of Report
 - B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
Motion: Acceptance of donation of school and office furniture from UNUM of Worcester, Massachusetts, with an estimated value of \$20,000
- V Unfinished Business
- VI Secretary's Report
 - 1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on August 24, 2020
 - 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on September 14, 2020
 - 3. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on September 29, 2020
 - 4. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on November 9, 2020
 - 5. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on November 17, 2020
 - 6. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSDC held on December 7, 2020
 - 7. Approval of the #1356 Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on January 11, 2021
- VII Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements
- VIII Committee Reports
 - A. Management Subcommittee
 - B. Education Subcommittee
 - C. Business/Finance Subcommittee
 - D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee
 - E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee
 - F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee
 - G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism Subcommittee
 - H. Audit Advisory Board
 - I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - J. Building Committees
 - K. School Council Reports
- IX Public Hearing
- X New Business
- XI 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

Management Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA:

- I Call to Order
- II Approval of Minutes
- III Subcommittee Reports
- IV Update on Implementation of Hybrid
- V Five Year Review of the Regional Agreement
- VI Policy Review - 1000 Series
 - Policy 1111 *School Committee Member Responsibility*
 - Policy 1160 *School Committee Member Ethics*
 - Policy 1170 *Use of Electronic Messaging Between and Among School Committee Members*
 - Policy 1610.1 *Remote Participation*
 - Draft Policy *Social Media*
- VII Recognizing and Celebrating Student Achievement
- VIII Advocacy Updates
- IX Old Business
- X New Business
- XI Next Meeting
- XII 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, February 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

Thursday, February 4, 2021
7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Special Meeting #331

Monday, February 8, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA:

- I Call to Order
- II Discussion of Educational Priorities and Budget Standards for FY22
- III 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

Monday, February 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Annual Budget Hearing

Monday, March 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA:

- I Call to Order
- II Presentation of the Proposed FY22 Appropriation
- III Public Hearing
- IV 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

Monday, March 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

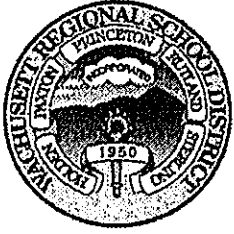
Monday, March 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

Monday, March 22, 2021
6:30 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 4, 2021

Ms. Ekaavli Daga
76 Greenwood Parkway
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Ekaavli:

Congratulations on your new role as a Project 351 ambassador, representing Mountview Middle School and the Wachusett District. Your year ahead should prove to be very exciting, inspirational, educational, and fun, and I wish you the very best as you take on this new challenge.

Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee would like the opportunity to meet you and the other Wachusett Ambassadors and to have the chance to congratulate you on being selected as an Ambassador. Currently all School Committee meetings are being conducted virtually, but we hope that you and your parents might be able to join us at the January 25, 2021 regular meeting of the WRSDC. School Committee meetings are conducted via Google Meet beginning at 7:00 PM, and introducing you, Leighla, Charlie, Emma, and Jordan would be at the beginning of the agenda. As the date approaches, we will send a Google Meet invitation to your wrsd student email address.

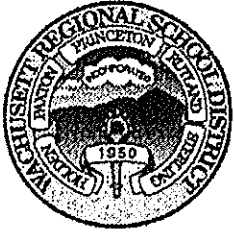
I look forward to meeting you on January 25th if you are able to briefly attend our virtual School Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Erik Githmark, Principal, Mountview Middle School

DM:rlp



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 4, 2021

Ms. Leighla Boucher
9 Nanigian Road
Paxton, MA 01612

Dear Leighla:

Congratulations on your new role as a Project 351 ambassador, representing Paxton Center School and the Wachusett District. Your year ahead should prove to be very exciting, inspirational, educational, and fun, and I wish you the very best as you take on this new challenge.

Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee would like the opportunity to meet you and the other Wachusett Ambassadors and to have the chance to congratulate you on being selected as an Ambassador. Currently all School Committee meetings are being conducted virtually, but we hope that you and your parents might be able to join us at the January 25, 2021 regular meeting of the WRSDC. School Committee meetings are conducted via Google Meet beginning at 7:00 PM, and introducing you, Ekaavli, Charlie, Emma, and Jordan be at the beginning of the agenda. As the date approaches, we will send a Google Meet invitation to your wrsd student email address.

I look forward to meeting you on January 25th if you are able to briefly attend our virtual School Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Shawn Rickan, Principal, Paxton Center School

DM:rlp



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 4, 2021

Mr. Charlie Doyle
8A Sterling Road
Princeton, MA 01541

Dear Charlie:

Congratulations on your new role as a Project 351 ambassador, representing Thomas Prince School and the Wachusett District. Your year ahead should prove to be very exciting, inspirational, educational, and fun, and I wish you the very best as you take on this new challenge.

Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee would like the opportunity to meet you and the other Wachusett Ambassadors and to have the chance to congratulate you on being selected as an Ambassador. Currently all School Committee meetings are being conducted virtually, but we hope that you and your parents might be able to join us at the January 25, 2021 regular meeting of the WRSDC. School Committee meetings are conducted via Google Meet beginning at 7:00 PM, and introducing you, Leighla, Ekaavli, Emma, and Jordan would be at the beginning of the agenda. As the date approaches, we will send a Google Meet invitation to your wrsd student email address.

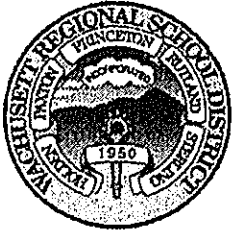
I look forward to meeting you on January 25th if you are able to briefly attend our virtual School Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Tammy Boyle, Principal, Thomas Prince School

DM:rlp



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 4, 2021

Ms. Emma Day
45 Sassawanna Road
Rutland, MA 01543

Dear Emma:

Congratulations on your new role as a Project 351 ambassador, representing Central Tree Middle School and the Wachusett District. Your year ahead should prove to be very exciting, inspirational, educational, and fun, and I wish you the very best as you take on this new challenge.

Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee would like the opportunity to meet you and the other Wachusett Ambassadors and to have the chance to congratulate you on being selected as an Ambassador. Currently all School Committee meetings are being conducted virtually, but we hope that you and your parents might be able to join us at the January 25, 2021 regular meeting of the WRSDC. School Committee meetings are conducted via Google Meet beginning at 7:00 PM, and introducing you, Leighla, Ekaavli, Charlie, and Jordan would be at the beginning of the agenda. As the date approaches, we will send a Google Meet invitation to your wrsd student email address.

I look forward to meeting you on January 25th if you are able to briefly attend our virtual School Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
David Cornacchioli, Principal, Central Tree Middle School

DM:rlp



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

January 4, 2021

Ms. Jordan D'Amelio
20 Holden Road
Sterling, MA 01564

Dear Jordan:

Congratulations on your new role as a Project 351 ambassador, representing Chocksett Middle School and the Wachusett District. Your year ahead should prove to be very exciting, inspirational, educational, and fun, and I wish you the very best as you take on this new challenge.

Members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee would like the opportunity to meet you and the other Wachusett Ambassadors and to have the chance to congratulate you on being selected as an Ambassador. Currently all School Committee meetings are being conducted virtually, but we hope that you and your parents might be able to join us at the January 25, 2021 regular meeting of the WRSDC. School Committee meetings are conducted via Google Meet beginning at 7:00 PM, and introducing you, Leighla, Ekaavli, Emma, and Charlie would be at the beginning of the agenda. As the date approaches, we will send a Google Meet invitation to your wrsd student email address.

I look forward to meeting you on January 25th if you are able to briefly attend our virtual School Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Christopher LaBreck Principal, Chocksett Middle School

DM:rlp

*January 21, 2021***Goal 1 – Student Learning Goal**

By June 2021, the Superintendent, and his team, will provide an outline identifying and prioritizing improvements to technology, resource acquisition, and newly discovered educational best practices that informs the vision of our next Strategic Plan.

December 2020 update: This goal includes assessing what is working with remote learning. This week, a survey was sent to parents to get their feedback on remote learning for Quarter 1. We will be asking teachers for their feedback through a survey as well. We will be reviewing this information over the next few weeks.

Mid-Cycle Update (1/19/2021): This past month, we have worked toward improving our capacity to provide both in-person learning for those families choosing to have their children return to school and also for families who have chosen to remain remote. We have provided all teachers the opportunity to take an online, self-paced course on blended and online learning offered by educator Catlin Tucker (Blended/Online Learning) to help them as they transition to teaching both in-person and remote. Well over 220 teachers have signed up to take the course thus far. It will remain available for all teachers through the remainder of this school year. A survey on remote/hybrid learning will also be shared with all teachers within the next few weeks to gain further insight into how best to support remote learning. We will also be determining some form of direct assessment to assess the effectiveness of our technology programs that we have been using.

Currently, as we move from Remote Learning to Hybrid, we are assessing our technology capabilities in terms of continuing to provide all students with appropriate technology support for remote learning in any of the cohorts. Supervisor of Information Services, Barry Sclar, has developed a tech support plan and the following have been accomplished this school year:

1:1 Chromebook Plan

Chromebooks for grade 6 and 7 students have been prepared for distribution. They will be issued to students at their respective schools in conjunction with the start of hybrid learning. The balance of our remaining Chromebook orders are expected to be delivered by the end of January.

Anticipating a continued shortage of Chromebooks through the summer, we are placing an order now for 600 additional units to be issued to incoming 6th grade students in the fall of 2021.

Chromebook Carts

As 1:1 devices are issued to students in grades 6 through 8, Chromebooks that may have been loaned to those students will be collected, inspected, cleaned, and moved to elementary schools to replenish and update carts that were stripped to facilitate the Chromebook Loan Program.

PC Upgrades

In response to reports of performance issues related to presenting videos through Google Meet sessions, teachers' desktop computers are being upgraded ahead of previously planned refresh schedules. All teacher desktop computers are now being replaced with a completion target date of February 19th

Hybrid Instruction Equipment

Superintendent's Goals 2020 - 2021 – Update

January 21, 2021

Additional hardware specifically intended to support hybrid instruction has been and continues to be purchased. These items include webcams, document cameras, microphones, speakers, headphones, bluetooth adapters, etc.

February 2021 update:

March 2021 update:

April 2021 update:

Superintendent's Goals 2020 - 2021 – Update

January 21, 2021

Goal 2 – District Improvement Goal

By June of 2021, the Superintendent, working with district and school leadership, will promote diversity, equity, and inclusion District-wide by defining and outlining sustainable practices needed to transform our culture.

December 2020 update: This goal will begin in earnest when PLT meets in December to begin the discussions around the book, *Unconscious Bias in Schools*. This will continue through the next several weeks as we complete the book and also participate in case studies.

Mid-Cycle Update (1/19/2021): On two PLT (Principal Leadership Team) agendas has been review/discussion/book study on *Unconscious Bias in Schools*. Principals are asked to share their thoughts, perspectives, views and viewpoints and we, as a group, have had some very interesting and deep discussions about the first several chapters of this book. I have been particularly impressed by the case studies principals have shared with their peers, some looking for input and suggestions from other principals and some principals sharing positive outcomes and results from actions they have taken when confronted with a situation in their building. Upon conclusion of this book study, we will take the time during a PLT meeting to develop the most effective and unified method to share the outcomes and implement the suggestions and ideas in the 13 schools across the District. The next book for PLT reading and study is *Case Studies on Diversity and Social Justice*, which I am anxious to delve into and piggyback onto the takeaways from *Unconscious Bias in Schools*.

It is important to note that this goal is a carryover from my 2019-2020 goals, completion of which was, unfortunately, cut short by the pandemic and schools be out of session from March forward. I felt it was best to restart attention to this goal, and we are keeping in mind the political and social atmosphere we have experienced in the last twelve months.

Director Keenan and I also met with two representatives from The Disruptive Equity Education Project - DEEP (<https://digdeepforequity.org/>). This group specializes in working with schools on developing support systems for leaders and staff to work toward creating unbiased learning environments. We have received follow-up information from the group and will be having another virtual meeting within the next two weeks.

February 2021 update:

March 2021 update:

April 2021 update:

Superintendent's Goals 2020 - 2021 – Update

January 21, 2021

Goal 3 – Professional Practice Goal

By June 2021, the Superintendent will establish and implement a system that enhances the communication between home and school for all families with school aged children who reside within the district.

December 2020 update: We are currently using the DESE Building Blocks of Equitable Remote Learning as a framework for assessing how best to enhance communication. This tool that is designed for remote learning is also applicable for communication in general. (<https://app.equitableremotelearning.org/>)

Mid-Cycle Update (1/19/2021): As we further define the system of communication, we continue to provide updated information to families on a regular basis. Building principals are sending communication regularly in the form of SchoolMessenger emails or weekly newsletters. I have sent numerous SchoolMessenger messages since the start of school, but have also started a weekly newsletter that is shared with all staff, students and families every week. My most recent Wachusett News message has received over 17,000 views since it was published on Saturday, January 16th:



Wachusett News
Update from Superintendent Darryll McCall January 16

Return to In-Person learning through the Hybrid Model

We are looking forward to our transition to Hybrid learning this coming Tuesday, January 19th. Everyone is excited to have our students and staff back in our schools, learning and connecting with one another in-person. I wish to thank our administrators, nurses, custodial, clerical, support staff and teachers for making the best of a challenging situation and working toward reopening with a positive attitude.

As we transition from the Remote to Hybrid learning model, please be reminded that we will be continually monitoring our health metrics, and may need to pivot back to the Remote model at the

Visitors **17,128**
Likes 0
Show Analytics
Email Report
Link PRIVATE

It is commonplace for members of the Wachusett community to reach out to me, mostly via email, to express thanks and appreciation for the communication from the Central Office. Often times what is shared in a SchoolMessenger or an edition of *Wachusett News* may lead to questions or requests from the public, which can usually be addressed by Central Office staff. My weekly Smore newsletters are available on the District website for those in our community who do not have children attending a Wachusett school.

February 2021 update:

March 2021 update:

Superintendent's Goals 2020 - 2021 – Update

January 21, 2021

Goal 4 – District Improvement Goal

By June 2021, the District will create a plan of action that proactively addresses student retention issues in the school district.

December 2020 update: We are currently gathering information around student retention based upon our most recent data. We will also be sharing information with NESDEC, which will then update the projections associated with student enrollment.

Mid-Cycle Update (1/19/2021): Updated NESDEC information was returned to the District for review prior to the formal publication of the data. Director Keenan, Deputy Berlo and I are reviewing the draft version of the information and will be in contact with NESDEC concerning any irregularities. Survey, Town Hall meetings, listening forums with families concerning reasons for students being unenrolled in the WRSD will be scheduled over the next two months to gain more knowledge around retention issues in our district.

February 2021 update:

March 2021 update:

April 2021 update:

Administrator Plan Form

WRSDC 11/03/2020

Approved by WRSDC 11/9/2020

Administrator—Name/Title: Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent

Primary Evaluator—Name/Title: WRSDC

Student Learning Goal

Check whether goal is individual or team; write team name if applicable.

Individual

x Team:

- By June of 2021, the Superintendent, and his team, will provide an outline identifying and prioritizing improvements to technology, resource acquisition, and newly discovered educational best practices that informs the vision of our next Strategic Plan.

Student Learning Goal(s): Planned Activities

*Describe actions the educator will take to attain the student learning goal(s).
Activities may apply to individual and/or team. Attach additional pages as needed.*

Action	Supports/Resources from School/District ¹	Timeline or Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess what is working with remote learning. How does the delivery of instruction need to change and how do we assess learning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School administrative team• Superintendent/District level administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess how learning has occurred best and identify areas that are working well and areas in need of improvement and share document with principals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent/District level administration• Teachers• Panorama• online assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2/2021

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess how has occurred best and identify areas that are working well and areas in need of improvement and share document with principals • Document an examination of various learning models currently being utilized in comparable school districts • Draft an outline of what resources including technology, developed and shared with committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/District level administration • Teachers • School administrative team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/District level administration • School administrative team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/District level administration • School administrative team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06/2021

Educator—Name/Title: Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent

Administrator Plan Form

District Improvement Goal <i>Check whether goal is individual or team; write team name if applicable.</i>
Individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- By June of 2021, the Superintendent, working with district and school leadership, will promote diversity, equity, and inclusion District-wide by defining and outlining sustainable practices needed to transform our culture.

District Improvement Goal(s): Planned Activities <i>Describe actions the educator will take to attain the professional practice goal(s). Activities may apply to individual and/or team. Attach additional pages as needed.</i>		
Action	Supports/Resources from School/District ¹	Timeline or Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion during monthly PLT meetings. Minutes of meetings, study guides, questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Studies on Diversity and Social Justice Education• Unconscious Bias in Schools• Superintendent/District level administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/2020 through 06/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a Book Study using Unconscious Bias in Schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book: Unconscious Bias in Schools• Book: Case Studies on Diversity and Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/2020 through 06/2021

¹ Must identify means for educator to receive feedback for improvement per 603 CMR 35.06(3)(d).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect anecdotal feedback from administrators on what they feel next steps are for them - school and leadership team • Research and secure external strategic partnership(s) to develop sustainable, multi-year effort to embed equitable mindsets and practices at all levels District-wide • Develop preliminary multi-year plans, in collaboration with external partner, to embed equitable mindsets and practices at all levels District-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit surveys/Minute paper • Central Office administration conducting outreach and meeting with potential partners • District and building-level administration collaborating to align plan to existing and new school structures and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/2021 • 03/2021 • 06/2021
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Administrator Plan Form

Educator—Name/Title: Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent

Primary Evaluator—Name/Title: WRSDC

Professional Practice

Check whether goal is individual or team; write team name if applicable.

Individual

x Team:

- By June of 2021, the Superintendent will establish and implement a system that enhances the communication between home and school for all families with school aged children who reside within the district.

Professional Practice Goal: Planned Activities

Describe actions the educator will take to attain the student learning goal(s).

Activities may apply to individual and/or team. Attach additional pages as needed.

Action	Supports/Resources from School/District ¹	Timeline or Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilize DESE Building Blocks of Equitable Remote Learning program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent/District level administration• https://app.equitableremotelearning.org/communicate-clearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze current system to determine what has worked well, what has not worked, and what needs to be repaired	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent/District level administration• School administration• Staff• Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 01/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the primary source of information and outline the system and organization of distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent/District level administration• School administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 03/2021

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with administrative team on development of communication plan and share with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/District level administration • School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06/2021
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*Additional detail may be attached if needed.

District Improvement

Check whether goal is individual or team; write team name if applicable.

Individual

x Team:

- By June 2021, the District will create a plan of action that proactively addresses student retention issues in the school district.

Professional Practice Goal: Planned Activities

Describe actions the educator will take to attain the student learning goal(s).

Activities may apply to individual and/or team. Attach additional pages as needed.

Action	Supports/Resources from School/District ¹	Timeline or Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review data trends concerning retention of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent/District level administration School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/<u>2020</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review NESDEC and other relevant documentation pertaining to current and projected enrollments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent/District level administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey, Town Hall meetings, listening forums, with families concerning reasons for students being unenrolled in the WRSD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent/District level administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 02/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather and analyze student retention trends through direct conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent/District level administration School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess survey results and data trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent/District level administration School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04/2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with administrative team on creation of plan and share with community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent/District level administration • School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06/2020
--	---	---

This Educator Plan is “designed to provide educators with feedback for improvement, professional growth, and leadership,” is “aligned to statewide Standards and Indicators in 603 CMR 35.00 and local Performance Standards,” and “is consistent with district and school goals.” (see 603 CMR 35.06 (3)(d) and 603 CMR 35.06(3)(f).)

Signature of Evaluator _____ Date _____

Signature of Educator* _____ Date _____

* As the evaluator retains final authority over goals to be included in an educator's plan (see 603 CMR 35.06(3)(c)), the signature of the educator indicates that he or she has received the Goal Setting Form with the "Final Goal" box checked, indicating the evaluator's approval of the goals. The educator's signature does not necessarily denote agreement with the goals. Regardless of agreement with the final goals, signature indicates recognition that "It is the educator's responsibility to attain the goals in the plan and to participate in any trainings and professional development provided through the state, district, or other providers in accordance with the Educator Plan." (see 603 CMR 35.06(4))

Student Opportunity Plan

1. Introduction

Please access guidance documents and additional resources using the links below, or email SOAplans@doe.mass.edu with any questions.

- [Short form guidance](#)
- [Long form guidance](#)
- The Commissioner's special advisory page for [Student Opportunity Plans](#)

As a reminder, we encourage districts to keep their SOA plans brief and concise; please refer to the sample plans within the above guidance documents as examples of appropriate length of responses.

This portal is designed to capture the full details of your SOA Plan (automatically showing you the short or long form, whichever is relevant to your district) and includes these input pages:

- District Information
- Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups
- Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps
 - Budget Upload (long form only)
- Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets
- Commitment 4: Engaging all Families
- Certifications

After completing the form, you will be able to review your aggregated responses on the last page before submission.

Text responses allow for minimal formatting. You can copy/paste content from a Word or Google document; some formatting may be lost when you copy/paste.

You will also have the opportunity to upload a formatted version of your plan at the end if you wish to do so.

Note that this plan will be posted to the DESE website after it has been reviewed.

If you wish to save your progress entering your plan and complete it at a later time, please click on the "Save and Continue" bar at the top of your screen and enter an email address.

2. District Information

Please start typing your district. The official district name will autocomplete.

Wachusett (07750000)

Please enter your contact information:

Name

Darryll McCall

Title

Superintendent

Email

Please enter your email address (note, this will be posted along with the rest of your district's plan on the DESE website).

darryll_mccall@wrsd.net

Please re-enter your email address.

darryll_mccall@wrsd.net

3. Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups

Which student subgroups will require focused support to ensure all students achieve at high levels in school and are successfully prepared for life?

Students with disabilities

Please describe the rationale for selecting these student subgroups.

As noted in our strategic plan, the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) seeks to ensure meaningful student growth and promote social emotional wellbeing in a safe and nurturing environment. Based on a review of our district data around our subgroups, we have found that our students with disabilities (SWD) are not experiencing the same level of outcomes on MCAS and also graduation rates as their peers. Specifically, SWD MCAS scores drop to below the state average in both ELA and Math by grade 8, compared with the aggregate scores for the WRSD.

4. Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps

What evidence-based programs will your district adopt, deepen, or continue to best support the closure of the achievement gaps and opportunity gap? What resources will you allocate to these programs?

Describe each program making sure to include:

- A high-level summary of the program in FY 21 and any expected changes for the following two years.
- Which schools in the district will be impacted by the program (answer can be district wide).
- Which student subgroups will be addressed. Fill in a budget table for each program and identify how it is evidence based.

Complete information for the first program on this page. Enter how many additional programs you want to enter at the bottom of this page and additional program pages will be created.

Please provide any introductory narrative describing how you selected your program(s). This question is optional.

Evidence-based program identified by DESE for program 1

6. Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs (C and/or D)

Please describe first program

Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs. During the past several years, the District has been focused on increasing the support for students' social and emotional learning (SEL) and health needs in schools by adding specific personnel to support students. First, a Director of SEL position was created and filled. Next, middle school counselors were added on a part-time basis until funding could be secured for increasing these to full-time counselors in all of our middle schools. We also increased the nursing support so that all of our schools now have at least one full time nurse. Our FY21 budget includes part-time elementary counselors for our 6 elementary schools, as well as a resource nurse who will support all schools. These personnel will be available to all students.

We will continue with the Bridge to Resilient Youth (BRYT) program supporting students at our 2,000 pupil high school. We have determined that students here require additional support as they transition from hospitalizations back into the educational setting, and the BRYT program helps to meet this need. In addition, we are seeing more of our student population in need of transition support as they attempt to re-enter our high school from various outside placements. The program requires the support of one teacher and one adjustment counselor. In addition, we have bought into the Interface referral service to ensure the timely implementation wraparound services for these students. Combined, these programs are vital for the success of these fragile students.

We are utilizing student survey data from Panorama Education to gauge the impact of this and other initiatives on student sense of belonging and connectedness.

Budget table for program 1 (fill in as many rows as needed. Enter each foundation category spending on its own line):

FY21 budget item	Amount: enter number, do not use the \$ character	Foundation Category
1 Elementary Counselors	\$225,000	Guidance and Psychological
2 Resource Nurse	\$90,000	Other Teaching Services
3 Interface	\$50,000	Guidance and Psychological
4 Panorama	\$50,000	Guidance and Psychological
5 STAR Math and Reading	\$49,968	Instructional Materials, Equipment, and Technology
6		

How many additional programs would you like to add?

7. Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets

What metrics will your district use to monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement among subgroups? **Select at least three outcome metrics from the list below and/or create your own custom district metrics. (Please note that targets will be added to this section once SY2020 data is released in the fall)**

Select which, if any, of the following DESE Outcome Metrics you will use, or provide your own custom metrics. A minimum of 3 boxes must be checked in order to proceed to the next section.

Additional Indicators: Chronic absenteeism (percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of their days in membership)

Custom District Metric 1: Panorama Data

Custom District Metric 2: STAR math and reading assessment

8. Commitment 4: Engaging all Families

How will your district ensure that all families, particularly those representing student subgroups most in need of support, have access to meaningful engagement regarding their students' needs?

Wachusett Regional School District understands the importance of engaging families to ensure more success for its students. The District surveyed all families in early March of 2020 and received 14 responses concerning thoughts on potential areas of interest.

9. Certifications

Stakeholder engagement certification:

By checking here, I certify that our district engaged stakeholders in accordance with the Student Opportunity Act.

Please summarize your stakeholder engagement process, including specific groups that were engaged.

A survey was sent to families prior to the Covid shutdown. A public hearing was held on the 11th of January, 2021.

Certification that the School Committee has voted (or is expected to vote) on your district's Student Opportunity Act plan.

Date of Vote (completed or expected). Please enter MM/DD/YYYY format).

01/11/2021

Outcome of Vote

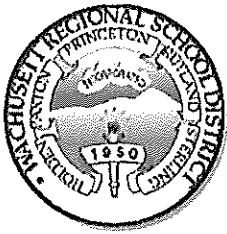
Approved

1. If you have a formatted copy of this plan that you presented publicly (with district letterhead/logos, etc.), please attach it here.

2. If you have any other files (charts, reports, graphics, etc.) you would like to upload that you weren't able to include earlier in this survey, please do so here.

11. Thank You!

Thank you for submitting your Student Opportunity Act plan!



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

Office of the Treasurer

January 15, 2021

Ms. Sharon Lowder, Treasurer
Town of Holden
1204 Main Street
Holden, MA 01520

RE: Third Payment Assessment Billing Notice – FY 2021

Dear Ms. Lowder:

In accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement, the receipt of the Town of Holden's third of four installment payments of the FY 2021 assessment is due February 1, 2021. Because the status of the District's FY 2021 budget is still uncertain, the amount of the third quarterly assessment will be the same as the FY 2020 payment, which is \$7,456,453.00. When the budget is finalized for FY 2021, the amounts of the remaining assessments will be adjusted accordingly.

Payment is to be made by bank wire transfer to the EASTERN BANK account #10170363, ABA routing #011301798.

Pursuant to the Wachusett Regional School District Policy 4211, please notify me within 10 days of the date of this letter if there is an inability to make payment on time.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (978) 464-2105.

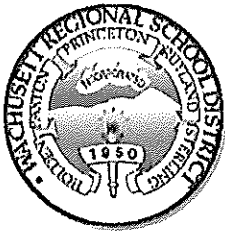
Sincerely,

James J. Dunbar
Treasurer

cc: Darryll McCall, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business & Finance
Michelle White, Supervisor of Accounting and Payroll

Jefferson School

1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522
Telephone: (508) 829-1670 Facsimile: (508) 829-1680
www.wrsd.net



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

Office of the Treasurer

January 15, 2021

Ms. Rebecca Tuttle, Treasurer
Town of Rutland
250 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543

RE: Third Payment Assessment Billing Notice – FY 2021

Dear Ms. Tuttle:

In accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement, the receipt of the Town of Rutland's third of four installment payments of the FY 2021 assessment is due February 1, 2021. Because the status of the District's FY 2021 budget is still uncertain, the amount of the third quarterly assessment will be the same as the FY 2020 payment, which is \$3,129,826.00. When the budget is finalized for FY 2021, the amounts of the remaining assessments will be adjusted accordingly.

Payment is to be made by bank wire transfer to the EASTERN BANK account #10170363, ABA routing #011301798.

Pursuant to the Wachusett Regional School District Policy 4211, please notify me within 10 days of the date of this letter if there is an inability to make payment on time.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (978) 464-2105.

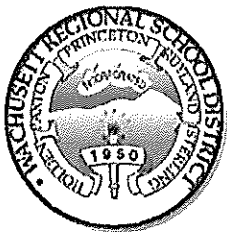
Sincerely,

James J. Dunbar
Treasurer

cc: Darryll McCall, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business & Finance
Michelle White, Supervisor of Accounting and Payroll

Jefferson School

1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522
Telephone: (508) 829-1670 Facsimile: (508) 829-1680
www.wrsd.net



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

Office of the Treasurer

January 15, 2021

Ms. Victoria Smith, Treasurer
Town of Sterling
One Park Street
Sterling, MA 01564

RE: Third Payment Assessment Billing Notice – FY 2021

Dear Ms. Smith:

In accordance with the Wachusett Regional School District Regional Agreement, the receipt of the Town of Sterling's third of four installment payments of the FY 2021 assessment is due February 1, 2021. Because the status of the District's FY 2021 budget is still uncertain, the amount of the third quarterly assessment will be the same as the FY 2020 payment, which is \$2,920,865.00. When the budget is finalized for FY 2021, the amounts of the remaining assessments will be adjusted accordingly. As we have previously agreed, you may continue to make monthly payments for the assessed amount.

Payment is to be made by bank wire transfer to the EASTERN BANK account #10170363, ABA routing #011301798.

Pursuant to the Wachusett Regional School District Policy 4211, please notify me within 10 days of the date of this letter if there is an inability to make payment on time.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (978) 464-2105.

Sincerely,

James J. Dunbar
Treasurer

cc: Darryll McCall, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business & Finance
Michelle White, Supervisor of Accounting and Payroll

Jefferson School

1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522
Telephone: (508) 829-1670 Facsimile: (508) 829-1680
www.wrsd.net

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

*Megan Weeks, Chair
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522*

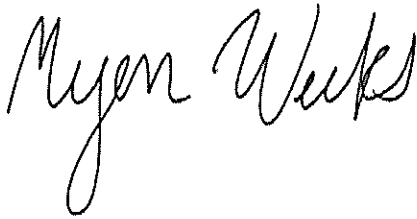
January 12, 2021

Ms. Natalie Dellecese
87 Forest Drive
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Natalie:

I wish to thank you for again joining us at our School Committee meeting and updating the Committee on the recent activities of the WRSD Covid-19 Community Volunteer Task Force. We appreciate you taking the time to share your comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Weeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Weeks, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Brendan Keenan, Director of SEL

MW:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

*Megan Weeks, Chair
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522*

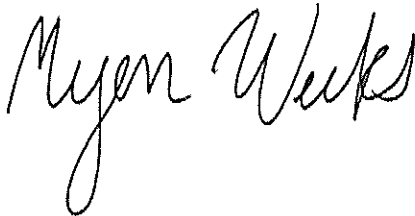
January 12, 2021

Ms. Kathryn Mangus
14 Dunanderry Way
Paxton, MA 01612

Dear Kate:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the School Committee for presenting the MCAS information and survey results at last evening's meeting. The presentation was extremely informative and you should be very proud of your ability to address the Committee, while on air, speaking about this important topic.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Weeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Weeks, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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

MW:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, November 30, 2020
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Kenneth Mills, Vice-chair, Maleah Gustafson (7:03 PM), Benjamin Mitchel, Karl Ottmar

Absent: Michael Dennis, Chair

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others: Megan Weeks, WRSDC Chair
Mary Lampron-Shepherd, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Vice-chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and he reviewed the meeting agenda.

7:03 PM Member Gustafson joined the meeting.

II. FY20 Update

- **E&D Update**

Director Deedy called members' attention to an attachment in his packet, the receipt from DOR for submission of Excess & Deficiency, and he spoke briefly about the E&D process. At Vice-chair Mill's inquiry on what was submitted to DOR, Director Deedy reported it is approximately \$1.4M, which he cautioned is just an estimate. Vice-chair Mills also asked what is encumbered for possible payment to the transportation vendors for FY20, which Director Deedy said is approximately \$1.4M. He explained that if a settlement payment is made and it is less than \$1.4 M, the remainder of those funds will be returned to the general budget.

- **Audit Update**

Director Deedy provided an update. Member Mitchel, Chair of the Audit Advisory Board, asked to be kept informed when a meeting of the AAB should be scheduled. Member Gustafson asked when the subcommittee/full School Committee would be able to review the End-of-Year Report. Director Deedy explained the EOYR has not yet been audited by Melanson CPAs. Member Gustafson also asked about Student Activities

information and reports, which Director Deedy explained draft documents are available, but are not yet finalized.

Director Deedy reported that the Legal Affairs Subcommittee is scheduled to meet December 1, 2020 to review and discuss updates to settlement agreements with the transportation vendors, primarily the agreement with AA Transportation.

III. FY21 Update

Director Deedy projected Model A and Model B scenarios outlining food service activities and expected activities for the remainder of the school year, Attachment C of Director Deedy's report. Director Deedy explained how projected deficits might be addressed, including moving salary expenses to the General Fund. Director Deedy reminded members that the School Lunch account cannot end in deficit at the end of the fiscal year. Member Mitchel questioned how many Food Service staff are in the schools working during remote teaching/learning, and how the labor costs can be justified during operating under the remote model. Member Mitchel also questioned if hiring, across the District, should be halted at this time. Questions were asked about possible financial benefits of encouraging families to participate in meal distribution/grab & go during the pandemic days. Member Gustafson voiced her opinion that it is important to let parents/families/the community know of the opportunity to participate in "grab & go" meal distribution. Director Deedy clarified that all meals are free this year and the District is reimbursed for these meals. Vice-chair Mills and Member Mitchel spoke about full distribution of meals for all students, especially once the District moves to hybrid. Director Deedy will work with Supervisor of School Nutrition Margaret Barton to do an analysis for review by the subcommittee.

Director Deedy called members' attention to his Attachment D, Revenue. Director Deedy reviewed the information which is showing a \$484,000 shortfall. Lengthy discussion took place about Regional Transportation, Schedule 7, and anticipated revenue. Though numbers are very fluid and nothing is finalized, Director Deedy reported there could be an \$800,000+ revenue hit related to transportation reimbursement.

Director Deedy called members' attention to his Attachment E, Expenses. Director Deedy reviewed the documents and provided his overview. Director Deedy gave a detailed report on payments for services not rendered, including payments to transportation providers. When asked, Director Deedy confirmed that transportation providers have not been paid anything in FY21, as well as what is outstanding for the last several months of FY20. Discussion ensued, with the general agreement being this is a complicated and complex topic.

Director Deedy concluded the FY21 budget discussion by projecting his Attachment G, FY21 Budget to Actuals Projections, a one-page summary of the General Fund and special revenue funds. Member Gustafson did have questions about the Athletics line, discussion of which will be delayed until a future meeting.

IV. FY22 Budget Schedule

Director Deedy projected the updated FY21 Budget Calendar. Vice-chair Mills feels deeper discussion needs to be had with the School Committee Chair about the FY22 budget development and School Committee input.

V. FY21 Enrollment Trends and Impact to Budget

Discussion took place about enrollment trends for the 2020-2021 school year, and the impact the reduction in enrollment will have/could have on the District's budgets. The document, 2020-21 Enrollment by Grade was reviewed, with note being made of the enrollment reduction of 426 between 2019-2020 v 2020-2021 (to date).

8:36 PM Member Mitchel left the meeting.

VI. COVID Related Expenses

Director Deedy projected and reviewed COVID-related/PPE costs and expenses, as well as grants received by the District. The School Reopening Grant has covered much of the PPE costs. At Member Ottmar's inquiry about PPE purchases and costs, Director Deedy reviewed what has been paid for PPE that has been delivered, what has been encumbered for purchase of PPE, and what has been ordered but not yet delivered. The question was asked if inventory and orders of PPE will be sufficient for the rest of this school year, or if additional PPE will need to be ordered, especially when schools are back to in-person. The question was asked what grant funds can be used for and what they cannot be used for. HVAC repairs and expenses have not been included in the grants and costs are being charged to the General Fund. Member Gustafson asked if the documents outlining COVID-related expenses could be made available for the public. Director Deedy explained that his entire packet which he prepared for this meeting will be a part of the December 3, 2020 Superintendent's Report, so the information will be available. Director Deedy will also work with the IT Department to have the documents posted conspicuously on the District website.

VII. Policy Review

- Policy 4320 Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Purchasing Procedures

Deferred

VIII. Approval of Minutes

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

(K. Ottmar)
(M. Gustafson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Maleah Gustafson
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved 3-0.

IX. Next Meeting

Director Deedy will reach out to Subcommittee Chair Dennis about scheduling the next meeting. It was agreed that meeting sooner than the beginning of January would be beneficial.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Ottmar)

(M. Gustafson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills

Maleah Gustafson

Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Petersen

Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ANTI-RACISM SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, November 30, 2020

7:00 PM

Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Asima Silva, Chair, Linda Woodland, Vice-chair, Melissa Ayala, Krista Bennett, Laura Kirshenbaum, Linda Long-Bellil

Absent: Scott Brown, Maleah Gustafson,

Administration: Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Megan Weeks, WRSDC Chair
Kathryn Mangus, Student Representative
Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To strike the bullet points under agenda item III/Action Steps.

(L. Woodland)

(K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett,
Laura Kirshenbaum,
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the minutes, as amended, of the October 29, 2020 meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

(L. Woodland)
(M. Ayala)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett,
Laura Kirshenbaum,
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan: Review of Comments from the Public

Members had been provided with comments provided by/submitted by members of the public about the District's BPIP.

7:15 WRSDC Chair Weeks joined the meeting.

Discussion ensued on how to include definitions not already included in the policy, or if this falls under implementation. Multiple members remarked on the number of commenters doubting the implementation of the policy at a building level, as past experiences of reports going without investigation. Discussion on revisions to clarify investigation processes and possible consequences to findings. Student Representative Mangus added the high school did not have a beginning of the year assembly for anti-bullying messaging this year.

7:45 WRSDC Chair Weeks left the meeting.

Further discussion on ensuring proper training of staff on diversity and anti-racism topics, so that problems are not dismissed out of ignorance. Implementation of the BPIP is beyond the purview of the School Committee, however Member Kirshenbaum suggested including an annual report of the data to the School Committee.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14B5b8htZ5BUacw_sqb5PI5Ui44DLN6uC9_Xq6eGO4Bc/edit?usp=sharing

Motion: To recommend to the full School Committee to approve the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

(L. Woodland)
(M. Ayala)

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland

Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Laura Kirshenbaum,
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Policy Review

Members were provided with copies of the current policies in advance of the meeting.

- Policy 6437 *Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Discrimination and Hate Crimes*

Discussion began. Member Kirshenbaum discussed another district where they have five separate policies that cover this policy/topic.

- *Non-discrimination*
- *Sexual Harassment*
- *Disability*
- *Gender Identity Support*
- *Bullying Prevention & Intervention*

Vice-chair Woodland discussed the MASC policy book related to these policies.
Action Item: copies of MASC policies for the next meeting for these policies.

V. Next Meeting : Thursday, January 7, 2021, 7:00 PM

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Woodland)
(M. Ayala)

In favor:
Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett,
Laura Kirshenbaum,
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Keenan
Director of SEL

BK:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, December 7, 2020
6:00 PM

Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Christina Smith, Chair, Linda Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, Krista Bennett,
Sherrie Haber, Laura Kirshenbaum, Robert Imber, Deidre Shapiro

Absent: None

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Alicia Jasickiewicz, WREA
Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

II Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

(R. Imber)

(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Krista Bennett
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

- III District indicators/benchmarks for positive growth in the District
- Defining what we would like to measure
 - i. Document entitled “District Indicators of Success” projected by Deputy Superintendent Berlo, and a presentation was made by Deputy Superintendent Berlo and Director of SEL Keenan
 - ii. Domains of Strategic Plan include Aligned Curriculum, Effective Instruction, Professional Development/Structures for Collaboration, Student Social-Emotional Health & Well-Being
 - iii. Discussion about what District indicators should be, and how they differ, in any ways, from school indicators
 - iv. Discussion about aligned curriculum and curriculum review process
 - Examining existing District tools
 - i. Panorama Education SEL survey tool
 - ii. STAR Math and Reading
 - iii. BAS Assessments
 - iv. Feedback from PD offerings

- IV Review of Existing Policies
- 3231: Inclement Weather
Deferred
 - 3360: Independent Learning
Deferred
 - 3611.4: Enrichment
Deferred

- V Staffing implications due to enrollment changes
- Current class sizes
Deferred
 - Current budget and tiered reductions
Deferred

- VI Post-graduate outcomes for students
Deferred

- VII Old Business

There was no old business brought before the subcommittee.

VIII New Business

- Looking at what other districts use as indicators (Forbes, US News and World reports, etc.)

IX Next Meetings

The subcommittee will meet Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

IX Resources

VIII Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

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

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Krista Bennett
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Keenan
Director of Social Emotional Learning

BK:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Monday, December 21, 2020
6:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Michael Dennis, Chair, Kenneth Mills, Vice-chair, Maleah Gustafson, Benjamin Mitchel, Karl Ottmar

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Others: Mary Lampron-Shepherd, WREA
Heidi Lahey, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Update on FY21 Budget

- School Lunch

Director Deedy projected Cafeteria Staff Levels and he spoke about staffing for the Food Service Department. There are nine vacancies, which are posted and attempts to fill these positions is underway. Discussion began. The question was asked about staffing, in light of schools being remote and so few students in the schools. Director Deedy spoke about staff needed to meal distribution, as well as gearing up for the implementation of hybrid and students being back in the buildings. Upon inquiry, Director Deedy explained that after consideration, having all students (using the high school as an example) take grab and go meals when in school is not really feasible or practicable. Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported on discussions he has had with Supervisor of School Nutrition Barton, and question were asked. One question asked is why full staffing, again using the high school as an example, is needed at this point when all students are not back in-person. Vice-chair Mills asked a question, which he had asked at the last meeting, about providing grab and go lunches to all students in a building, again using the high school as an example, noting that the District would receive reimbursement for these meals. Director Deedy reported on his opinion, agreed to by Supervisor Barton in earlier discussions, that it is not responsible to have all students take a meal, not knowing if the meals will be eaten once picked up. Vice-chair Mills explained the point of his question is what the best financial route is for the District: distribute more lunches to be reimbursed by the Federal government for the higher number of meals distributed or distribute less meals for less Federal reimbursement. At Chair Dennis' request, Director Deedy walked members through the information on his attachment FY21 School Lunch. Member Ottmar asked if

implementing an opt-out option this year might cover any concerns about student-wide meal distribution, giving parents/students the option to not be provided with a grab and go meal and other students would have the opportunity be provided with meals.

- Regional Transportation

Director Deedy reported the District is still in negotiations with AA Transportation, and the full Committee will be updated in executive session. Director Deedy reported on a conversation he had with Jay Sullivan of DESE, who told Director Deedy that he could not confirm DESE's exposure in terms of reimbursement at this time. Director Deedy will keep in touch with Mr. Sullivan once other districts' End-of-Year-Reports are submitted, when he should have more information to share. Upon inquiry, Director Deedy confirmed his take away from his conversation with Mr. Sullivan is that he might be willing to entertain amending the District's regional transportation numbers, based on amended enrollment numbers. Vice-Chair Mills asked, and Director Deedy confirmed, that readiness payments will be reimbursable. Director Deedy re-stated he understands Jay Sullivan may work with the District, once the situation with AA Transportation is settled.

- Athletics

Director Deedy projected Athletic Revolving documents and spoke to the information. He explained that WRSD athletic fees have not been increased in several years. Member Gustafson has questions, which she will email to Director Deedy in light of the time. Chair Dennis mentioned questions raised by members of the community about having "shortened fees" in light of the "shortened seasons."

III. FY22 Budget Priorities

Chair Dennis spoke about this conversation, about budget priorities, being had by the full membership, rather than at the subcommittee level. Vice-chair Mills spoke about having information about the curriculum ramifications due to budget cuts and how cuts earlier in this fiscal year have impacted the various aspects of District and school operation.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Deferred

V. Next Meeting

TBD

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Mills)
(K. Ottmar)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Kenneth Mills
Maleah Gustafson
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Petersen
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent
rlp



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 January 19, 2021 Meeting
DATE: January 15, 2021

Attached are materials for Tuesday's Virtual Business/Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

I will see you Tuesday evening via Google Meets at 7:00 pm.

Thank you.

Attachments

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. FY20 Excess and Deficiency Certification
- III. Update on FY21 Budget
 - a. FY21 Grants
 - b. FY21 Regional Transportation
 - c. FY21 Revolving Accounts – Athletics, School Lunch, Circuit Breaker, School Choice
 - d. FY21 General Fund, Revenues and Expenditures
 - e. FY21 Final Cherry Sheet Numbers
 - f. FEMA Update
- IV. FY22 Budget Priorities
- V. Approval of Minutes of the November 30, 2020 and December 21, 2020 Meetings
- VI. Next Meeting
- VII. Adjournment

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Executive Summary

I. Call to Order

II. FY20 Excess and Deficiency Certification

ATTACHMENT A is a copy of notification from the Department of Revenue of the District's FY20 Excess and Deficiency certification. As previously reported in Dr. McCall's School Committee packet for the School Committee Meeting of January 11, 2021, this year's figure represents an increase of \$195,344 over the FY19 figure. As you can see, there were no adjustments made in this year's process. Any negative balances in any Fund Code were addressed during the close out of FY20.

III. Update on FY21

- **FY21 Grants:** ATTACHMENT B is a copy of a report printed from DESE's monthly update on Federal grant funds. This report is dated January 8, 2021. This report is a three-year (3) summary of Federal grant expenditures. There are nominal balances remaining from FY19 that will be expended by the end of January 2021. Director Deedy will speak to the balances remaining in FY20 and FY21 grants Tuesday evening.
- **FY21 Regional Transportation:** The District is currently in ongoing negotiations with its home to school provider, AA Transportation relative to a settlement agreement for the 4th quarter of FY20. Director Deedy will speak briefly to this matter Tuesday evening.

With respect to FY21 Transportation costs, through the end of December 2020, they were estimated as follows:

SPED In District AAT Transportation @	\$1,486,344
SPED OOD Van Pool @	\$1,100,000
Home to School AA Transportation @	<u>\$1,752,254</u>
Estimated Totals @	\$4,338,598
 FY21 Transportation Budget	 \$7,241,703
Projected Balance =	\$2,903,105

Note that this estimated total does not take into account any additional equipment or route changes especially with respect to Special Education transportation. Director Deedy will provide an update on this Tuesday evening.

o **FY21 Revolving Accounts:**

Athletics: ATTACHMENT C is a budget report for Athletics. Also included in this attachment are materials from the December 21 meeting that were briefly discussed including projections of the Athletic Revolving Account for FY21. This material includes estimated revenues, expenditures and a summary sheet.

As stated in last month's report, the WRHS is playing reduced schedules this year. However, the activity fee has not changed in 8 years. WRHS' \$250 dollar fee is still less than the "reduced" fee that Shrewsbury Public Schools came up with (their fee pre-COVID is \$325 per student, and they reduced it by \$50 for this year). The \$250 fee is not covering WRHS' costs. Each year, transportation costs increase, as do our officials' fees, assignor fees, MIAA dues, equipment, sports medicine supplies, etc.

While WRHS typically would transport golf in a leased van to away matches, the WRHS did not this year due to COVID. One could argue \$250 for the opportunity to play 8 golf matches throughout central MA, along with a Wachusett Golf shirt, and the opportunity to spend time with their friends while being part of a team, is a good deal.

Also, due to COVID, WRHS may be traveling to less games, but they are required to use more buses to get to their destination. Typically, WRHS would send the freshman and JV teams on one bus to Shrewsbury High School for soccer and basketball games, and the Varsity team on another bus. Due to COVID, WRHS now has to transport the 3 teams on 3 different buses.

Could WRHS have reduced their fee for this year? Yes. But, the increased costs associated with COVID and the MIAA made that difficult to do.

School Lunch: ATTACHMENT D is a copy of the document Director Barton prepared for School Lunch. She will participate in Tuesday's meeting to speak to this material.

Circuit Breaker: ATTACHMENT E is a budget report for Circuit Breaker. Included in this section are a). a listing of year to date payments, and b). a summary, through January 14, 2021, of estimated tuition payments for FY21. As previously stated, the goal this year is to bring forward into FY22 a balance from this year's Circuit Breaker allocation.

School Choice: ATTACHMENT F is a budget report for School Choice and a listing of the monthly payments through November 30, 2020. The goal here is also to bring forward a balance into FY22 that will offset costs in next year's budget.

○ **FY21 General Fund:**

Revenue Budget Report: **ATTACHMENT G** includes the MUNIS Revenue Budget Report and the EXCEL revised revenue projections. Several key points:

- As previously stated, Chapter 70 reflects a reduction of approximately \$408,841 less than the Governor's original budget from January 2020. This is the amount of the Student Opportunity Act included in the preliminary Chapter 70 figure that was nixed.
- Regional Transportation reflects the reduction of approximately \$135,000. This is the balance due DESE for the overpayment in FY18. This adjustment was not made in FY20. The District has yet to receive its FY21 initial disbursement of Regional Transportation.
- Charter School Reimbursement has been increased \$161,605 given the final state budget figures.
- Interest income has been reduced \$25,000.00 given year to date activity.
- Miscellaneous has been reduced \$125,000 given year to date activity. With COVID, there has been very little activity for costs shares in transportation to the Deveraux Program.

Expense Budget Report: **ATTACHMENT H** is an Expense Budget Report by Appropriation. Several key points here:

- Undesignated: This Appropriation is the placeholder for all COVID related charges that cannot be allocated to the School Re-Opening Grant.
- Salaries and Stipends: Director Deedy will speak in detail to this Appropriation on Tuesday evening.
- Benefits and Insurance: Unemployment charges have been greater than anticipated. More importantly, no adjustments have been made between the General Fund and School Choice. The FY21 budget was built using School Choice as an offset. Administration is looking to retain as much of School Choice as possible to support the FY22 budget.
- Instruction Support: As noted in previous reports, there are balances in three (3) areas: 1. Special Education Contracted Services @ \$436,243.00 and Regular Education Contracted Services @ \$95,506.00, 2. Textbooks @ \$616,773.00 and 3. General Supplies @ \$175,135.
- Operations and Maintenance: This Appropriation will be fully expended by June 30, 2021. The charges from Undesignated will be re-allocated here.
- Pupil Services: This Appropriation will be fully expended by June 30, 2021.
- Special Education Tuitions: This balance of \$330,704.53 will be expended by processing Journal Entries between Circuit Breaker and the General Fund.
- Other Operating Costs: These are the Charter School and School Choice Out assessments. Given the recently approved State budget, transfers will be made into this Appropriation to cover the shortfall.
- Transportation: This balance does not reflect the activity discussed in the Regional Transportation discussion above. Purchase Orders will be adjusted to reflect the activity discussed above.
- Debt Service: This Appropriation has been fully expended.

- **FY21 Final Cherry Sheet Numbers:** ATTACHMENT I is a copy of the final Cherry Sheet figures for FY21. Please note the estimated charges for School Choice Out and Charter School Assessments.
- **FEMA Update:** As previously reported, Director Deedy responded to a number of additional questions from MEMA regarding the District's application to FEMA dated September 1, 2020. MEMA serves as the screening agent for FEMA. Director Deedy supplied that information to MEMA prior to the Christmas break. MEMA reviewed the information and has since forwarded the District's completed application to FEMA for further review. In the event our application is received without issue, the District anticipates a reimbursement of \$96, 892. Director Deedy was told that a decision would be forthcoming prior to March 1, 2021.

IV. FY22 Budget Priorities

Administration is very involved with the FY22 budget process. Director Deedy will provide an update on Tuesday evening.

V. Approval of Minutes of the November 30, 2020 Meeting and December 21, 2020

Minutes of the November 30, 2020 and the December 21, 2020 meetings will be reviewed.

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT A

SUBMITTED BY	Dan Deedy	DISTRICT	Wachusett
PHONE	(508)829-1670	SUBMISSION DATE	11/23/20
FIELD REP	Kim Peloquin	SUBMISSION COMPLETE DATE	12/31/20

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY CALCULATION

BEGIN:

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE/EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY

1,408,047

LESS:

OTHER RECEIVABLE, OVERDRAWN ACCOUNTS, DEFICITS

Additional Sheet

[illegible]

TOTAL CERTIFIED UNENCUMBERED EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY

1,408,047

UNENCLUMBERED E & D IN EXCESS OF 5% CALCULATION

OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

102,115,384

5% OF BUDGET

5,105,769

TOTAL IN EXCESS

2

REVIEWED BY:

Kim Peloquin

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER

DATE:

12/31/2020

FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL



Daniel Deedy <daniel_deedy@wrsd.net>

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY - Wachusett

2 messages

dlssupport@dor.state.ma.us <dlssupport@dor.state.ma.us>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:56 PM

To: faponte@sterling-ma.gov, Irose@holdenma.gov, accountant@town.princeton.ma.us, dbhaynes@rcn.com, kennedy@townofpaxton.net, crukaren99@gmail.com, asonnenberg@sterling-ma.gov, townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us, iparadise@townofrutland.org, criches@townofpaxton.net, gherlihy@holdenma.gov, tgibbs@holdenma.gov, dparsons@townofpaxton.net, riavigne@holdenma.gov, cbarnes@holdenma.gov, blskselect@gmail.com, arenzoni@holdenma.gov, jklicoyne@sterling-ma.gov, Mcranson@sterling-ma.gov, jimdun0509@yahoo.com, daniel_deedy@wrsd.net, darryll_mccall@wrsd.net, darryll_mccall@wrsd.net, dlsgateway@dor.state.ma.us
Cc: peloquink@dor.state.ma.us

Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services

Geoffrey E. Snyder, Commissioner

Sean R. Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services

Wachusett
1/7/2021

Re: EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY - Wachusett

Based upon the unaudited balance sheet submitted, I hereby certify that the amount of excess and deficiency or "E & D" as of July 1, 2020 for Wachusett is:

General Fund \$1,408,047.00

This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 71, §16B½, as amended. The unencumbered funds certified above in excess of five percent of the operating budget and budgeted capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year must be applied to reduce the current fiscal year's assessment. For your district, this excess amount equals \$0.00.

This certification letter will also be e-mailed to the school superintendent, the board of selectmen in each member town and the city council in each member city immediately upon approval, provided an e-mail address is reported in DLS' Local Officials Directory. Please forward to other officials that you deem appropriate.

Sincerely

Mary Jane Handy

Director of Accounts
Massachusetts Department of Revenue

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this mail in error please notify the postmaster at dor.state.ma.us.

 Wachusett 6-30-20 E&D Calculation Forms.pdf
19K

Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:18 PM

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

[Quoted text hidden]

ATTACHMENT B

Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
FY19/FY20/FY21 Claim Status Report as of 1/8/21

District	Wachusett
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select LEA from dropdown

LEA Code	FY	Account	Fund Name	Grant Award	Claimed as of 1/8/21	Available to Claim as of 1/8/21	% Available to Claim as of 1/8/21
0775	2019	140-217758-2019-0775	Title II	\$113,943	\$113,943	\$0	0.0%
		180-217759-2019-0775	Title III	\$16,742	\$16,742	\$0	0.0%
		240-217760-2019-0775	IDEA Special Education	\$1,644,056	\$1,643,856	\$200	0.0%
		262-217761-2019-0775	IDEA Early Childhood	\$63,114	\$63,114	\$0	0.0%
		305-217762-2019-0775	Title I	\$247,541	\$247,341	\$200	0.1%
		309-217763-2019-0775	Title IV	\$32,610	\$32,610	\$0	0.0%
	2020	140-299613-2020-0775	Title II	\$112,997	\$15,014	\$97,983	86.7%
		180-299535-2020-0775	Title III	\$17,852	\$13,512	\$4,340	24.3%
		240-299615-2020-0775	IDEA Special Education	\$1,656,208	\$1,656,208	\$0	0.0%
		262-299616-2020-0775	IDEA Early Education	\$64,425	\$64,425	\$0	0.0%
		305-299617-2020-0775	Title I	\$268,055	\$265,549	\$2,506	0.9%
		309-299614-2020-0775	Title IV	\$16,688	\$11,259	\$5,429	32.5%
	2021	113-379113-2021-0775	ESSER	\$176,898	\$176,898	\$0	0.0%
		140-412020-2021-0775	Title II	\$97,046	\$9,704	\$87,342	90.0%
		180-412021-2021-0775	Title III	\$20,042	\$2,004	\$18,038	90.0%
		240-401251-2021-0775	IDEA Special Education	\$1,683,563	\$375,933	\$1,307,630	77.7%
		262-401249-2021-0775	IDEA Early Childhood	\$64,610	\$10,653	\$53,957	83.5%
		305-412022-2021-0775	Title I	\$249,051	\$24,905	\$224,146	90.0%
		309-412023-2021-0775	Title IV	\$15,663	\$1,566	\$14,097	90.0%
0775 Total				\$6,561,104	\$4,745,236	\$1,815,868	0.0%

ATTACHMENT C

01/15/2021
11:33:52

Wachusett Regional School District



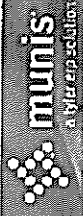
PAGE 1
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FROM 2021 01 TO 2021 06

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
023 ATHLETIC REVOLVING							
11 WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL							
WAF204 572040 AR WRH EXP	0	-265	-265	3,254.44	.00	-3,519.44	.0%
WAF590 575900 CONT SERV	0	0	0	6,105.50	26,026.00	-32,131.50	.0%
WAG400 574000 AR GAT EXP	171	0	171	.00	.00	170.95	.0%
WAI400 574000 AR INV EXP	7,087	0	7,087	.00	.00	7,086.91	.0%
WAR204 572040 AR WRH EXP	2,412	0	2,412	.00	.00	2,412.08	.0%
WAR400 574000 AR WRH EXP	38,027	646	38,673	33,792.81	5,683.53	-803.64	102.1%
WAT960 579600 AR TRA EXP	58,930	53,270	112,200	500.00	125,000.00	-13,299.78	111.9%
WAW204 572040 NINST P/R	535	0	535	.00	.00	535.00	.0%
WAW400 574000 AR WRH EXP	414	0	414	.00	.00	414.10	.0%
WAW590 575900 CONT SVC	230	0	230	.00	.00	230.00	.0%
TOTAL WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	107,806	53,651	161,457	43,652.75	156,709.53	-38,905.32	124.1%
24 MOUNTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL							
MAF400 574000 AR MOU EXP	14,875	14	14,889	249.97	.00	14,639.19	1.7%
TOTAL MOUNTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	14,875	14	14,889	249.97	.00	14,639.19	1.7%
52 CENTRAL TREE MIDDLE SCHOOL							
TAF400 574000 AR CEN EXP	13,725	7	13,732	.00	.00	13,731.99	.0%
TOTAL CENTRAL TREE MIDDLE SCHOOL	13,725	7	13,732	.00	.00	13,731.99	.0%
61 CHOCKSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL							
SAF400 574000 AR STE EXP	5,718	11	5,729	.00	.00	5,729.24	.0%
TOTAL CHOCKSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL	5,718	11	5,729	.00	.00	5,729.24	.0%

01/15/2021
11:33:52

Wachusett Regional School District



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FROM 2021 01 TO 2021 06

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMENTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
81 DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION							
QAR400 574000 AR DAB EXP	0	0	0	.00	.00	.01	.0%
TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION	0	0	0	.00	.00	.01	.0%
TOTAL ATHLETIC REVOLVING	142,124	53,683	195,807	43,902.72	156,709.53	-4,804.89	102.5%
TOTAL EXPENSES	142,124	53,683	195,807	43,902.72	156,709.53	-4,804.89	
GRAND TOTAL	142,124	53,683	195,807	43,902.72	156,709.53	-4,804.89	102.5%

01/15/2021
11:33:52

Wachusett Regional School District

PAGE 3
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REPORT OPTIONS

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

Report title:

From Yr/Per: 2021/ 1
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 6
Budget Year: 2021
Print totals only: N
Format type: 1
Double space: N
Suppress zero bal accts: Y
Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N
Roll projects to object: N
Print journal detail: N
From Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
Include budget entries: Y
Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
Sort by JE # or PO #: P
Detail format option: 1
Multiyear view: D

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
Print Full or Short description: S
Print full GL account: N
Sort by full GL account: N
Print Revenues-Version headings: N
Print revenue as credit: Y
Print revenue budgets as zero: N

Estimated Revenue for Athletic Revolving, 2020-2021 Seasons

Season:	Team:	# of Participants	Total Revenue	
Fall	Boys' Soccer-Varsity	18	\$4,500.00	
	Boys' Soccer-JV 1	18	\$4,500.00	
	Boys' Soccer-JV 2	16	\$4,000.00	
	Girls' Soccer-Varsity	18	\$4,500.00	
	Girls' Soccer-JV 1	18	\$4,500.00	
	Girls' Soccer-JV 2	16	\$4,000.00	
	Field Hockey-Varsity	13	\$3,250.00	
	Field Hockey-JV	16	\$4,000.00	
	Golf-Varsity	7	\$1,750.00	
	Golf-JV	7	\$1,750.00	
	XC-Girls	18	\$4,500.00	
	XC-Boys	18	\$4,500.00	
				\$45,750.00
Winter	Basketball-Varsity G	11	\$2,750.00	
	Basketball-JV 1 G	8	\$2,000.00	
	Basketball-JV 2 G	7	\$1,750.00	
	Basketball-Varsity B	11	\$2,750.00	
	Basketball-JV 1 B	10	\$2,500.00	
	Basketball-JV 2 B	10	\$2,500.00	
	Ice Hockey-Varsity	20	\$5,000.00	
	Ice Hockey-JV 1	18	\$4,500.00	
	Alpine Ski	16	\$4,000.00	
				\$27,750.00
Fall II	Football	85	\$21,250.00	
	Volleyball-Varsity	12	\$3,000.00	
	Volleyball-JV 1	12	\$3,000.00	
	Volleyball-JV 2	12	\$3,000.00	
	Indoor Track-G	65	\$16,250.00	
	Indoor Track-B	65	\$16,250.00	
				\$62,750.00
Spring	Baseball-Varsity	18	\$4,500.00	
	Baseball-JV 1	14	\$3,500.00	
	Baseball-JV 2	14	\$3,500.00	
	Softball-Varsity	16	\$4,000.00	
	Softball-JV	16	\$4,000.00	
	Lacrosse-Boys' Varsity	18	\$4,500.00	
	Lacrosse-Boys' JV	18	\$4,500.00	
	Lacrosse-Girls' Varsity	18	\$4,500.00	
	Lacrosse-Girls' JV	18	\$4,500.00	
	Volleyball-Boys' Varsity	14	\$3,500.00	
	Volleyball-Boys' JV	12	\$3,000.00	
	Tennis-Boys'	14	\$3,500.00	
	Tennis-Girls'	14	\$3,500.00	
	Golf-Girls'	10	\$2,500.00	
	Spring Track-Boys'	65	\$16,250.00	
	Spring Track-Girls'	65	\$16,250.00	
				\$86,000.00
			\$222,250.00	\$222,250.00

Expenses	Details	Amount
COVID Coaches	Pay 2 individuals for helping out at home games (sign-in, distancing)	\$4,900.00
MIAA Registration of Teams for 2020-2021		\$3,990.00
Cheer, NHS and Student Council Dues to MIAA/MSAA		\$440.00
Officials	Rate has increased	\$25,792.00
Official Assignors		\$3,350.00
Bussing	Fall season only	\$20,400.00
Coach Stipends	General Fund	
Facility Rentals	Ice Hockey and Swim during a normal season	\$27,300.00
Passes for Athletic Events	Allows entry to events during COVID	\$230.00
	Depends how many home contests we end up playing; estimate 16 fall, 20 winter, 20 spring	\$1,400.00
Pass Checker	French River and Collins Sports Medicine	\$8,559.00
Equipment Costs	Shielding between sinks and urinals by Sept. 18th	\$250.00
Bathroom Dividers		\$363.00
Varsity FH Socks		\$140.00
Thermometers		\$500.00
Scheduling Software	rSchool Today	\$3,399.00
HUDL		\$15,390.00
Football Helmets	New helmets for those that can not be reconditioned	\$2,675.00
Football Helmets	10 New purchased for this season	\$1,869.00
Football Shoulder Pads		\$991.00
Football Helmets		\$14,044.50
Football Reconditioning		\$855.00
Varsity Soccer Socks		\$1,000.00
Awards		\$420.00
Loam & Sand Dust for Baseball Field		\$1,000.00
Field Paint		\$285.00
Service to Scoreboard		\$382.50
Stonedust/loam		\$979.50
Athletic Award Letters		\$230.00
CMADA Badges for Game Admittance		\$808.00
Service to Ice Machine in Athletic Training Room		\$631.00
Fall Assignor Fees		\$3,225.00
Northstar Ice 12/14/20-1/3/21		\$4,050.00
Northstar Game Ice		\$2,480.00
Ice Hockey JV League-Northstar		\$126,536.50
Total Expenses		

**Athletic Revolving
Revenues vs Expenditures, 2020-2021 Seasons**

Fee Structure: \$250.00 per child, per sport
 \$350. maximum per family
 \$125 per sport, per child on F&D Lunch; \$175 maximum
 \$0.00 for students on F&D lunch

Fund Restrictions: Funds may be used to pay for transportation, supplies and
 materials; uniforms, various contracted services , e.g.,
 hockey rink rentals; game management including officials,
 ticket takers, security and personnel costs.

Beginning Balance	\$107,806.00
Revenue, Estimates	\$222,250.00
Expenditures, Estimates	\$126,537.00
Estimated Ending Balance	<u>\$203,519.00</u>

ATTACHMENT D

FY21 School Lunch Projections - Hybrid Learning beginning January 19th - June 2021

	Beginning Balance \$25,463.58	July - December 2020 Actual	January - June 2021 Projected	Year-End 2021 Projected	Notes
Curb/Delivery Meal Reimbursement		\$230,001	\$345,325	\$575,326	Est. 1000 full remote student meals daily x \$3.635 reim x 95 days
Hybrid Learning In School Meals Reir		\$0	\$794,248	\$794,248	Est. 2300 in school student meals daily x \$3.635 reim x 95 days
July-December Revenue		\$3,277	\$5,000	\$8,277	Revenues include adult meal sales, a la carte sales and catering.
Total Revenue		\$233,278	\$1,144,573	\$1,377,850	
Food Cost		\$88,203	\$434,938	\$523,141	Projected cost is 38% of revenue
Director Wages		\$30,378	-\$30,378	\$0	Shifted to General Fund
July-December Labor		\$154,911	\$625,117	\$780,028	Based on 95 remaining days with 5 of the 9 open food service positions filled
Total Labor		\$185,289	\$594,739	\$780,028	
Paper Cost		\$20,555	\$40,000	\$60,555	Based on hybrid meal costs in school and remote only meal pick up
Other Costs		\$23,161	\$56,200	\$79,361	Milk cooler rentals, equip. repairs/purchases, chemical program, gas, travel
Total Other Costs		\$43,716	\$96,200	\$139,916	
Total Costs		\$317,208	\$1,125,877	\$1,443,084	
Profit/Loss		-\$83,930	\$18,696	-\$65,234	

FY21 School Lunch Projections - Remaining remote only through June 2021

	Beginning Balance \$25,463.58	July - December 2020 Actual	January - June 2021 Projected	Year-End 2021 Projected	Notes
Curb/Delivery Meal Reimbursement		\$230,001	\$525,350	\$755,351	Est. 1000 meals daily x \$5.53 reim x 95 days
July-December Revenue		\$3,277	\$5,000	\$8,277	Revenues include adult meal sales, a la carte sales and catering.
Total Revenue		\$233,278	\$530,350	\$763,628	
Food Cost		\$88,203	\$201,533	\$289,736	Projected cost is 38% of revenue
Director Wages		\$30,378	-\$30,378	\$0	Shifted to General Fund
July-December Labor		\$154,911	\$593,695	\$748,606	Based on 170 days with current staff levels
Total Labor		\$185,289	\$563,317	\$748,606	
Paper Cost		\$20,555	\$90,000	\$110,555	Based on continued costs of remote meal program
Other Costs		\$23,161	\$56,200	\$79,361	Milk cooler rentals, equip. repairs/purchases, chemical program, gas, travel
Total Other Costs		\$43,716	\$146,200	\$189,916	
Total Costs		\$317,208	\$911,050	\$1,228,258	
Profit/Loss		-\$83,930	-\$380,700	-\$464,630	

Created 11/24/2020
Revised 1/15/2021

ATTACHMENT E

01/15/2021
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Wachusett Regional School District



PAGE 1
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FROM 2021 01 TO 2021 06

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
028 DISTRICT REVOLVING							
81 DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION							
QCB400 574000 SUP & EXP	47,207	0	47,207	52,433.79	1,115.65	-6,342.46	113.4%
QCB972 579720 CIRBREAKER	1,050,000	1,609,784	2,659,784	1,058,147.07	1,924,124.97	-322,488.04	112.1%
TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION	1,097,207	1,609,784	2,706,991	1,110,580.86	1,925,240.62	-328,830.50	112.1%
TOTAL DISTRICT REVOLVING	1,097,207	1,609,784	2,706,991	1,110,580.86	1,925,240.62	-328,830.50	112.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,097,207	1,609,784	2,706,991	1,110,580.86	1,925,240.62	-328,830.50	
GRAND TOTAL	1,097,207	1,609,784	2,706,991	1,110,580.86	1,925,240.62	-328,830.50	112.1%

01/15/2021
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Wachusett Regional School District

REPORT OPTIONS

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

Report title:
..

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
Print Full or Short description: S
Print full GL account: N
Sort by full GL account: N
Print Revenues-Version headings: N
Print revenue as credit: Y
Print revenue budgets as zero: N

From Yr/Per: 2021/ 1
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 6
Budget Year: 2021
Print totals only: N
Format type: 1
Double space: N
Suppress zero bal accts: Y
Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N
Roll projects to object: N
Print journal detail: N
From Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
Include budget entries: Y
Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
Sort by JE # or PO #: P
Detail format option: 1
Multiyear view: D





01/15/2021 11:55
9820ddee

Wachusett Regional School District
G/L ACCOUNT DETAIL

Org: QCH972 Object: 579720
DR C/R BREAKER REVOL - TUTION 028 -81-551-972-0000-0-579720-

YEAR	PER	JOURNAL	EFF	DATE	SRC	T	PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	P	CHECK	NO	WARRANT	VDR	NAME/ITEM	DESC	COMMENTS
2021	07	62	01/05/2021	BUA	5	49331			840,637.00	Y			0				2ND QTR
2021	04	193	10/23/2020	BUA	5	49103			769,147.00	Y			0				1ST QTR

Total Amount: 1,609,784.00

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

FY21 SPED OOD Tuitions
Estimated Revenues and Expenditures
Updated January 14, 2021

Estimated Revenues -- All Funds	General Fund	\$	2,770,000.00	Notes
	FY21 Circuit Breaker	\$	3,076,591.00	Per DESE email of October 16, 2020
	FY20 Circuit Breaker CF	\$	1,050,000.00	
	240 Grant	\$	1,500,000.00	FY21 Approved Grant Contracted Services Figure
	Total	\$	8,396,591.00	
Estimated Expenditures -- All Funds -- as of January 14, 2021			\$6,640,639.00	
Watch List Scenario 12.8.20			\$0.00	
Est. Total Tuition Expenditures only			<u>\$6,640,639.00</u>	
Balance		\$	1,755,952.00	
Less YTD CB, payroll costs		\$	-	
Less CB payroll encumbrances		\$	-	
Est. Ending Balance		\$	<u>1,755,952.00</u>	
1.14.21				

ATTACHMENT F

01/15/2021
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Wachusett Regional School District



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FROM 2021 01 TO 2021 06

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
028 DISTRICT REVOLVING							
81 DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION							
OCT107 571070 CHOICETUI	0	0	0	300.00	0.00	-300.00	0%
OCT400 574000 CHOICETUI	372,046	155,435	527,481	8,755.40	124,954.00	393,771.60	25.3%
TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE ALLOCATION	372,046	155,435	527,481	9,055.40	124,954.00	393,471.60	25.4%
TOTAL DISTRICT REVOLVING	372,046	155,435	527,481	9,055.40	124,954.00	393,471.60	25.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	372,046	155,435	527,481	9,055.40	124,954.00	393,471.60	
GRAND TOTAL	372,046	155,435	527,481	9,055.40	124,954.00	393,471.60	25.4%

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Wachusett Regional School District

REPORT OPTIONS

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

Report title:
..

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
Print Full or Short description: S
Print full GL account: N
Sort by full GL account: N
Print Revenues-Version headings: N
Print Revenue as credit: Y
Print revenue budgets as zero: N

From Yr/Per: 2021/ 1
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 6
Budget Year: 2021
Print totals only: N
Format type: 1
Double space: N
Suppress zero bal accts: Y
Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N
Roll projects to object: N
Print journal detail: N
From Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
To Yr/Per: 2021/ 4
Include budget entries: Y
Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
Sort by JE # or PO #: P
Detail format option: 1
Multiyear view: D



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01/15/2021 11:53
9820ddee
Wachusett Regional School District
G/L ACCOUNT DETAIL

Org: QCT400 Object: 574000
DR CHOICE - SUPP & EXP 028 -81-550-400-2420-0-574000-

YEAR	PER	JOURNAL	EFF DATE	SRC T	PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	P	CHECK NO	WARRANT	VDR NAME/ITEM	DESC	COMMENTS
2021	05	212	11/30/2020	BUA	5	49222	31,087.00	Y		0			SCHOOL CH
2021	04	198	10/30/2020	BUA	5	49110	31,087.00	Y		0			SCHOOL CH
2021	03	234	09/30/2020	BUA	5	48809	31,087.00	Y		0			SCHOOL CH
2021	02	147	08/31/2020	BUA	5	48808	31,087.00	Y		0			SCHOOL CH
2021	01	117	07/31/2020	BUA	5	48743	31,087.00	Y		0			SCHOOL CH

Total Amount: 155,435.00

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

ATTACHMENT G



01/14/2021 11:14
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Wachusett Regional School District
FY21 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 1.14.21

P 1
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FOR 2021 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJSTMTS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
001 GENERAL FUND						
0000 UNDESIGNATED						
001 401412 GF MLC-HOL	-20,061,939	0	-20,061,939	-9,612,627.00	-10,449,312.00	47.9%
001 401413 GF MLC-PAX	-4,600,004	0	-4,600,004	-3,298,089.75	-1,301,914.25	71.7%
001 401414 GF MLC-PRI	-3,697,913	0	-3,697,913	-1,782,733.00	-1,915,180.00	48.2%
001 401415 GF MLC-RUT	-7,678,996	0	-7,678,996	-3,611,304.00	-4,065,692.00	47.1%
001 401416 GF MLC-SFE	-8,598,601	0	-8,598,601	-4,795,036.75	-3,803,564.25	55.8%
001 401422 GERBSA-HOL	-8,142,799	0	-8,142,799	-3,653,033.00	-4,489,766.00	44.9%
001 401423 GERBSA-PAX	-1,577,286	0	-1,577,286	-1,099,946.25	-477,339.75	69.7%
001 401424 GERBSA-PRI	-1,045,013	0	-1,045,013	-474,289.00	-570,724.00	45.4%
001 401425 GERBSA-RUT	-3,879,732	0	-3,879,732	-1,807,455.00	-2,072,277.00	46.6%
001 401426 GERBSA-SFE	-2,453,827	0	-2,453,827	-1,386,613.06	-1,067,213.94	56.5%
001 401432 GFTRAN-HOL	-2,290,978	0	-2,290,978	-1,102,259.00	-1,188,719.00	48.1%
001 401433 GFTRAN-PAX	-443,770	0	-443,770	-331,896.00	-111,874.00	74.8%
001 401434 GFTRAN-PRI	-294,015	0	-294,015	-143,111.00	-150,904.00	48.7%
001 401435 GFTRAN-RUT	-1,091,564	0	-1,091,564	-545,378.00	-546,186.00	50.0%
001 401436 GFTRAN-SFE	-690,385	0	-690,385	-418,393.50	-271,991.50	60.6%
001 401442 GFEDERT-HOL	-1,150,430	0	-1,150,430	-544,987.00	-605,443.00	47.4%
001 401443 GFEDERT-PAX	-222,841	0	-222,841	-178,077.00	-44,764.00	79.9%
001 401444 GFEDERT-PRI	-147,641	0	-147,641	-76,783.00	-70,858.00	52.0%
001 401445 GFEDERT-RUT	-548,136	0	-548,136	-293,515.00	-254,621.00	53.5%
001 401446 GFEDERT-SFE	-346,681	0	-346,681	-215,308.38	-131,372.62	62.1%
001 401450 CHAP70 AID	-29,969,019	0	-29,969,019	-12,268,001.00	-17,701,018.00	40.9%
001 401451 CHAP71 RST	-2,430,991	0	-2,430,991	.00	-2,430,991.00	.0%
001 401452 CHAP70 CR	-52,823	0	-52,823	-37,799.00	-15,024.00	71.6%
001 401453 SCHL CHOIC	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401454 UNRES ELD	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401455 MEDICAID	-450,000	0	-450,000	-170,050.15	-279,949.85	37.8%
001 401460 GFINTEREST	-50,000	0	-50,000	-6,212.76	-43,787.24	12.4%
001 401462 GF MISCELL	-200,000	0	-200,000	-6,014.46	-193,985.54	3.0%
001 401464 GF INSRIM	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401466 GF PREMBAN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401468 GF MSBA	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
001 401400 GF TRAN IN	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%
5400 SHORT-TERM INTEREST						
AEC784 401466 BAN INTER	0	0	0	.00	.00	.0%



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Wachusett Regional School District
FY21 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 1.14.21

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FOR 2021 13

	ORIGINAL ESTIM REV	ESTIM REV ADJUSTMTS	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD REVENUE	REMAINING REVENUE	PCT COLL
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	-102,115,384	0	-102,115,384	-47,860,912.06	-54,254,471.94	46.9%
TOTAL REVENUES	-102,115,384	0	-102,115,384	-47,860,912.06	-54,254,471.94	
GRAND TOTAL	-102,115,384	0	-102,115,384	-47,860,912.06	-54,254,471.94	46.9%

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



01/14/2021 11:14
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Wachusett Regional School District
FY21 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 1.14.21

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REPORT OPTIONS

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

Report title:

FY21 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 1.14.21

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.

Print totals only: N

Print Full or Short description: S

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: 2021/ 1

To Yr/Per: 2021/13

Include budget entries: Y

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: 2021/13

Print MTD Version: N

Roll projects to object: N

Carry forward code: 2

Find Criteria

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

FY21 Revenue Budget Projections
1.14.21

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ORIGINAL ESTIM.</u>		<u>REVENUE BUDGET</u>		<u>ACTUAL YTD</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
		<u>REV</u>	<u>ESTIM REV ADJ</u>	<u>ADJ</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401412	GF MLC-HOL	-20,061,939	-20,061,939	0.00	-9,612,627.00	-10,449,312		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401413	GF MLC-PAX	-4,600,004	-4,600,004	0	-3,298,090	-1,301,914		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401414	GF MLC-PRI	-3,697,913	-3,697,913	0	-1,782,733	-1,915,180		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401415	GF MLC-RUT	-7,678,996	-7,678,996	0	-3,613,304	-4,065,692		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401416	GF MLC-STE	-8,598,601	-8,598,601	0	-4,795,037	-3,803,564		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401422	GFRASA-HOL	-8,142,799	-8,142,799	0	-3,653,033	-4,489,766		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401423	GFRASA-PAX	-1,577,286	-1,577,286	0	-1,099,946	-477,340		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401424	GFRASA-PRI	-1,045,013	-1,045,013	0	-474,289	-570,724		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401425	GFRASA-RUT	-3,879,732	-3,879,732	0	-1,807,455	-2,072,277		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401426	GFRASA-STE	-2,453,827	-2,453,827	0	-1,386,613	-1,067,214		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401432	GFTRAN-HOL	-2,290,978	-2,290,978	0	-1,102,259	-1,188,719		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401433	GFTRAN-PAX	-443,770	-443,770	0	-331,896	-111,874		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401434	GFTRAN-PRI	-294,015	-294,015	0	-143,111	-150,904		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401435	GFTRAN-RUT	-1,091,564	-1,091,564	0	-545,378	-546,186		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401436	GFTRAN-STE	-690,385	-690,385	0	-418,394	-271,992		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401442	GFDEBT-HOL	-1,150,430	-1,150,430	0	-544,987	-605,443		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401443	GFDEBT-PAX	-222,841	-222,841	0	-178,077	-44,764		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401444	GFDEBT-PRI	-147,641	-147,641	0	-76,783	-70,858		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401445	GFDEBT-RUT	-548,136	-548,136	0	-293,515	-254,621		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401446	GFDEBT-STE	-346,681	-346,681	0	-215,308	-131,373		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401450	CHAP70 AID	-29,969,019	-29,560,178	(408,841)	-12,268,001	-17,292,177		See Note 1
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401451	CHAP71 RST	-2,430,991	-2,295,991	(135,000)	0	-2,295,991		See Note 2
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401452	CHAP70 CR	-52,823	-214,428	161,605	-37,799	-176,629		See Note 3
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401455	MEDICAID	-450,000	-450,000	0	-170,050	-279,950		
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401460	GFINTEREST	-50,000	-25,000	(25,000)	-6,213	-18,787		See Note 4
001-00-000-000-0000-0-401462	GF MISCELL	-200,000	-75,000	(125,000)	-6,014	-68,986		See Note 5
Total GENERAL FUND		-102,115,384	-101,583,148	(532,236)	-47,860,912	-54,254,472		
Revenue Total		-102,115,384	-101,583,148	(532,236)	-47,860,912	-54,254,472		

Note 1 Final number per State Budget of 12.18.25

Note 2 The final Cherry Sheet figure for the final State budget is \$2,459,975. The estimate here reflects the District's original budget number less the repayment of approximately \$135,000 from the FY18 overpayment.

Note 3 This figure represents the figure posted on final Cherry Sheet numbers.

Note 4 Interest Income has been reduced given year to date activity.

Note 5 Miscellaneous Income has been reduced given year to date activity.

Created 1.14.21 *AMANDA*

ATTACHMENT H



01/14/2021 11:10
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Wachusett Regional School District
FY21 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 1.14

P 1
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FOR 2021 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJUSTMENTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENC/REQ	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
0 UNDESIGNATED	0	0	0	181,815.18	32,755.04	-214,570.22	100.0%
1 SALARIES & STIPENDS	65,180,851	1,634	65,182,485	25,585,604.96	35,527,967.77	4,068,912.27	93.8%
2 BENEFITS & INSURANCE	16,144,697	-96,884	16,047,813	10,620,602.54	6,014,197.98	-586,987.52	103.7%
3 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	3,122,909	366,946	3,489,855	1,351,232.79	960,589.05	1,178,033.16	66.2%
4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	4,009,923	-271,692	3,738,231	1,273,496.49	2,191,408.61	273,125.90	92.7%
5 PUPIL SERVICES	52,759	-1	52,758	25,069.51	15,007.40	12,681.09	76.0%
6 SPECIAL ED TUITIONS	2,770,001	-1	2,770,000	1,356,131.50	1,082,961.97	330,704.53	88.1%
7 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	1,176,810	0	1,176,810	473,637.00	1,047,526.00	-344,353.00	129.3%
8 TRANSPORTATION	7,241,703	-2	7,241,701	682,392.16	4,637,765.09	1,921,543.75	71.5%
9 DEBT SERVICE	2,415,731	0	2,415,731	962,678.13	1,453,052.07	.00	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL	102,115,384	0	102,115,384	42,512,862.26	52,963,231.78	6,639,289.96	93.5%

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



01/14/2021 11:10
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Wachusett Regional School District
FY21 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 1.14

F 2
glytdbud

REPORT OPTIONS

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

Report title:
FY21 BUDGET REPORT BY APPROPRIATION 1.14

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.

Print totals only: Y

Print Full or Short description: S

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: 2021/ 1

To Yr/Per: 2021/13

Include budget entries: Y

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: 2021/13

Print MTD Version: N

Roll projects to object: N

Carry forward code: 2

Find Criteria

Field Name	Field Value
Fund	001
Location	
Department	
Category	
Dept of Ed	
Appropriate	0:9
Prog	
Bud	
Character Code	
Org	
Object	
Project	
Account type	Expense

ATTACHMENT I



MA Department of Revenue

Division of Local Services

Final Regional School Cherry Sheet Estimates

Data current as of 12/18/2020

[Return to Previous page](#)

Select a Fiscal Year: 2021 ▼

Select a Regional School: Wachusett ▼

Submit

[Export Table](#)

C.S. 2-ER Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue FY2021

**NOTICE TO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS**

General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 25A

Wachusett

A. EDUCATION**Distributions and Reimbursements**

Chapter 70	29,560,178
Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	214,428
Regional School Transportation	2,459,975

Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:

School Choice Receiving Tuition	321,155
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TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:	32,555,736
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Estimated Charges:

Special Education	36,096
School Choice Sending Tuition	1,022,487
Charter School Sending Tuition	657,072
Total Estimated Charges:	1,715,655

B. TOTAL RECEIPTS, NET OF ESTIMATED CHARGES:	30,840,081
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Questions About Local Aid Please Email The Municipal Databank at : databank@dor.state.ma.us



Wachusett Regional School

district

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

To: Darryll McCall
Superintendent of Schools

From: Jeff Carlson
Director of Human Resources

Re: December, 2020 and January, 2021 Activity Report

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

1. Personnel

- *The BRYT Program Clinician position at the High School has been filled.*
- *The Technology Integration Specialist teaching positions for grades PreK-5 and 6-8 have been filled.*
- *Several ABA/PA and Paraprofessional positions District-Wide have been filled.*
- *Building Substitute positions for all District schools are being filled to assist with Hybrid learning.*
- *The Assistant Principal position at Naquag Elementary has been posted and a candidate has been identified.*
- *Several Food Service Assistant positions at District schools have been filled.*

2. Collective Bargaining

- *The Legal Affairs subcommittee met on January 4th to provide updates on outstanding collective bargaining issues and to review pending District legal issues.*

- *The District will soon be restarting negotiations with the Paraprofessional, ABA/PA and WAA Unions to discuss successor agreements to these expired contracts.*

3. Health Insurance

- *Health Reimbursement Account reimbursements for December, 2020, are being processed.*
- *The District's insurance broker has gone out to bid for the District's health insurance plan and will report on the bids received later this month.*

4. Fingerprinting update

- *Morpho Trust, the state finger printing vendor continues to fingerprint all new hires and existing staff. At this time, we are experiencing activity with Student Teachers and bus drivers that will be working within the District.*

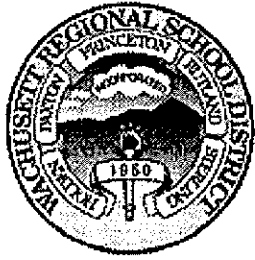
5. Teacher/ Administrator Licensure

- *The Director continues to work with any new hires on licensing issues but the focus has now turned to existing staff as the school year has started. Existing staff need assistance with advancing and renewal of licenses.*

6. Human Resources / Business Office Meetings

- *The Director is working with the Director of Business and Finance on issues impacting our two departments. This involves working collaboratively on the implementation of the FY 21 budget and starting the process of data gathering for the FY 22 budget.*

Should you have any questions regarding this report, do not hesitate to contact me.



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

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

From: Brendan Keenan, Ed.D., MSW, Director of Social-Emotional Learning

Date: January 20, 2021

Re: Director of Social-Emotional Learning's Report

WRSD School Nurses & COVID-19:

I have been fortunate enough to work closely with our district School Nurses since my arrival in the district. I continue to be impressed by their ability to adapt to the circumstances they face as medical professionals in our schools, especially in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Under the guidance and leadership of the district's lead nurse, Sandra Berquist, our school nurses have attended trainings to keep current about official guidance and protocols, and they have been integral in establishing protocols and routines that promote the prevention of COVID-19 and another communicable disease. I feel so fortunate to be able to witness first-hand the amazing efforts of our nurses, which so often go unnoticed.

The WRSD school nurses have also released original educational videos that focus on COVID-19. These videos are presented as cartoons, and are intended to be useful for both children and adults. These videos have been well-received by members of our school community. There will be additional videos released throughout the school year as questions arise, and they will be made available on the district YouTube channel (see links #1 and #2 below).

I want to recognize the Rutland Board of Health, and especially Richard Stevens, for arranging for our full-time and substitute school nurses to receive the COVID-19 vaccine during the week of January 11th at their vaccine clinic. School nurses in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are included in the Phase 1 roll-out of the vaccine (see link #4 below).

Our five local Boards of Health have been amazing partners in our efforts to prevent and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in our five towns. We have been meeting regularly with the Boards of Health, WRSD School Nurses, and Central Office administration throughout the pandemic. Their expertise and problem-solving has strengthened our district response to the pandemic in our continued effort to promote the health safety of our school and local community members.

Links:

1. [Coronavirus Safety Guide Video: Created by WRSD School Nurses](#)
2. [Quarantine vs. Isolation video: Created by WRSD School Nurses](#)
3. [WRSD COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines](#)
4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Timeline: Phase Overview \(Massachusetts\)](#)