



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

April 9, 2021

To: *Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

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

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

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

Updated Roster and Subcommittee Assignments

As reported, Scott Brown has resigned from the School Committee. Scott served on the Committee for almost eight years and his service to our district is much appreciated (attachment 1). Attached is the updated roster as well as the updated listing of subcommittee assignments (attachments 2 & 3).

Upcoming Annual Town Meetings and Local Elections

Below is information about upcoming Annual Town Meetings and the local elections. You will see that the towns of Paxton and Sterling have moved their ATMs to dates in June. Please also note that the town of Sterling will be conducting their local elections on June 21, 2021. Due to Sterling's election being moved to June, the School Committee 2021-2022 Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, June 28th, 7:00 PM. Having the Organizational Meeting, along with the regular meeting for June on June 28th the five ATMs and all local elections will be concluded.

	Holden	Paxton	Princeton	Rutland	Sterling
Annual Town Meeting Date	Monday May 17, 2021	Monday June 21, 2021	Saturday May 15, 2021	Saturday May 8, 2021	Monday June 14, 2021
Town Meeting Time	7:00 PM	TBD	10:00 AM	TBD	5:30 PM
Town Meeting Location	WRHS Auditorium	Tivnan Field	TPS fields	TBD	Sterling Airport
Annual Town Election Date	Monday May 10, 2021	Monday June 21, 2021	Monday May 10, 2021	Monday May 10, 2021	Monday May 10, 2021
Administration	Darryll McCall	Darryll McCall	Darryll McCall	Darryll McCall	Darryll McCall
School Committee Rep					

I have informed the Town Moderators that I will be attending the Town Meetings representing the District (attachment 4). School Committee members who are willing to represent the Committee at your town's ATM are asked to let us know.

Posting

Attached is the updated posting of School Committee, subcommittee, and SEPAC meetings for the coming months (attachment 5). You will note that a special meeting of the full Committee is posted for Wednesday, May 5th, at which time the annual evaluation of the Superintendent will be presented to the full Committee for approval and acceptance.

As has been the practice, Monday'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 meetings. 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 meetings will be streamed for the public through YouTube Live. A link to the stream will be posted on the WRSD homepage. The meeting will also be broadcast live on HCTV.

Members of the public wishing to address the School Committee through Public Hearing may register on the WRSDC webpage (www.wrsd.net/school_committee). Pre-registered commenters will be invited to address the Committee live through Google Meet or other instructions which will be sent just prior to the meeting.

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

Reopening of Schools

I am extremely pleased to report that students in grades k-8 who opted to return to in-person school did so on Monday, April 5th, and the day was a tremendous success! I have received summary reports from each school which I have shared below:

Summary Report - 1st day of Full In person
Mountview Middle School, C. Erik Githmark, Principal

Student Arrival and Dismissal:

Arrival: Buses arrived on time and we released students one bus at a time to reduce the overall amount of students entering the school at the same time. We have additional staffing in the back of the school to help with the carpool drop off process and have added a third location for cars to drop kids off thus keeping that process efficient, even with triple the amount of cars on campus in the morning. We have created bus seating charts and have those loaded to a shared Google folder for use in close contact tracing.

Dismissal: Our biggest anticipated area of concern was how to handle the number of carpools arriving at Mountview each afternoon. With almost triple the number of vehicles on campus, we made arrangements to have two HPD officers on campus on Monday and Tuesday to help with traffic flow on the side of the school where cars need to double up and on Shrewsbury Street to ensure cars get on and off campus efficiently. This has also served to help establish good routines with our families. Earlier this year we started dismissing carpools first to get cars moving off

campus before buses were loaded. This has saved us a tremendous amount of time and certainly helped on Monday to get cars off of Shrewsbury Street.

Academics:

Classroom desks are now spaced at three foot distancing at the minimum. Some classes are at capacity meaning that any “C” Cohort student returning at this point in the year will most likely have their schedules changed so that we can place them in all of their classes while maintaining safe distancing requirements. Staff are working with their “live” groups and streaming their classes to the “C” Cohort students throughout the day. We are encouraging less screen-based activities in classrooms now that our kids are, for the majority, physically back in classrooms. Kids have spent an inordinate amount of time on a Chromebook screen over the last year and we want to give them a more-personal and social experience in the classroom to the extent possible while ensuring “C” cohort kids are receiving a solid program of instruction.

Food Service:

Our cafeteria and gym have been fully dedicated to serving lunch to students using individual student desks. Having the capacity to feed over 240 kids for each of our three lunch seatings has been a challenge. Obtaining desks and tables for lunch and classrooms has been difficult but we found a way to make it work. Our current challenge and probably our biggest one so far is being able to feed all of the kids looking for cafeteria meals within the specified time allotted for lunch. Grade 6 students are ordering far more lunches than we anticipated and we had to extend their lunch by 5 minutes on Monday and were just able to get all kids fed on time today. We are working closely with the Mountview kitchen staff and custodians to seek ways to streamline the food service and cleaning process to accommodate the need for slightly more time for kids to eat while also allowing us time to effectively clean and sanitize desks prior to the next group of students coming down. We anticipate that this will be resolved before the upcoming April break at the latest.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person

Central Tree Middle School, Dave Cornacchioli, Principal

As we prepared for the Full In Person return on 4/5/2021, we had 86 percent of our population returning and 14 percent in cohort C. We set up classrooms and the cafeteria to meet these increased numbers and were ready to go for Monday.

Yesterday, overall, was a great success. It was exciting to see more students in the building and the structure of our original remote learning schedule did not change much so it has been a seamless transition for the students and staff each and every time we have adjusted the schedule. We had one out of ten buses that was late by about 10 minutes, but we adjusted and made it work. The transitions between classes were definitely crowded in parts of the buildings, but the flow of movement was steady and orderly. The cafeteria was a bit hectic as we had to assign all new seats

and review routines, but overall it went well, a bit slow. Dismissal has been extremely smooth since Hybrid and that continued Monday, no issues.

Today, all ten buses were on time and we were able to do our announcements and dismiss for the first period of the day on time. The transitions between classes flowed well and lunch was much smoother than the seats were already assigned.

The only issues that we are working on at some level still are:

- Making sure students are in the correct assigned seat on the bus. We sent a document to all students and families with assigned seat numbers on Friday of last week. We are adjusting them still based on some confusion with assigned bus routes from AA.
- AA has been very good overall, although we do have some concerns with some of the scheduling of routes. Example, we have several students who take a bus in the morning but have a different bus in the afternoon. We also have 3 buses that are very full compared to the others. We have been working with them to fix/adjust any that we can.
- For me, having to redirect students for being students based on the mitigation strategies and protocols we have to have in place to deal with the pandemic that is still going on is a challenge because we want them to enjoy the experience, but the safety and health of all has to be our first priority.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning Naquag Elementary School, Dixie Estes, Principal

Naquag staff and K - 2 children are so excited to be back full “in-person” at Naquag! We have 277 children participating in full “in person” learning and 21 children participating in “full remote” learning. Arrival and dismissal procedures have gone smoothly, with coordinating 70-80 students for parent drop off / pick up, 3 vans and 13 buses. Bus seats have been assigned and each bus student has received a laminated backpack “bus tag” (child’s name, bus number and bus seat).

Naquag’s cafeteria has seating for 101 students, spaced 6’ apart, facing the same direction. The lunchroom schedule includes three grade-specific lunch periods. Naquag’s cafeteria is serving approximately 55 - 65 lunches per grade level during full day instruction (M/T/ThF). Wednesday’s half-day “bagged lunch to go” totaled approximately 120 lunches. Grade specific recesses are scheduled including hand sanitizing before/after recess. Classrooms contain 18 - 21 desks, spaced 3’ - 6’ apart facing the same direction. Naquag students and staff have practiced full “in-person” fire drills. WRSD IT has compiled 4 chromecarts (11 - 15 chromebooks per cart) for second graders to utilize.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Paxton Center School, Shawn Rickan, Principal

On April 5, 2021, Paxton Center School (PCS) began the full in-person learning phase of the school year. Although many people were feeling overwhelmed, the first few days have gone very smoothly to this point. All of the precautions for COVID-19 have been implemented including spacing, cleaning, and PPE distribution. The PCS physical plant is in good working order as the HVAC system, bathrooms and damaged rugs have been repaired. Additionally, we have solid plans for parent drop-off, van drop-off, and bus drop-off. One area of concern is the dismissal procedure which we think will work itself out once we have a few more days under our belt.

Throughout the day, procedures have been implemented for safe travel to and from mask breaks, snack breaks, and lunch breaks. Our mantra of “all hands on deck” has emphasized the teamwork necessary to make this new normal work. Another area of concern is contact tracing because of our close proximity to each other in school. Students have been compliant with mask-wearing, hand sanitizing, and desk cleaning. We are so happy to have our students in the building and based on the school vibe the vast majority of students feel the same way! Simply, we had a great first few days and we are hopeful to continue in this trajectory as we move along to the end of the year.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Glenwood Elementary School, Karen Cappucci, Principal

Glenwood Elementary School in Rutland is a 3-5 school. Glenwood now has 4 third grade classrooms, 6 fourth grade classrooms, 6 fifth grade classrooms and two developmental programs. 94% of students have returned to full in person learning!

Sanitizing and mask wearing are a must and all staff and students have quickly fallen into the routines of wearing masks, sanitizing their hands and maintaining a safe distance from one another. Our school is deep cleaned and sanitized by custodians every Wednesday. Fifth grade classes that switch have students wipe down desks and chairs each time they depart from a classroom. This has worked well since January 19th. All staff and students remain at least 3 feet from one another when masked and 6 feet when unmasked, always remembering that we need to keep everyone safe.

We welcomed back all students on April 5th. Everyone arrived on the first day of school ready to begin this school year. Some students were crying, excited to be back at school and missing their teachers. Students with anxiety needed a little extra time to enter the building. The transition from hybrid to full-in person was pretty smooth due to the careful planning of schedules, seating, setting up of routines and lunch/recess.

It was not the best start to the year with buses and vans, but we are working out the kinks. The van routes are being adjusted to make arrival and dismissal safe for all students. This is not a new issue, we deal with this every year. The amount of planning that the bus company puts into the routes is evident and we cannot work out all the kinks until we begin school. Cars are moving efficiently through our pick-up and drop off lines.

Teachers were ready to go by the first day of school and our building sparkled due to the hard work of our custodians. All classrooms were up and ready to go the week before school began and custodians were able to assist teachers with the setup of their classrooms. Glenwood is truly a family, where everyone works together to ensure the safety and academic and social success of our students

Our focus for the remainder of the school year will be developing new routines, classroom management, an emphasis on kindness and tolerance, and rebuilding the school family that has been apart for 389 days.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Mayo Elementary School, Liz Garden, Principal



The students and staff were very excited to have almost everyone back in person on Monday. A parent donated the sign in the picture above and everyone said they loved pulling into the school and seeing it. Arrival was a little messy because we did not start unloading kids from cars until 8:50 so the traffic was backed up to Bullard and then buses could not get down to unload. We adjusted the plan on Tuesday and have started bringing kids into the building to wait in the cafeteria until the bell rings so that cars can begin to clear out. The desks are definitely packed

into most rooms, but the kids have done a great job of adjusting, and they were just so happy to see their friends. We saw many students who we have not seen in person in over a year. Students were excited to now be able to go into a space for music and art.

First grade is the first lunch and is the only grade that I can fit downstairs in the cafeteria and the music room space. The rest of the grades, we have anywhere from 10 to 30 kids eating in the gym cafeteria. I have been training the 2 lunch monitors and helping them get to know the kids. 4th and 5th graders end up waiting in line for 15 minutes to get their food. We are trying to get the kitchen staff to do more serving the trays versus asking kids what they want, but we were also down to one kitchen staff person the first 2 days which didn't help. Our lunch counts were off the first day so we are reminding staff and students that they really need to stick with what they ordered and get the kitchen counts as soon as they can in the morning. We have a shared Google sheet where classes sign up for outdoor mask/snack breaks and with the nice weather that has been working. We opened the structures on a rotating basis and provided recess equipment so the kids were very excited about that.



After the first day, we completely changed our dismissal plan so everyone was learning and the first buses were a little late getting to us and they forgot where they were supposed to go. We adjusted the second day by calling some of the first carpool kids first to get that line moving. We also had to ask the town to stop the work they were doing on Bullard during dismissal time. We also moved our back of the school carpool kids outside so it was easier to call them to their cars.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning **Houghton Elementary School, Tony Cipro, Principal**

90% of our children are present for in-person learning. The children are excited to see & be with their friends. Teachers are happy to have most all children in front of them, provide more diversified learning opportunities, and do true group activities. Everyone is participating in distancing throughout the day. Parent cooperation on AM dropoff and PM pickup has been terrific with less than the anticipated number of vehicles. Staff supervision & a Sterling Police presence has expedited the process. More children riding school buses and assigned seats are now in place in the event that contact tracing needs to be done.

We are very fortunate to have a great school facility. Moving from 4 lunches to 5 and the same for recess has allowed for all children to have assigned seats in the cafeteria eating together, with proper distancing. Making full use of Art, Music & PE areas, as they are intended to be, has been a gift; this doesn't exist in all district schools due their space limitations.

All Houghton School staff: custodians, paraprofessionals, teachers, secretary, cafeteria staff, and Mrs. O'Donnell have continued to be vigilant to ensure safety/health procedures are being followed. All of these people are contributors to creating & maintaining Houghton School as a child-centered school. We are moving forward to finish the school year in a strong fashion.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Chocksett Middle School, Christopher LaBreck, Principal

Chocksett's return to mostly in-person learning has been very successful to date. Our students definitely seem happier to be here with their friends, and they are adjusting nicely to socially distant seating arrangements and mask breaks. Communication from parents continues to be very favorable, as they too appreciate the return to a more normal routine. Transportation has been smooth, and we anticipate the minor hiccups in traffic will work themselves out as we adjust to our new arrival and dismissal procedures. The entire staff at Chocksett continues to shine and present a very positive learning environment for our students - including the majority in person, and the few who have opted to remain remote. We appreciate the support of the Sterling Police and the entire community.

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Dawson Elementary School, Melissa Wallace, Principal

April 5, 2021, was an amazing day at Dawson. The students entered with smiles on their faces and ready to learn. The past three days have been spent learning new routines in the classroom, the cafeteria, and dismissal. Dawson has completed the bus seating charts for all the buses, too. We are working on our parent pick lines as Bailey Rd is getting backed up. The Holden Police Department has been collaborative with us. A parent communication went home to all families this evening in regards to being respectful to our Dawson neighbors in regards to not blocking driveways and not turning around and driveways. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as needed going forward.

On Friday, April 2 from 3-5 and Saturday, April 3 from 10-12, we had a chrome book collection time. We collected over 150 chrome books and assembled multiple carts for teachers. The Dawson teachers advocated for these to return so they could finish projects and continue with some of the amazing online products they have used since September.

At this time, there are no major issues to report as we did a trial week from March 29-April 2 with small numbers to fix any problems from lunchtime routines to dismissal. I am happy and grateful for all the preparation the Dawson community did to make this week very successful for the students.

Summary Report from the 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Thomas Prince School, Tammy Boyle, Principal

Thomas Prince had a very successful first day from students' and staff perspectives. Teachers shared some student quotes with me:

"I feel better and more focused in school than home which had more distractions." J.E. grade 7

"I like being with more people and I feel safe. I think it was good to go back to school and I am very happy." M.O. grade 7

"I feel like going in everyday has been great and helped me a lot with understanding more of my learning." R.L. grade 7

"It's just so nice to be all together" M.K. Kindergarten

Staff have worked very hard to prepare for this full re-opening. Classrooms are now distanced at 3 feet and lunchrooms are distanced at 6 feet. This will increase our risk of close contacts, but we continue to be vigilant with mitigation strategies such as hand washing and mask wearing that we hope will reduce spread to any close contacts.

Morning drop off, lunches, and parent pick up are areas of challenge for us. For drop off and pick up, we have seen an exponential increase in the number of car riders. In order to manage this safely we are utilizing the assistance of Princeton PD as well as an all hands on deck approach to direct traffic and make sure students are coming and going to cars in the safest manner possible.

Lunches for K-4 are challenging because many students opt for school lunch and the lines are very long. Younger children also take a longer time to eat. Students in grades 5-8 are more likely to bring their own lunches and they eat more quickly so we have no concerns regarding the amount of time needed for them to finish eating. The other concern about lunches is that myself and my AP are both doing lunch duty in separate locations for 3 hours a day each. We will continue to look to hire lunch monitors. We hope that by April vacation our systems will have worked out any bugs!

Summary Report - 1st Day of Full In Person Learning
Davis Hill Elementary School, Jay Norton, Principal

PREPARATION:

The opening at Davis Hill Elementary for full in-person learning would not have been possible if not for the dedication and support of our DHCommunity. A high number of tasks were required to be completed prior to opening on Monday, April 5th, and I cannot thank our staff members enough for their tireless efforts behind the scenes. Having the building running daily and preparing for a full return to in-person learning was a challenge. However, our Davis Hill staff has maintained a focus on their students and families throughout the COVID pandemic and I have been awed at their resolve and determination to ensure that they are servicing their students to the best of their abilities no matter what. I would also like to thank our custodial staff for their ongoing efforts to ensure that the facility/classrooms were ready for April 5th. Our custodial crew was pivotal to our success. Finally, I want to thank the central office specifically for supporting our staff in organizing the vaccination clinic in Rutland, which has had a immense positive impact on our staff. Additionally, we are thankful to our central office staff for supporting our acquisition of 70 additional individual desks for our building. The addition of these desks was pivotal to our preparation.

SUMMARY OF RETURN:

Overall, the return to full in-person learning has been a highly positive experience for our students and staff. We have seen the return of students who previously have been in remote learning throughout hybrid. Subsequently, we have increased our number of classrooms that have full participation for in-person learning. Our staff and students have done an excellent job of adjusting to the logistical challenges inherent in the return to full in-person learning. For example, managing new mask/ snack break procedures in rooms that do not have 6ft of social distancing, supporting the increased lunch sizes (and long lunch lines) and additional cleaning and adjusting our schedules to support the changes related to the longer school day (from earlier in the year) and half-day Wednesdays. Generally, our operational objective was to maintain as many routine practices as possible upon the opening of school and then adjust as necessary provided complications and/ or need. While we are making subtle adjustments to the day-to-day routines, the vast majority of practices previously in place are working. We are collecting our borrowed chromebooks and are hopeful to have operational Chrome Carts for building use in the short term future. Staff continue to utilize technology when appropriate to support student learning (both of remote and in-person students). Student's continue to demonstrate a high level of mask discipline and do their best to adhere to the guidelines we are asking them to follow to maintain safety, though this is a challenge for all students, especially our youngest in K-2.

Two areas of concern will need to be monitored moving forward. First, is the time/ staffing that entry and dismissal currently require. Provided the size of parent drop-off and pick-up, Davis Hill has consulted with the Central Office/ Town of Holden and Holden Police Department to initiate the use of a second point of dismissal/ entry using the access road off of Route 31. Initially this appears to be working to help ease some of the congestion along Jamieson Road (at least during pick-up). Second, we continue to be operating with thin margins for staffing. Provided any cluster of absences and/ or prolonged absences, it will be challenging to maintain our procedures and practices.

WRHS Return to School Town Hall with the Superintendent

This past Thursday afternoon, I conducted another Town Hall event with WREA members, allowing the opportunity for conversation with the teachers union about the school year, and to answer questions and receive comments and suggestions about the remaining months of 2020-2021. In this town hall, I specifically focused on questions concerning the reopening of the high school. I was impressed with the thoughtfulness associated with teachers' questions and believe that the question and answer opportunity helped to alleviate some of their concerns. Over 60 people participated in the event.

Updated Covid-19 Data

Updated information pertaining to Covid-19 cases in our five town District. (Attachment 6)

Pooled Testing Update

The district is making significant progress with pooled testing. DESE approval was received this week, and Director Keenan and two of our school nurses have met with the DESE contacts to begin the planning process. The goal is to begin pooled testing at a test school site the week of April 26th, and then to scale the program district-wide shortly afterwards.

DESE Update on MCAS 2021

The following information pertaining to MCAS updates was shared with Superintendents on Friday, April 9th:

1. Remote MCAS Administration for Grades 3–8

Schools will be able to offer a remote administration of the grades 3–8 tests to accommodate families who chose to have their children learn remotely through the end of the school year. Below are some initial details about how remote testing will take place. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Technology Set-up

Students testing remotely will use a browser-based version of TestNav. Schools should refer to these TestNav system requirements, including requirements for browser-based TestNav and hardware requirements.

Test Security Considerations

Schools are strongly encouraged to communicate with parents/guardians about the importance of test validity and test security, and to have middle school students complete a student responsibilities form, which will be available on the DESE website later this month.

Test administrators will use a synchronous video tool (e.g., Google Meet, Zoom) to remain in contact with students during remote administration and to assist in monitoring.

Additional Guidance for Schools

DESE is preparing to provide resources and support for schools, including an addendum to the spring *Principal's Administration Manual* and *CBT Test Administrator's Manual* containing remote-testing instructions for principals and test administrators. Among other things, the addendum will provide details on the availability of accessibility features and accommodations during remote administrations. We anticipate having manuals available for schools to download from the DESE website in the last week in April.

A training session for principals, test coordinators, and test administrators will also be provided on Thursday, April 29. Registration is now available. The recording and slides will be posted in the MCAS Resource Center for those who are not able to attend.

2. Modified Competency Determination for Grade 11

At the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's April 20 meeting, Commissioner Riley will recommend that the Board modify the state graduation requirements for students in grade 11 (class of 2022) so that they would not need to pass the MCAS ELA and Mathematics tests in order to earn their CD. (As a reminder, a modification to the CD for STE was previously approved for this class.)

Schools should consult with grade 11 students and their parents/guardians to determine whether students will participate in the MCAS ELA and Mathematics tests for scholarship purposes. Grade 11 students who choose to participate may do so either in spring 2021 or in fall 2021 (the Adams Scholarship is based on first-time MCAS test scores). Students who test this spring will

have results this fall, in time to learn whether they qualify for scholarships before applying to colleges.

Procedures for Updating Student Information

DESE recommends that schools leave grade 11 student records as is in PearsonAccess Next at this time to make it easier to assign students if they choose to participate in testing for scholarship purposes.

Schools are reminded that students should not be assigned to PAN Sessions until two weeks prior to testing. At that time, only students who will be testing should be assigned to a PAN Session. However, if schools have already assigned students to PAN Sessions, students can be removed from them after testing. Additional instructions will be provided soon.

Schools will still receive PBT materials for students who were included in the SR/PNP and who have the PBT accommodation; schools should simply return any unused materials.

3. Updated Testing Schedule

Attached is an updated testing schedule that includes the dates for all grades and subjects and the dates for upcoming administration tasks. Note that there has been no change to the previously released schedule for grades 3–5, and that the testing window for grades 6–8 will be May 17–June 11.

Change to MCAS-Alt Submission Date

On Tuesday, March 23, DESE announced an extension to the MCAS-Alt submission date, from May 5 to May 20, 2021 (shown on the attached schedule).

This deadline extension applies to all of the following submission types: MCAS-Alt assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities, MCAS Grade-Level portfolios for students in grades 3–8, and Competency portfolios for students in grades 10 and 11. Competency portfolios for any students in grade 12 or beyond are still due on May 5, with results reported in time for graduation. More information about MCAS Grade-Level and Competency portfolios is available [here](#).

2021-2022 School Calendar

Attached is the draft 2021-2022 school calendar, for the Committee's consideration and approval, which is on Monday's agenda (attachment 7).

Budget Updates

On the agenda for Monday's meeting are three budget transfers that Director Deedy reviewed at the Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, the full Committee will be asked to approve these transfers Monday evening.

Administrative Update

As previously reported, Deputy Superintendent Berlo has submitted his intent to retire, effective June 30, 2021. We are in the process of advertising to fill this vacancy and I will keep the Committee informed as the interview process moves forward.

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation

The Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee met on April 7th. Monday evening, I will review my Evaluation Narrative with the Committee and Supervisor of Information Services Sclar will be at our meeting Monday evening, to review the online evaluation template which will be shared with all Committee members the following day, along with my Evaluation Narrative. Below is timeline for the annual evaluation process:

- 4/12 Superintendent McCall presents his annual Evaluation Narrative at the regular School Committee meeting
- 4/12 Presentation of electronic evaluation tool at full School Committee meeting (Barry Sclar to attend)
- 4/13 The Superintendent's Evaluation Narrative and electronic evaluation tool will be shared with all members of the School Committee
- 4/23 Due date for members' electronic evaluation input/feedback
- 4/27 Subcommittee Meeting
- by 5/1 Subcommittee members' compilations to Chair Dennis, to provide data/information for evaluation narrative
- 5/4 Subcommittee review of the final draft of the evaluation document
- 5/5 Special School Committee meeting - full School Committee vote on the Evaluation of the Superintendent

Review of the Regional Agreement

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement hosted a virtual public hearing on Thursday, April 8th, in order to provide members of the public the opportunity to provide suggestions and to ask questions about the Regional Agreement. Chair Mills has asked the towns to include a placeholder in each of the town's Annual Town Meeting warrants in the event the ad hoc subcommittee recommends amendments to this document, which would need to be considered by the five towns at a Town Meeting, either the Annual Town Meetings in May/June of this year or at Special Town Meetings if that becomes necessary.

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment projections based on data provided to NESDEC (New England School Development Council) in December 2020 have been shared with Member Town administrators and school principals, and can be found for your information as links in the cover email.

MASC Day on the Hill 2021

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees annual Day on the Hill event will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 16th, beginning at 9:00 AM (attachment 8). If you are interested in participating in this event, additional information can be found on the MASC website

Treasurer's Update

Treasurer Dunbar has submitted the Treasurer's Update and Cash Reconciliation for January 2021. Treasurer Dunbar's reports can be found in Google as separate attachments, and as separate links in my cover email.

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 Randi Jacob (randi_jacob@wrsd.net) and with the Town Clerk in your hometown.

Conflict of Interest

Executive Staff Reports

- Deputy Superintendent Robert Berlo's Report to the Superintendent, dated March 26, 2021 (attachment A).
- Director of Business and Finance Dan Deedy's Report to the Superintendent, dated April 2 2021 (attachment B)
- Director of Human Resources Jeff Carlson's Report to the Superintendent dated April 8, 2021 (attachment C)

Subcommittee Minutes

- Minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 1)

- Minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 2)
- Minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 3)
- Minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 4)
- Minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting of the Education Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 5)
- Minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 6)
- Minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 7)
- Minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 8)

Superintendent's Correspondence

- March 26, 2021 correspondence to Holden Garden Grants Committee Chair Margaret Watson (Superintendent's Correspondence 1)
- Correspondence from Wachusett Area Rotary Club (Superintendent's Correspondence 2)

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

cc: Executive Staff
DM:rj

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

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Agenda

Regular Meeting #1361

Monday, April 12, 2021
7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Executive Session to discuss 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.
- III. Chair's Opening Remarks
- IV. Student Representatives' Report (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)
- V. Collective Bargaining Agreement
Motion: To ratify the Memorandum of Agreement COVID-19 Plan for School Year 2020-2021 between WRSD and the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc, (WREA).
- VI. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Discussion of Report
 1. Update on K-8 Reopening
 2. Update on WRHS Proposed Reopening
 3. Deputy Superintendent Interview Process
 4. Graduation /Year End Activities
 5. Superintendent Evaluation
 6. Update and Discussion on Regional Agreement
 - B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 1. Motion: To approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar
 2. Motion: To recommend to the full School Committee a budget transfer of \$575,000 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Benefits and Insurance Appropriation.

3. Motion: To recommend to the full School Committee a budget transfer of \$335,000 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Other Operating Costs Appropriation.
4. Motion: To recommend to the full School Committee a budget transfer of \$40,000 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Pupil Services Appropriation.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee 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 Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 8, 2021
- H. Approval of the #1360 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 15, 2021
- I. Approval of the #334 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 29, 2021
- J. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 29, 2021

IX. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

X. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Lavoie, K. Mills, A. Silva, K. Williamson, 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 (K. Mills, Chair, M. Gustafson, Vice-chair, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar, J. Sullivan)
- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Williamson, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum)
- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, E. Knowlton, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, 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
 - a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (K. Mills, Chair, K. Williamson, Vice-chair, E. Knowlton, M. Lavoie, K. Ottmar)
- 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 (TBD), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School, 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)

XI. Public Hearing

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the April 12, 2021 Wachusett Regional School District Committee meeting, please contact Randi Jacob at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 230.

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

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Agenda

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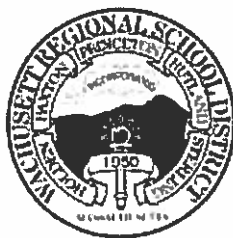
- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)
- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, M. Gustafson, Vice-chair, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar, J. Sullivan)
- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (K. Williamson, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum)
- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, E. Knowlton, Vice-chair, M. Dennis, 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
 - a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (K. Mills, Chair, K. Williamson, Vice-chair, E. Knowlton, M. Lavoie, K. Ottmar)
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- K. School Council Reports:
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XI. Public Hearing

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment

If you cannot attend the April 12, 2021 Wachusett Regional School District Committee meeting, please contact Randi Jacob at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 230.



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

March 31, 2021

Mr. Scott Brown
151 Highland Street
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Scott:

On behalf of our students and staff, District administration, and the WRSDC, I wish to thank you for your service on the School Committee representing the town of Holden. Since 2013 you have been a very active and involved member of the School Committee, most recently serving as Chair of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee. Your interest in what is best for all students is evident, and we thank you for your commitment to our district.

I wish you and your family the best.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Holden Selectboard

DM:rlp

*Thank you Scott!
We will miss you!
Stay in touch.
Dgll*

WACHUSETT REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 2020 – May 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Home Address & Phone</u>
Melissa Ayala	2021	8 Sterling Avenue Sterling 01564 melissa_ayala@wrsd.net
Krista Bennett	2023	Holden 01520 (408) 771-4279 krista_bennett@wrsd.net
Michael Dennis	2023	15 Cypress Circle Holden 01520 (978) 853-1278 michael_dennis@wrsd.net
Maleah Gustafson	2022	63 Heather Circle Jefferson 01522 maleah_gustafson@wrsd.net
Sherrie Haber	2022	1 Olivia Lane Rutland 01543 sherrie_haber@wrsd.net
Robert Imber	2021	1 Clearings Way Princeton 01541 (978) 481-6999 robert_imber@wrsd.net
Laura Kirshenbaum	2023	41 Britney Drive Holden 01520 laura_kirshenbaum@wrsd.net
Eric Knowlton	2021	235 Mirick Road Princeton 01541 eric_knowlton@wrsd.net
Matthew Lavoie	2022	28 Grizzly Drive Rutland 01543 (857) 891-6164 matthew_lavoie@wrsd.net
Linda Long-Bellil	2021	35 Brentwood Drive Holden 01520 (508) 304-1920 linda_longbellil@wrsd.net
Kenneth Mills	2022	22 Flagler Drive Holden 01520 (774) 230-4712 kenneth_mills@wrsd.net
Benjamin Mitchel	2021	7 Colony Lane Paxton 01612 (508) 208-7728 benjamin_mitchel@wrsd.net
Karl Ottmar	2023	232 West Street Paxton 01612 (434) 242-7042 karl_ottmar@wrsd.net
Michael Pantos, Jr.	2021	19 Watson Lane Rutland, MA 01543 michael_pantos@wrsd.net

3/31/2021

WACHUSETT REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 2020 – May 2021

Deidre Shapiro	2023	3 Pinewood Lane Sterling, MA 01564 deidre_shapiro@wrsd.net
Asima Silva	2021	75 Nelson Street Holden 01520 (508) 852-1246 asima_silva@wrsd.net
Christina Smith	2022	362 Sterling Road Jefferson 01522 (508) 468-7929 christina_smithSC@wrsd.net
Jeffrey Sullivan	2021	39 Vista Circle Rutland, MA 01543 jeffrey_sullivan@wrsd.net
Kelly Williamson	2023	17 Redstone Hill Road Sterling, MA 01564 (774) 232-4957 kelly_williamson@wrsd.net
Linda Woodland	2022	4 Deborah Lane Sterling 01564 linda.woodland@wrsd.net
Adam Young	2021	434 Shrewsbury Street Holden 01520 (774) 272-0182 adam_young@wrsd.net

Wachusett Regional School District Committee Subcommittee Assignments 2020-2021

<u>Business/Finance</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Legal Affairs</u>	<u>Management</u>
Kenneth Mills, Chair	Christina Smith, Chair	Kelly Williamson, Chair	Michael Dennis, Chair
Maleah Gustafson, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil, Vice-chair	Karl Ottmar, Vice-chair	Christina Smith, Vice-chair
Benjamin Mitchel	Krista Bennett	Robert Imber	Matthew Lavoie
Karl Ottmar	Sherrie Haber	Laura Kirshenbaum	Kenneth Mills
Jeffrey Sullivan	Robert Imber		Asima Silva
	Laura Kirshenbaum		Kelly Williamson
	Deidre Shapiro		Adam Young
<u>Superintendent Goals and Evaluation</u>			
Matthew Lavoie, Chair	<u>Facilities and Security</u>		
Eric Knowlton, Vice-chair	Adam Young, Chair		Asima Silva, Chair
Michael Dennis	Linda Woodland, Vice-chair		Linda Woodland, Vice-chair
Linda Woodland	Krista Bennett		Melissa Ayala
	Michael Pantos, Jr.		Krista Bennett
			Maleah Gustafson
			Laura Kirshenbaum
			Linda Long-Bellil
<u>Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Subcommittee</u>			

WRSD By-Laws specify the Chair of the School Committee is an ex-officio member of all standing subcommittees.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement

Kenneth Mills, Chair Matthew Lavoie
Kelly Williamson, Vice-chair Karl Ottmar
Eric Knowlton

Audit Advisory Board

Benjamin Mitchel, Chair Adam Young, Vice-chair

School Council Liaisons

Central Tree Middle School – Matthew Lavoie	Mountview Middle School
Chocksett Middle School – Kelly Williamson	Naquag Elementary School – Sherrie Haber
Davis Hill Elementary School – Kelly Williamson	Paxton Center School – Karl Ottmar
Dawson Elementary School – Laura Kirshenbaum	Thomas Prince School – Asima Silva
Glenwood Elementary School – TBD	WRHS – Kenneth Mills
Houghton Elementary School – Deidre Shapiro	Special Ed. Parent Advisory Council – Maleah Gustafson
Mayo Elementary School – Adam Young	ECC – Linda Woodland



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

April 8, 2021

Mr. Randy Jordan, Moderator
Town of Rutland
250 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543

Dear Mr. Jordan:

RE: Rutland Annual Town Meeting

I will be attending Rutland's May 8th Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand the meeting time and location are TBD.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Ron San Angelo, Rutland Town Administrator
Anita Carlson, Rutland Town Clerk

DM:rlp



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

April 8, 2021

Mr. Harry A. Pape, Moderator
Town of Princeton
6 Town Hall Drive
Princeton, MA 01541

Dear Mr. Pape:

RE: Princeton Annual Town Meeting

I will be attending Princeton's May 15th Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand the meeting will begin at 10:00 AM, and will be conducted outdoors in the fields at Thomas Prince School.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Sherry Patch, Princeton Town Administrator
Nathan Boudreau, Princeton Town Clerk

DM:rlp



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

April 8, 2021

Ms. Julie Rusch, Moderator
Town of Sterling
One Park Street
Sterling, MA 01564

Dear Ms. Rusch:

RE: Sterling Annual Town Meeting

I will be attending Sterling's June 14th Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand the meeting will begin at 5:30 PM, and will be conducted in the parking lot of the Sterling Airport.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Kellie Hebert, Sterling Town Administrator
Kathleen Farrell, Town Clerk

DM:rlp



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

April 8, 2021

Mr. Roger Brunelle, Moderator
Town of Paxton
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612

Dear Mr. Brunelle:

RE: Paxton Annual Town Meeting

I will be attending Paxton's June 21st Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand the meeting will be held outdoors at Tivnan Field, time TBD.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Carol Riches, Paxton Town Administrator
Laurie Becker, Paxton Town Clerk

DM:rlp



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

April 8, 2021

Mr. Joseph G. Sullivan, Moderator
Town of Holden
1196 Main Street
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

RE: Holden Annual Town Meeting

I will be attending Holden's May 17th Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, and will be held at Wachusett Regional High School.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Peter Lukes, Holden Town Manager
Jeanne Hudson, Holden Town Clerk

DM:rlp

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement/Public Hearing**Virtual Public Hearing****Thursday, April 8, 2021****7:00 p.m.****Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet****AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Virtual Public Hearing
- 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, April 12, 2021****7:00 p.m.****Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet****AGENDA**

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- X. Committee Reports
- XI. Public Hearing
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Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Continued Policy Review
- IV. New Business
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Establish Agenda for Next Meeting
- VII. Adjournment

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SEPAC Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA

- I. Update from Special Education Director Christine Smith
- II. Upcoming Events
 - A. Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP workshop-May 11, 2021
 - B. Wind Beneath Their Wings Program - Spring 2021
- III. Bylaws-Updates and Timelines
- IV. SEPAC Officer Elections

- V. ESY Extended School Year - Timeline and Updates
 - VI. Vocational Program at High School
 - VII. School Committee Meeting
-

Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Legal Affairs Subcommittee

Thursday, April 15, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Facilities and Security Subcommittee

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Business & Finance Subcommittee

Thursday, April 22, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Education Subcommittee

Monday, April 26, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Monday, April 26, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Special Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

SEPAC

Basic Rights: Understand the IEP presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs

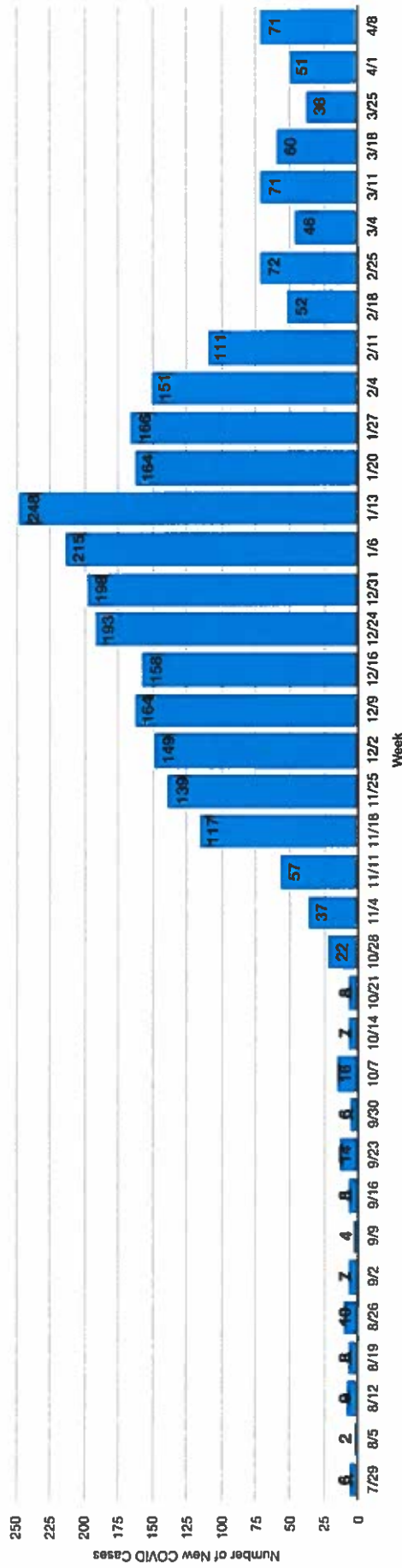
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Workshop: Presentation by the Federation for Children with Special Needs

Wachusett Region New COVID Cases Per Week

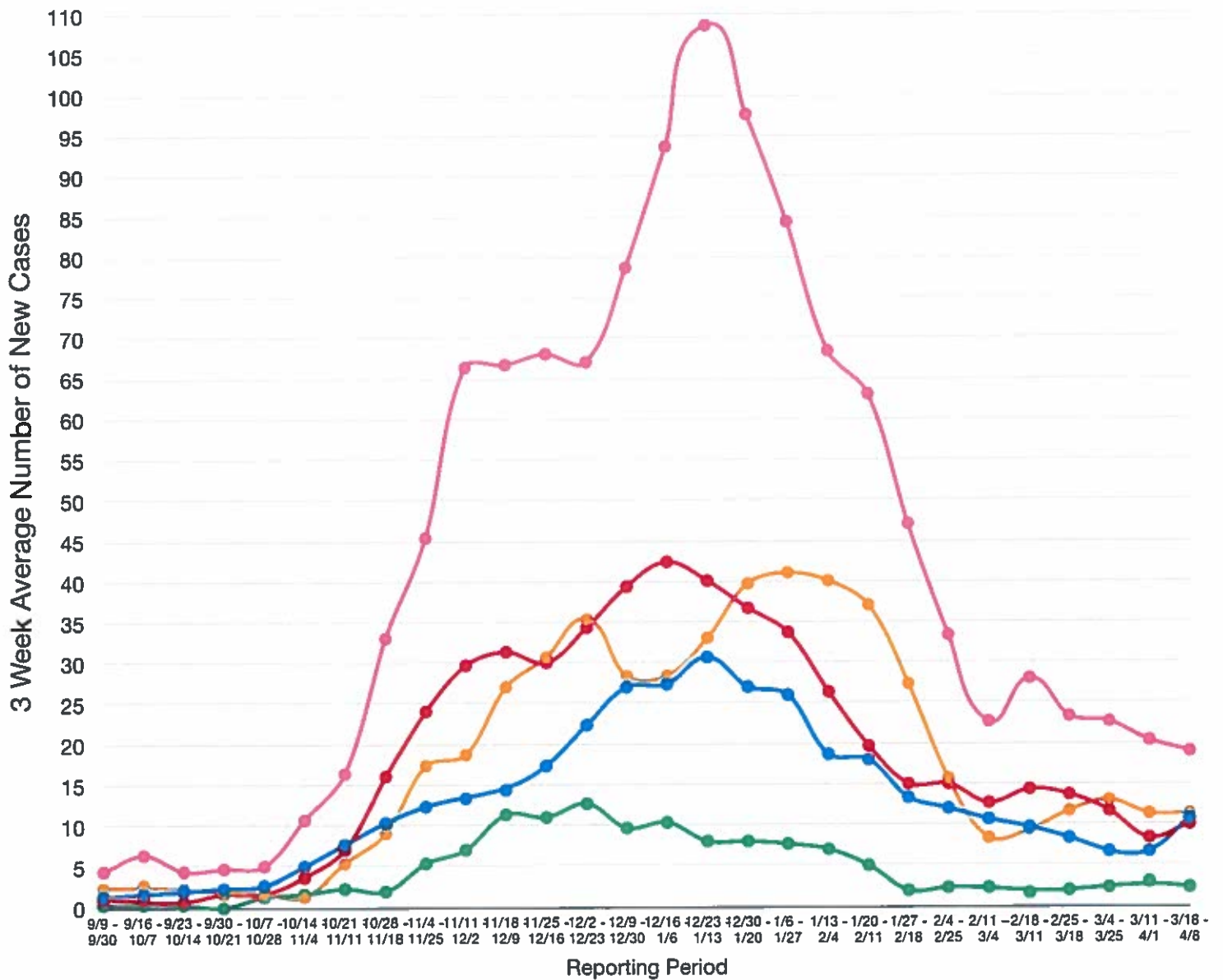


Includes all 5 towns: Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling

Combined population of 44,866

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

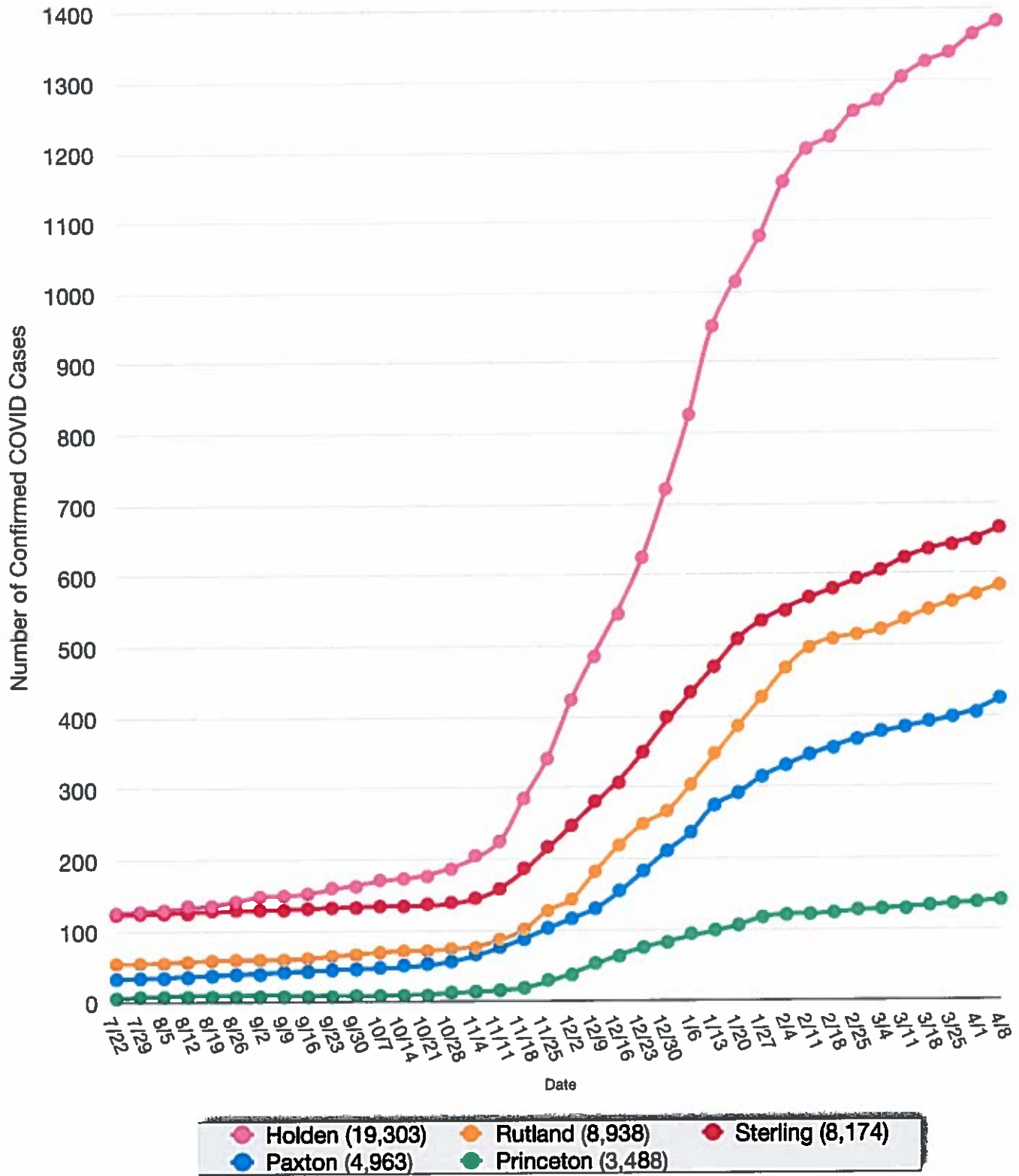


● Holden (19,303)
 ● Paxton (4,963)
 ● Rutland (8,938)
 ● Sterling (8,174)
 ● Princeton (3,488)

Town Population in Parentheses

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



Town Population in Parentheses

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



Wachusett Regional School District

School Calendar 2021-2022 **DRAFT - 4/16/2021**

First Day of School

PreK & Grades 1-12 Aug 31
Kindergarten Sep 1

Last Day of School (Pending Snow Days)

PreK & Grades 1-12 (Half-Day) June 14
Kindergarten (Full-Day) June 8
185th Day of School * June 21

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

Holidays and Vacations

Labor Day
State Holiday
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Recess
Winter Recess
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February Recess
April Recess
Memorial Day




Sep 6
Oct 11
Nov 11
Nov 24-26
Dec 24-31
Jan 17
Feb 21-25
Apr 18-22
May 30

Staff Development Days / Meetings

Full Day - Nov 2
Full Day - May 9
Half Day - Sep 29
Half-Day - Nov 3
Half-Day - Jan 26

Half-Day - Mar 16
Half-Day - May 18
Half-Day - Jun 14 (last day of school)

DRAFT - 4/16/2021

 Half Days
 School not in Session
 First day of school

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

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

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

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

APRIL				
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Randi Jacob <randi_jacob@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Corrected Date: Day on the Hill 2021

1 message

April 9, 2021
Attachment 8Randi Jacob <randi_jacob@wrsd.net>
To: Randi Jacob <randi_jacob@wrsd.net>

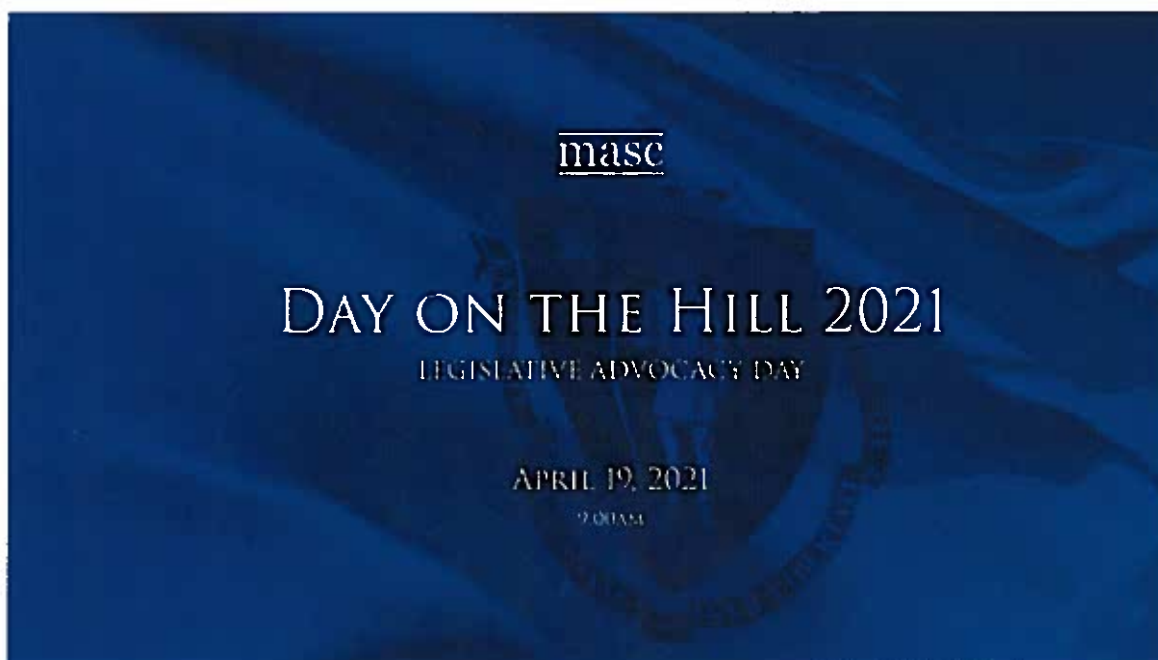
Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 3:27 PM

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

From: MASC <scheesman@masc.org>

Date: Fri, Mar 19, 2021 at 5:22 PM

Subject: Corrected Date: Day on the Hill 2021

masc**DAY ON THE HILL 2021****Tuesday, April 16 - 9:00am**

Please note: a previous version of this email had an incorrect date for this event. The correct date is April 16.

Day on the Hill is MASC's annual legislative advocacy day. Typically, this event brings hundreds of school committee members, superintendents and student leaders to the State

House in Boston to meet with the executive and legislative leadership as well as local senators and representatives. This event is an increasingly critical moment for MASC members to advance the message of the value of public education and ensure that legislators and other key decision/policy makers understand the issues and challenges that you confront and that they can support.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event will take place in a different format than usual, but we hope you still plan to participate in this important day! Be sure to mark your calendars for April 16 at 9am, and stay tuned for more details and registration coming soon!

Massachusetts Association of School Committees
1 McKinley Square, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 523-8454
www.masc.org

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WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING
SUPERINTENDENT GOALS AND EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
6:30 PM

Meeting conducted remotely, using Google Meet

In Attendance: Kenneth Mills, Chair, Laura Kirshenbaum, Vice-chair, Kelly Williamson, Linda Woodland

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent

Others: Megan Weeks, WRSDC Chair
Aileen Thurber, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting of the Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee.

(L. Woodland)
(K. Williamson)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Laura Kirshenbaum
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Evaluation Timeline/Mid-year Review

Subcommittee Chair Mills acknowledged the “late start” on the approval of the Superintendent 2020-2021 goals. He further explained the objective is for approval of the final evaluation of the Superintendent to occur before the May 2021 local elections.

Superintendent McCall proposed the date of the “mid-year” review process to occur in January 2021 and then complete the final review by May 2021. Discussion to settle on the dates and process ensued. The subcommittee agreed to have a “mid-year” report reviewed by the subcommittee on January 19th by email (reminder: no deliberation) and return feedback to the Superintendent ASAP so that he will be able to incorporate feedback prior to the presentation to the full School Committee on January 25, 2021.

Discussion on the due dates for the end of year report/annual evaluation ensued:

Subcommittee Chair Mills proposed having Superintendent McCall’s subcommittee-reviewed report/goals update provided to the full School Committee for review and discussion at the regular School Committee meeting on April 12, 2021. To accomplish that goal, a subcommittee meeting to review the final evidence and information will be held on April 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM. On April 13, 2021, the online evaluation tool will be shared by the Superintendent/Central Office staff with all School Committee members for their final review and final evaluation input, and responses will be due back to the subcommittee by April 23rd at noon. The subcommittee will then compile the results and meet again on April 27, 2021 to review and finalize the results of the evaluation materials. The final evaluation of the Superintendent, the subcommittee report, and the data of the evaluation process will be presented at a May 4, 2021 special School Committee meeting ahead of the May 2021 elections.

Member Woodland proposed inviting MASC to train the full School Committee on evaluation matters.

Action Items: WRSDC Chair Weeks will invite MASC to attend a March meeting to present information on the evaluation process and objectives.

IV. Discussion of 360° Feedback Process

The current contract with the Superintendent includes language that incorporates the use of 360 degree feedback. Therefore, Subcommittee Chair Mills proposed a version of the Qualtrics 360 degree feedback process questions that have been adapted to potentially fit our purposes. Discussion ensued. Member Williamson proposed piloting the process for the 2021/2022 school year. The subcommittee discussed moving forward with a plan to implement a process of a 360 degree feedback for the 2021/2022 school year that should be developed this year by June, 2021 but not making it a “pilot”. Concerns were voiced about data being part of a public record, maintaining anonymity of respondents, using a survey

program other than Google Forms, requesting feedback on the survey by the School Committee vs. Superintendent. School Committee Chair Weeks cautioned the subcommittee to make sure the process is clear and replicable.

Action Item for next meeting: Subcommittee Chair Mills to develop a draft process and all members will bring feedback on draft questions proposed by Subcommittee Chair Mills.

V. Next Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021, 6:30 PM, with agenda items to include: #1 to check status on process of evaluation process; and #2 to discuss the draft 360 degree process and questions.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Woodland)
(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Laura Kirshenbaum
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kirshenbaum, Vice-chair
Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee
LK :rlp

Attachments:

- Qualtrics 360 degree feedback (attachment 1)
- Potential 360 questions (attachment 2)

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

LEGAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
6:30 PM

Meeting conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Approved Minutes

Subcommittee Members: Scott Brown, Chair, Karl Ottmar, Vice-chair, Megan Weeks

Absent: Robert Imber

Administration: Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance

Others: Christopher LaBreck, Principal, Chocksett Middle School
Asia Emerick, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee.

(M. Weeks)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown
Karl Ottmar
Megan Weeks

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 executive session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, not to be released.

Deferred

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 executive session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, not to be released.

Deferred

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 executive session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, not to be released.

Deferred

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 executive session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, not to be released.

Deferred

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 30, 2020 executive session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee, not to be released.

Deferred

III. Review of Legal Bills

Members were provided with a copy of District Counsel charges this fiscal year. Brief discussion ensued.

IV. Next Meeting

TBD

V. Executive Session to discuss potential litigation; to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with bargaining units (Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), SEIU Local 888 (ABA PAs), and Wachusett Administrators Association); 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, not to return to public session.

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss potential litigation; to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with bargaining units (Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), SEIU Local 888 (ABA PAs), and Wachusett Administrators Association); 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, not to return to public session.

(K. Ottmar)
(M. Weeks)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Scott Brown
Karl Ottmar
Megan Weeks

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Adjournment'

The subcommittee adjourned to executive session at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Carlson
Director of Human Resources
JC:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING
FACILITIES AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
6:30 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Minutes

In Attendance: Adam Young, Chair, Linda Woodland, Vice-chair, Krista Bennett,
Michael Pantos

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance

Others: Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I. Call to Order

II. Election of Vice-Chair
Passed over.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 16, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting of the
Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

(L. Woodland)
(K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Adam Young
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Mike Pantos

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved 4-0.

IV. Discussion on Sub-Committee Functions and Duties

Chair Young gave a brief overview of his intention to discuss this subcommittee's functions and duties using Fall River School Committee's description as a launch point, though passing over this item at this meeting.

Next Steps: Any members who have ideas of what should be included in this subcommittee's functions and duties are to email Chair Young in order to facilitate this discussion at the next meeting.

V. Public Address System at WRHS

Deputy Superintendent Berlo provided an update on the repair of the Public Address System at WRHS, as requested by Member Brown at the previous full School Committee meeting. As the system is a proprietary system from a company that no longer exists, administration is beginning the procurement process to upgrade the system as a long-term solution. Currently awaiting two more bids as part of the required procurement process as the first bid estimates approximately \$13,600, but Director Deedy anticipates the work to begin in the near future. Administration reaffirmed the need for a Director of Facilities to guide planned upgrades to the District's facilities going forward. Member Pantos added that in his experience, schools that have a Director of Facilities are beneficial for well-run jobs.

VI. HVAC Update

Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that after the major work of HVAC repairs and maintenance to have all systems across the district running as intended, the last work is with individual units that are underperforming or otherwise need fine-tuning. Deputy Superintendent Berlo also trained all principals and head custodians on how to use airflow monitors, to be balanced against his created spreadsheets to track the volumes of rooms crossed with target Air Changes per Hour (ACH) from the third party report of fall 2020 to monitor safety as rooms are used. All spaces that are used by adults (and which automatically includes all spaces used by children) were measured and checked for ACH to reach the goal of 4 or more ACH. Minor adjustments were necessary to bring rooms just under 4 ACH up to par, more adjustments made for rooms with 2-4 ACH, and any found to be below 2 ACH were closed off from use (only a few in this category). The next concern is on the longevity of the motors for these systems. Member Pantos asked if teachers and staff report if longer standing issues of comfort in the buildings have been resolved with this major push for making systems work at these levels. WREA Secretary Beaumier confirmed that there are not the same extremes in temperature like other years. All members commended Deputy Superintendent Berlo on a job well done on stepping outside of his normal role and taking on a major project that created a positive outcome for the whole of the district. Member Pantos requested that this positive outcome be shared with the full committee.

VII. COVID-19

a. Current Status

Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported on the immediate aftermath of beginning hybrid on January 19, 2021, and the resulting major increase in covid cases and exposures in WRSD. The pace of the cases came close to overwhelming staff with the amount of time contact tracing and investigation takes. Member Pantos inquired about the instances of in-school transmission, which are noted on the dashboard. It was confirmed that there was in-school transmission at the onset of hybrid, as well as community based cases of covid. Vice-Chair Woodland asked about the impact of back-to-back remote only days on leaving out the fuller picture of covid positive cases impacting the district due to the nature of when cases need to be reported, as this is a widespread gap in collection data across the state. The discrepancy between the WRSD dashboard covid count and the DESE spreadsheets was noted, but no known reason for the state's lower count is known.

b. Remote

Taken out of order, after c. Hybrid.

i. Internet outages

Director Deedy reported that the internet outages from February 11 was due to an error by Charter, which was supposed to expand bandwidth in Holden, Rutland, and Paxton. Instead Charter throttled service, and after much persistence by Director Deedy, fixed the problem as soon as possible. However, it was still a day of remote instruction lost due to the slow internet. There have been some intermittent internet outages at Thomas Prince that are being addressed currently.

ii. Deployment of Chromebooks

Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that Grade 8 will receive the last round of chromebooks this week, and the return of their borrowed chromebooks will allow schools to repopulate their chromecarts in the middle and elementary schools.

iii. Discussion on Teacher IT equipment

Director Deedy was able to secure higher credit at Amazon in order to make purchases as required so that students and teachers can get what is needed as quickly as possible. Chair Young asked about teachers getting better equipment, and Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported on the quick deployment of 250 new desktops for teachers in order to keep up with the demand of teaching in hyflex. Director Deedy reported on the hiring of two Technology Integration Specialists, who are teachers and motivated hires, to provide support that the teachers and students need. These hires were not budgeted for, but were made possible out of the Tier 2 reductions made to the

FY21 budget. Vice-chair Woodland inquired about how these decisions are documented, and if the full committee would be able to see how these decisions are balanced against the cuts from this year. Member Bennett inquired about teacher feedback on these new hires. Administration said that some teachers have provided immediate positive feedback on the help available from these positions, but some are not aware of the availability of the help. Deputy Superintendent Berlo stressed the importance of teachers directing all questions to their principals, who are kept up to date on resources the district has made available.

c. Hybrid

Taken out of order, ahead of b. Remote

i. Safety Issues

1. Review of WRSD COVID-19 Data Dashboard

Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained the process of how contact tracing has worked, what information the district has access to, and the determination of the date of return by the local BOH. Member Pantos requested the titles of charts be corrected to reflect “cases” in the district versus “in-school transmission” as they appear to be mislabeled. Vice-Chair Woodland requested administration somehow report (to just the committee or to the public) the number of people who should be in each building each day vs the number who are, for any reason, out due to Covid. Member Bennett reiterated this request, as this must be known for daily attendance within each school. Member Pantos and WREA Secretary Beaumier expressed concern for the amount of work. Deputy Superintendent Berlo said they would work towards showing this information.

The update to the CDC guidelines for opening K-12 schools was discussed. As the guidelines were published only a few days before the meeting, not all members or administration has had a chance to review the changes.

(8:17 Chair Young left the meeting)

From the first read, Deputy Superintendent Berlo stated that the district appears to be meeting most, though not all of the updated guidelines at this time.

(8:19 Chair Young returned)

Vice-Chair Woodland gave an overview of some of the changes, namely the type of community data to inform how a district acts on a weekly basis and changes to the emphasis of what mitigation measures are prioritized. The updated document also acknowledges the research that shows how covid in the community impacts the possibility of safe in-person schools. There is also extra emphasis on surveillance testing to address asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic potential spread. Member Pantos expressed concern for the impact of these guidelines on already negotiated guidelines. Member Bennett expressed concern over making sure we adhere to safety guidelines. Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that when Cohort C students request to change into hybrid, the opportunities for maintaining the full 6 feet of physical distance become limited. Vice-Chair Woodland asked if this subcommittee may want to recommend to the full school committee for the district to adopt these updated guidelines, as these would position the district to remain open safely. For several reasons, the subcommittee agreed to pass on making an official recommendation at this point, but will review the information for a future meeting's discussion. Chair Young added that these new guidelines may provide a necessary revision to the Learning Model Decision Matrix. Additional discussion ensued regarding options for creating more space due to the physical limitations of the existing district buildings, including renting other buildings in towns (prohibitively expensive and complicated), tents, and using outdoor spaces in good weather. Member Pantos suggested that with half of the high school students choosing remote only, perhaps these older and more flexible learners could move to remote learning so that the younger grades may be moved to larger buildings in order to attempt fully in person school for 5 days a week for our youngest learners. Deputy Superintendent Berlo suggested that this may be feasible, with bringing the middle school grades to the high school because of the larger fixtures in the building, but that a potential issue is how the district would handle bussing as per the Regional Agreement. In the current agreement, bussing students across town lines is not allowed. To be investigated is if this temporary arrangement may require an update or waiver to the agreement, or other action at Annual Town Meetings. and perhaps passed on to Legal subcommittee for consideration.

(9:04 Member Pantos left the meeting)

Deputy Superintendent Berlo listed the sprayers, foggers, carpet extractors, and adjusted chemicals the district uses to improve sanitizing. Some staff found they were too sensitive to the initial chemicals used, so less harsh cleaners are now in use. Member Pantos inquired about the budget implications of these expenses. Director Deedy explained the new expense and payroll lines created for Covid-related expenses, which are charged against School Choice as a benchmark for the pace of spending. As grants become available, the funds are reset. WREA Secretary Beaumeir expressed concern that teachers know to ask their principals for more sprays, wipes, and other cleaning supplies, and that principals know to freely give these supplies as requested. Deputy Superintendent Berlo added the head custodians now meet regularly to share information and know what is available, and principals meet regularly as well. At Vice-Chair Woodland's question, he also explained that itinerant staff can ask any of their building principals for more supplies as needed as well.

Next Steps: Administration will work toward showing a whole number of people out of each building each day, who would have been in person had it not been for a Covid-related absence/work or learn remotely. Subcommittee members and Administration to review the updated CDC guidelines for reopening K-12 schools. The issue of bussing students across town lines in the Regional Agreement is to be reviewed, in the interest of creatively using district buildings for increased in-person school.

ii. Transportation

1. Buses

Chair Young asked if the district will be utilizing the closer spacing that DESE had announced on February 11, 2021. Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that with all of the requests to change busing and the length of time for the bus company to update its routes, changes from February will be just completed in time for Monday, February 22. This impacts all levels of busing, in district and out of district.

2. Pickup / Drop Off
Deferred

iii. Spacing within classroom
Discussed above

iv. Other health/safety concerns

Deferred

v. Snow/Ice Updates

Director Deedy reported that previous issues of clearing snow and ice from schools are all resolved.

vi. Learning Model Decision Matrix Review

Discussed above.

d. Logistics/Issues

i. Contact Tracing

Deferred

ii. Personnel

Deferred

iii. PPE Quantities and Distribution Update

Vice-Chair Woodland inquired about the availability or usefulness of clear masks, and the potential recommendation to double mask while in school. Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained there have been some issues of specific types of masks, but for the most part if teachers wish to use a certain type the district has many available. There are plenty of disposable masks, as well as approximately 6,000 cloth masks. Administration is to remind teachers and staff that if they wish to use a disposable and a fitted cloth mask, these are available through the district. Students are encouraged to continue to wear a mask, and if families wish to use double masks they can use their discretion.

iv. Update on notification and tracking for employees assigned to multiple buildings

Administration provided reminders to itinerant staff of the importance of accurate signing in and out of buildings, for contact tracing purposes.

VIII. 10-Year Capital Plan Update

(9:38 Member Pantos returned)

Due to time constraints, Director Deedy provided a brief overview of the draft 10-Year Capital Plan, showing the estimated costs of each capital project per school, and the estimated cost of these projects for Central Office/ECC, all elementary schools, all middle schools, and the high school. Projects of note for FY22: Dawson bathrooms, Houghton and Chocksett carpet replacement, Phone systems replacements at Thomas Prince and Paxton Center. Administration requested help from this subcommittee to prioritize and get movement with the towns on these projects.

IX. FY22 Budget

i. FEMA Update

Director Deedy reported that on February 10th, he received notification that the federal government will reimburse covid-related expenses for FEMA grants at 100% instead of the previously determined 75% of the previous administration. This will apply retroactively from January 20, 2020 through September 30, 2021. There is no new update on the current FEMA application for approximately \$129,000, submitted about 7 months ago. The window and scope for reimbursable projects expanded, so more projects the district undertook for reopening (such as HVAC) can now be included in a new application and submitted before the resolution of the first application.

X. Review/Discuss/Amend WRSDC Policies

Deferred

- a. P7113 Policy Relating to Support Operations - Facility Usage for Day Care Programs
- b. P7158 Policy Relating to Support Operations- Emergency Evacuations

XI. Next Meeting

TBD - within 1-2 weeks, as well as a separate meeting to focus on policy review

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Woodland)
(K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Adam Young
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Mike Pantos

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Woodland, Vice-Chair
Facilities and Security Subcommittee

LW:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ANTI-RACISM SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
7:00 PM

Approved Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Asima Silva, Chair, Linda Woodland, Vice-chair, Melissa Ayala (7:20),
Krista Bennett (7:09) Maleah Gustafson, Laura Kirshenbaum (7:25),
Linda Long-Bellil

Absent: Student Representative Kathryn Mangus

Administration: Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Silva called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting of the Diversity,
Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

(L. Long-Bellil)
(L. Woodland)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Maleah Gustafson
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved 4-0.

III. Continued Policy Review

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

The Policy was compared against MASC's ACAB sample policy for wording. Looking to avoid "zero tolerance" language and tone, a new policy draft was begun by Director of SEL Keenan. The introduction and initial definitions were discussed and written, to be expanded upon in upcoming meetings. Discussion included when to provide space for administrators to intervene earlier and opportunities for restorative justice, in alignment with the newly updated Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. Chair Silva raised a concern, based on students' reports, that sufficient action has not occurred in the past. Discussion left off at the topic of disciplinary action for when an incident is confirmed. Member Kirshenbaum reiterated the idea to include a requirement for the district to report harassment cases to the school committee in some way, as a way to better inform professional development and other training the district may need to undergo and to make sure the policy works as intended.

Next steps:

- Review current disciplinary actions found within student handbooks in light of confirmed incidents of harassment, discrimination, and hate.
- [From 2/4/21: Member Gustafson requested a folder on the shared drive for subcommittee members to share research on this policy review (and other topics)]
- Update Policy 6631: Non-Discrimination, compared against sample policy AC; also to clarify which related policies may need updated legal language
- Update Policy 6437: begin eliminating procedure elements, create "wish list" of items to include (for example, a reference to a plan/procedure for investigation and a requirement to report data on reports/investigations/outcomes to the School Committee on a regular basis); compare against other relevant policies, such as JB and JBA
- Continue research on adding a policy based on sample policy ACA (Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex)]

IV. Next Meeting:

To be checked against Superintendent McCall's schedule: potentially Thursday, March 18 or Tuesday, March 23.

Note: To accommodate members' conflicting schedules, meetings will alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays.

V. New Business

Superintendent McCall wishes to meet with the subcommittee to discuss the longer plan for Diversity, Equality, and Anti-Racism within the district, specifically in terms of the consultant being considered to work on the long-term goal. Vice-chair Woodland asked to include the school calendar (holidays) and any curriculum changes on a future agenda, as these should be coming to the full committee in the near future.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Woodland)
(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Woodland, Vice-chair
Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

LW:rlp

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

Monday, March 8, 2021
6:00 PM
APPROVED Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: **Linda Long-Bellil, Vice-chair**, Krista
Bennett (arrived at 6:04 PM), **Sherrie Haber, Laura**
Kirshenbaum, Robert Imber, Deidre Shapiro

Absent: Christina Smith, Chair

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

Others: Alicia Jasickiewicz, WREA (arrived at 6:02 PM)

I. Call to Order: Meet called to order at 6:01 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting of the
Education Subcommittee. (R. Imber) (S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Linda Long-Bellil
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum

Abstained: Deidre Shapiro

Opposed: None

The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Developing Budget Priorities from Education Subcommittee
A.

IV. Staffing implications due to enrollment changes

- A. R. Imber discussed the potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on staffing
 - 1. Discussion about the need for academic remediation and potential budget impacts, including the possibility of federal funding to offset these costs.
 - 2. Discussion about uncertainty about incoming student enrollment numbers for each grade level
 - B. Discussion about new elementary school counselor positions.
 - C. R. Berlo summarized the status of the WRSD Staffing Plan
 - D. Motion for subcommittee to support the following positions:
 - 1. Director of Vocational Education
 - 2. Nurse Leader
 - 3. Elementary school counselors (6 if possible, increase from current 3 positions)
 - 4. Person to oversee professional development and other student support needs, and with skills in data analysisMotion by R. Imber, Seconded by L. Kirshenbaum
- Discussion ensued:
- L. Kirshenbaum: discussion about the importance of data analysis skills for the person who fills the proposed professional development position.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

- A. District indicators/benchmarks for positive growth in the District
 - 1. Defining what we would like to measure
 - a) R. Berlo reviewed previously-discussed data points
 - b) Attendance rates
 - c) Dropout rates
 - d) Student to technology ratio
 - e) Ratings of district by outside groups (US News Top High

Schools, SchoolDigger, Niche Report, Great Schools)

(1) R. Berlo reviewed following websites with the subcommittee

- (a) US News
- (b) School Digger
- (c) Niche
- (d) GreatSchools.org

(2) L. Long-Bellil recommended that each member of the subcommittee look at rating websites before next meeting so it can be discussed further.

2. Examining existing District tools

a) Deferred until next meeting

B. Post-graduate outcomes for students

C. Review of Existing Policies

- 1. 3231: Inclement Weather
- 2. 3360: Independent Learning
- 3. 3611.4: Enrichment

VI. New Business

A. None

VII. Next Meetings

Monday, March 22nd - 6:00-8:00pm

VIII. Resources

A. MASC Model Policy EBCD Emergency Closings

B. MASC Model Policy IB Academic Freedom

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn. (S. Haber) (K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Abstained: None

Opposed: None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Keenan, Director of Social-Emotional Learning

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ANTI-RACISM SUBCOMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
7:00 PM

APPROVED Minutes**MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET**

In Attendance: Asima Silva, Chair, Linda Woodland, Vice-chair
(7:02), Krista Bennett, Maleah Gustafson, Laura Kirshenbaum, Linda
Long-Bellil

Absent: Melissa Ayala

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Student Representative Kathryn Mangus
Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting of the Diversity,
Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

(L. Kirshenbaum)
(L. Woodland)

Roll call vote:***In favor:***

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved 6-0

III. Feedback about and review of DEEP racial equity project proposal

Superintendent McCall and Director Keenan presented the proposal submitted by DEEP. Discussion ensued on the 3-7 year timeline to commit to the widespread work detailed in the proposal, which involves a top-down approach to addressing the culture of the district to better meet student needs in regards to diversity. Funding would be through Title IIA grants, which should allow the program to follow through any potential turnover in staff over the course of 3-7 years. Director Keenan commented on the existing equity work, but this would create consistency on a deeper level for enhancing the culture of the district. Members questioned the timeline in terms of informing the strategic plan, how to achieve buy-in from those against work of this nature, how expansive will diversity be defined (neurodiversity, etc) and how to assure the results of this work will reach the classroom level. Member Long-Bellil questioned the benefits of using a third party and top-down approach rather than targeting training on a classroom and school level from within. Director Keenan reiterated that the work will not be a one and done paper, but a relationship to help guide the district to be more inclusive to benefit students. Superintendent McCall also focused on the change in mindset and school culture versus individual training. Member Bennett warned that while this work is admirable, minority groups will be burdened with the backlash and violence, not the administration. Superintendent McCall will bring this question to DEEP to work through, as well as questions on outcomes with other districts.

(8:21pm Member Kirshenbaum left meeting)

Member Gustafson asked about the cost of the program, the flexibility of the timeframe, and an emphasis on making this work a priority for the district.

(8:25pm Member Kirshenbaum returned)

Member Gustafson asked about the creation of the Equity Team referenced in the proposal, and if DEEP will be involved in smaller steps as they crop up along the way on the stated timeline. Director Keenan explained that the stakeholder group is to be formed with DEEP's guidance.

Motion to extend meeting to 9:00pm

(L. Long-Bellil)
(L. Woodland)

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil

The motion passed unanimously.

Student Representative Mangus expressed excitement that the district is embarking on this work, but questioned what will happen in those 5-7 years while the students graduate and the work is ongoing. Superintendent McCall emphasized that work will be continuous, not a result at the end of the timeframe. This will be ongoing work of the district. Member Long-Bellil asked about the cost. Superintendent McCall quoted approximately \$40,000-50,000 per year, which would be part of professional development and the Title IIA grants, and substantially less expensive than

other professional development programs. Subcommittee Chair Silva emphasized that when outside groups are brought in, it can imply that the problems don't actually happen here, and so encourages alumni (and others in the district) to be involved in telling their own stories and experiences.

Motion to extend meeting to 9:30pm

(L. Kirshenbaum)
(M. Gustafson)

In favor:

Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

Laura Kirshenbaum

Abstained:

Asima Silva

The motion passed 4-1-1.

Member Kirshenbaum asked what is the next step now that the proposal has been reviewed by this subcommittee. Administration will take feedback back to DEEP and adjust the proposal as necessary.

IV. Continued Policy Review *Deferred*

Additional Items:

- Discussion of recent anti-Asian hate crimes
Member Gustafson requested to discuss the recent events in Atlanta of anti-Asian hate crimes, questioning how the district is supporting our students given previous student reports and the national resurgence of anti-Asian violence in the wake of the pandemic. Discussion ensued on a district-wide statement, communicating possible supports, and student reluctance to avail themselves of the counselors at their schools because of lack of representation on staff. Several members encouraged Superintendent McCall to write a message to the district in a proactive manner to list resources available, and discussed the possibility of this subcommittee to make a statement of support for students, rather than focusing on which minority group is targeted with each national event. Student Representative Mangus recommended someone with a different perspective read the statement before it is distributed.
- New Business
Request to add a motion to adopt MASC policy JBD
Request for Superintendent McCall to ask legal counsel how to update several policies for language changes that do not alter the substance on the policies. Member Gustafson to share the relevant policies with Superintendent McCall

V. Next Meeting April 1 and April 13

VI. Adjournment
Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(L. Woodland)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Asima Silva
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Woodland, Vice Chair
Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Committee

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

APPROVED MINUTES

Business/Finance Subcommittee

Thursday, March 25, 2021
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Kenneth Mills, Chair, Maleah Gustafson, Karl Ottmar

Absent: Benjamin Mitchel, Jeffrey Sullivan

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance

Others:

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Subcommittee Chair Mills turned the meeting over to District administration. Director of Business and Finance Deedy began the presentation.

II. FY22 Budget

Director Deedy began with a review of the expectations for the ESSER3 grant, which is projected to be at 2-½ times the value of the ESSER2 grant, or about \$1.4M. This grant can be used through 2024. Also projecting to have additional funding from the state (from federal grants) targeted for summer academies. ESSER3 grant expected to be able to be used for PPE, buildings, with 20% dedicated for remediation.

Director Deedy then reviewed the District's policy for Excess and Deficiency with a focus on changing some of the dates/timelines in the policy to better align it with the state's procedures. Chair Mills asked for administration to bring the subcommittee suggestions for changes to the policy.

Director Deedy then briefly discussed DESE's Advisory of Transportation Stabilization Accounts.

III. Update on FY21 Budget

Director Deedy provided an update on the status of FY21 grants, specifically the School Reopening grant (fully expended), SPED entitlement grant/240 grant (in progress), Early childhood/262 grant (in progress), Title 1/305 grant (in progress).

Director Deedy then updated the subcommittee on the pending 1st disbursement of Regional Transportation reimbursement from the state. Projected amount is \$872,149 which accounts for a planned second reduction to correct from an error in earlier FY.

Director Deedy then presented information on the FY21 revolving accounts (Athletics, Lunch, Circuit Breaker, School Choice) with there being no major changes to them and how the district is planning to use them.

Director Deedy then reviewed FY21 revenues and expenditures, highlighting the changes from the budgeted amounts, with Ch70 from the state being down \$409k and overall revenue being down about \$1M. Expenses overall are down as well, with the projected ending balance for FY21 being a net positive of \$958,589.

FY21 Budget Transfers were postponed to the next meeting.

Director Deedy informed the subcommittee about the \$112k mini grant from FEMA for FY22.

IV. Financial Indicators

Chair Mills led a brief discussion on different financial indicators that the district can use when comparing with other districts across the state. One example would be the state's Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR) site.

V. Approval of Minutes

Postponed until next meeting as they were incomplete.

VI. Next Meeting

April 5, 2021. 7pm.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Ottmar)
(M. Gustafson)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Maleah Gustafson
Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

None

The motion passed by unanimous consent

The meeting adjourned 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attachments:

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING
FACILITIES AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, March 25, 2021
6:30 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

APPROVED Minutes

In Attendance: Adam Young, Chair, Linda Woodland, Vice-chair, Krista Bennett, Michael Pantos

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Superintendent

Others: Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

- I. Call to Order
Subcommittee chair Young called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

- II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of February 16, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

(L. Woodland)
(K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Adam Young
Linda Woodland
Krista Bennett
Mike Pantos

Opposed:

None

The minutes were approved 4-0.

- III. Discussion on Sub-Committee Functions and Duties

Subcommittee chair Young discussed an initial draft of a document describing the functions and duties of the Facilities and Security subcommittee based on the Fall River School District description. Members discussed including internet security, potential overlaps with Business and Finance and Legal, a focus on facilitating priorities for facilities interests, health (compared to policies covered by the Education subcommittee), nutrition, and town involvement due to the regional agreement. Member Pantos suggested clarifying this subcommittee's charge as looking at assets or things in the service of running a school district, and that this subcommittee "may also advise on contracts" on relevant topics.

(Recording began at 6:51pm)

Subcommittee Chair Young reviewed topics covered prior to recording.

IV. Update on HVAC Repairs

a. Sterling Cafeteria

Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported on the issue of a vent stuck open that led to frozen coils in the HVAC system in Houghton/Chocksett. The vent can now close, but repairs remain in process. Member Pantos inquired about any resulting water damage and failsafes to help mitigate such problems in the future.

b. Davis Hill

Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported on work completed at Davis Hill in the vestibule/lobby that required several days of work and replaced motors.

c. Central Office

The business office heating and ventilation were updated, but is now addressed manually, as is the Curriculum Center that is now used for Physical Therapy for the ECC.

d. One-off Repairs

Thomas Prince had some uni-vents that needed repairs, and classes switched rooms to follow repairs. Water bottle filler station installation is due to be completed by/around April 30th, and plexiglass partitions in bathrooms should be installed by the April 5th opening. Deputy Superintendent Berlo is applying for ESSER II funds to reimburse the district for approximately \$150,000 of HVAC repairs. Subcommittee Chair Young asked to have temperature control issues at Mayo get looked at. Member Pantos commented on the benefit of having a control system and to move away from pneumatic systems in the future.

V. COVID-19 *(Taken out of order, after III)*

a. Return to Full In-Person Learning

i. District Decision Matrix

- ii. Updated Public Information
- iii. Timeline and Planning Document

Superintendent McCall reported that the district is moving forward with reopening K-8 buildings for April 5, 2021, discussing the town halls with the teachers, establishment of BinaxNow testing, and transportation routes still being set. Of the approximately 4500 students in K-8, 90% chose in-person learning and 10% chose remote only. Deputy Superintendent Berlo is continuing training with custodians. These efforts will be repeated to ready grades 9-12 for full in person learning with a target date of April 26. Currently, approximately 22 homeschooled students have re-entered the district, and an unknown number of private school students may have as well (difficult to capture because of re-enrolling directly with schools rather than Central Office). Superintendent McCall highlighted the loan of approximately 240 desks and 120 chairs from Spencer-East Brookfield Regional District to aid with distancing in the classrooms and lunches.

(7:00pm Superintendent McCall left the meeting)

Subcommittee Vice-chair Woodland asked for an update on pool testing. Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that pool testing is still being worked out as it is quite cost prohibitive, especially as it is unclear how much Massachusetts will contribute towards cost over the remainder of the school year. At a question from Member Pantos, Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained the opt-out or opt-in process for testing based on parent approval for both BinaxNow and PCR followup tests.

(Discussion on this topic resumed after discussion on IV. Update on HVAC Repairs)

Deputy Superintendent Berlo continued discussion on reopening, including explanation of bringing more desks into buildings for lunch, use of unconventional spaces to accommodate lunch, and addition of lunch monitors. Subcommittee Vice-chair Woodland asked about the use of carbon dioxide monitors with the return of more students to classrooms. Deputy Superintendent Berlo shared the spreadsheet used to document air flow readings taken by custodians as compared against the minimum airflow and air velocity per room per building in the district. This extensive data set shows the district is meeting and exceeding minimum levels in most rooms across all buildings. When rooms are below the minimum, immediate action is begun to determine the problem. All members were impressed with the level of detail and thoroughness of the data. Carbon Monoxide readings are to be taken by principals for each room. Member Pantos asked if there is a work order system in place, but so far only technology based requests are until a new Facilities manager can be in place. Cafeteria systems and attempts at eliminating bottlenecks of traffic were also explained.

(7:49 Member Pantos left meeting)

After these extensive HVAC projects, the district will need help updating Thomas Prince and ECC. WREA representative Beaumier and Subcommittee vice-chair Woodland suggested a new building may be in order for the district's youngest students.

(7:52 Member Pantos returned.)

Administration is working with the Boards of Health of the towns while using the Reopening Matrix voted on by the full committee earlier this school year. The public information has been shared multiple times with families, and will be using the schedule of steps to work towards a full reopening of buildings to students. At Member Pantos' question, Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained that even with the April 5th deadline reopening buildings fully will depend on the community levels of covid transmission, which will be determined by consultation with the towns' Boards of Health.

VI. Long Term Capital Planning

- a. WRSD 10 Year Capital Plan
- b. Holden Town and School Building Assessments
- c. Update on Dawson Bathrooms

Discussion centered around the use of the WRSD 10 Year Capital Plan in regards to how this subcommittee will like to use the plan and advise the administration on future repairs to district buildings. Holden's Building Assessment was referenced for the use of the report by the town, but there is a need for WRSD to be incorporated into priorities of projects for school buildings. Subcommittee Chair Young suggested that a meeting be called in the near future to review the Capital Plan in terms of the buildings, projects to be undertaken, anticipated timeline, and costs. The focus of the subcommittee would be as a check and balance to priorities, to ensure administration explains the rationale behind decisions and to help gain collaboration with towns on needed building projects.

Priorities for the plan will be discussed at the next meeting of this subcommittee, as well as creating avenues for better input with the towns as many of the covid-related repairs hadn't appeared in previous iterations of the capital plan. Subcommittee Chair Young suggested that this document also lay out what the district takes on for costs for better transparency with the towns on the delineation of responsibility in facilities costs.

(8:19 Member Bennett left the meeting)

VII. Budget Update

- a. FEMA Grant
- b. ESSER II Grant

The district had communication of the awarding of the first FEMA grant, however no date for receipt as of yet. Deputy Superintendent Berlo reported that the ESSER II grant

application is anticipated to be submitted on March 29th. \$150,000 will be requested to reimburse the district for air quality repairs, and the administration is working on determining which other items that may be reimbursed through this grant. Approximately \$617,000 has been awarded to WRSD, with half dedicated to reducing member town's MLC and the remaining half for reimbursement on work towards reopening school buildings.

VIII. Review/Discuss/Amend WRSDC Policies

Passed over.

- a. P7113 Policy Relating to Support Operations - Facility Usage for Day Care Programs
- b. P7158 Policy Relating to Support Organizations - Emergency Evacuations

IX. New Business

- Sterling election to be held on June 21, 2021. Depending on school calendar extensions, there is a possibility that an in-person school day may coincide with voting. AY 21-22 elections and calendar should be considered in light of any potential Covid-related protocols for safety for/from students.
- Status update on ALICE and Incident Command training, with an overview of the history in the district and what may need to happen next.
- SRO and disciplinary trends status update, perhaps with an overview of statistics available to the public
- Status of existing security systems
- ECC PA system

X. Next Meeting

April 6 at 7pm.

XI. *Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's position, not to return to public session.*

XII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Pantos)
(L. Woodland)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Adam Young

Linda Woodland
Mike Pantos

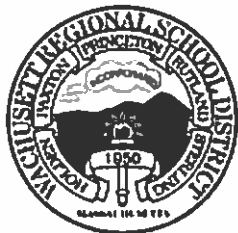
Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Woodland, Vice Chair
Facilities and Security Subcommittee



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

March 26, 2021

Ms. Margaret Watson, Chair
Grants Committee
Holden Garden Club
c/o 94 Doyle Road
Holden, MA 01520

Dear Margaret:

On behalf of the Dawson Elementary School and Wachusett Regional High School, District administration, and the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, please accept my sincere thanks for the Holden Garden Club's very generous donations made to these schools, helping to expand students' knowledge of horticulture and experience with gardening. It is this sort of community involvement, commitment, and generosity that helps enrich the teaching and learning for students of all ages.

On a personal note, your continued interest and connection with the Wachusett community is to be commended. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
William Beando, Principal, WRHS
Melissa Wallace, Principal, Dawson Elementary School

DM:rj

Chris Erali
President
Email: eralic23@gmail.com
Cell: 774-364-1180



Club Meetings
Fridays at 7:30 AM
The Manor Restaurant
West Boylston, MA
March 22, 2021

Club of Wachusett Area

P.O. Box 635 Holden MA 01520

Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling, & West Boylston

Ms. Dixie Estes
Naquag Elementary School
285 Main Street
Rutland, MA 01543

Dr. Darryll McCall
Superintendent
Wachusett Regional School District
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522

CC: Dr. Darryll McCall
CC: Ms. Corrine Balyk

Everyone:

On behalf of the Wachusett Area Rotary Club, volunteers, and many happy and grateful meal recipients, I would like to thank you for your efforts and the creative and beautiful valentines for our local senior citizens in our *Service is the ❤️ of Rotary Valentine's Day Dinner*. Without your help and others this timely project could not have occurred. Ms. Balyk, Corrine, I know you particularly were instrumental in making all of this happen in your classroom with your students. You deserve much recognition, along with the children for their beautiful Valentine cards!

Please share with the students that the cards brought smiles and happiness to those who received them. We included them with the dinner, and the children made a big impression on our seniors. The cards elicited many comments and how much the cards made the day even more special. You can all be proud of your contribution to this community project's success.

It has been an honor to partner with you on this endeavor. We look forward to working with you again in the future. Please accept our heartiest congratulations and gratitude for your assistance.

Yours in Rotary Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Erali".

Chris Erali
President
Wachusett Area Rotary Club

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN PAXTON PRINCETON RUTLAND STERLING

DRAFT Minutes

Regular Meeting #1360

Monday, March 15, 2021
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Kenichi Gomi	Kathryn Mangus
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Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Chair Dennis announced the meeting was being conducted remotely, via Google Meet, and was being broadcast live on Channel 194 and holdentv.com. Chair Dennis explained that members of the public could submit comments for Public Hearing by way of a link and will be extended a Google Meet invite in order to address the Committee personally.

I. Public Hearing

A single individual from the public had reached out about addressing the Committee, but had not logged onto the meeting. Chair Dennis will monitor the attendance in the event this individual joins the meeting.

Without objection, Chair Dennis took the agenda out of order and started with the report from the Student Representatives. Chair Dennis turned it over to Student Representative Mangus.

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

Student Representative Mangus introduced the Middle School Student Advisory Council members to the School Committee. Introductions were made and each student gave a brief summary of their achievements and provided a brief summary on the different clubs they were bringing back to the middle schools which include an Art Club, Sports, Community Service and a Social Justice club.

Middle School introductions were as follows:

Megan DArmanin, 6th grade, Thomas Prince
Cassini Pingitore, 8th grade, Paxton
Ekaavli Daga, 8th grade, Mountview
Arielle Gesner, 8th grade, Mountview
Cassiel Brennan, 7th grade Mountview
Emma Day, 8th grade, Central Tree Middle School
Rachel Lee, 8th Grade, Thomas Prince
Hanna Palmi, 8th Grade, Chocksett
Tobias Gibson, 8th Grade, Chocksett
Kiley Kruger, 8th Grade, Chocksett

Through the Chair, Student Representative Mangus asked if there were any questions for the guests. With no questions, Chair Dennis thanked all the students for taking the time and doing great things in the schools. Chair Dennis was very impressed with how creative the students were in their introductions.

III. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis explained the main item on the agenda is to approve the budget and assessment motion. The main discussion of the meeting would be about the proposed FY22 budget. Chair Dennis further

explained that the Committee will meet again on March 16, 2021 if the Committee does not approve the proposed FY22 budget. Chair Dennis reminded the Committee that a two-thirds vote in favor (15 members) is needed in order to approve the budget.

Chair Dennis spoke to a change in meeting process in that he asked members to not offer an amendment on the floor, and suggested that the Committee vote on the motion as presented after the administration presents the proposed Appropriation, Chair Dennis further explained that if the motion does not pass, Chair Dennis will look for feedback and ask the District to revise.

Chair Dennis then turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall to present.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To accept grant funds to Dawson Elementary School (\$1,000) and to Wachusett Regional High School (\$1,000) from the Holden Garden Club.

(L. Long-Bellil)

(S. Haber)

Chair Dennis asked Superintendent McCall to provide a history on this donation by the Holden Garden Club. The Superintendent then expressed appreciation on behalf of the Schools.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dennis thanked the Garden Club for their generous donation.

Without objection, Chair Dennis returned to the Student Representatives' Report.

Student Representative Magnus reported that there were 122 new juniors and seniors inducted into the National Honor Society bringing the total to 260+. She also reported that football starts on Friday, and that football players and cheerleaders are allowed two guests each. Volleyball has also started, and the school newspaper started a podcast to highlight teachers and events at school.

Student Representative Gomi reported that students recently took the SATs, and he thanked all the staff and custodial staff. There are two additional SATs scheduled on May 8th and June 5th.

Chair Dennis went back to the Public Hearing, and stated that with all Public Hearings, participants must address the Chair only, limiting comments to two minutes and if participants choose, to send a written portion to the secretary to be included in the meeting minutes.

Philip Gransewicz, 15 Laurel Lane, Princeton, MA

At 7:26 PM Chair Dennis asked Superintendent McCall to start the presentation on the FY22 Budget Appropriation. Superintendent McCall went through his presentation and ended at 7:33 PM (attachment 1).

Motion: To approve the FY22 Appropriation of \$105,053,279, with assessments to the Member Towns:

Holden	\$33,328,437
Paxton	\$7,220,604
Princeton	\$5,272,621
Rutland	\$13,838,325
Sterling	<u>\$12,263,653</u>
	\$71,923,640

(R. Imber)
(A. Young)

Chair Dennis opened the floor for questions and comments.

Member Young asked remaining E&D funds. Director Deedy responded through the Chair.

Member Long-Bellil asked for specifics on how the District was able to reduce instructional support and the same for reduction in SPED tuition. Director Deedy and Deputy Berlo provided details.

Member Pantos asked about Transportation Stabilization and what was being used in the budget and how much of that was available. Director Deedy responded that we are using \$1M for FY22 and \$1.2M is available.

Member Imber asked why Other Operating Costs are up in percentages. Director Deedy explained the FY21 budget was approved on March 9th 2020, it was approved before the state FY21 budget was finalized in December 2020. There is a gap between the FY21 Wachusett Approved budget and the final state approved budget.

Director Deedy spoke to why there was a decrease in Transportation for Chapter 71 funds from the state. Director Deedy explained that \$1M will be used to offset those costs in FY22.

Member Lavoie asked about the E&D increase. and if this all related to the transportation settlement. Director Deedy responded yes.

Member Lavoie raised a concern related to assessments of individual towns specifically to Rutland. The high assessment to the Town of Rutland will be difficult. Member Lavoie asked what additional reductions might be possible without impacting the budget.

Chair Dennis provided an explanation about current Excess & Deficiency funds. Current balance is \$1.4M, District administration is recommending use of the money of the \$1.4M to reduce Member Town FY22 assessments, with the understanding that \$300,000, if not more, will be remaining at the end of this fiscal year and will be available to be certified the next time Excess & Deficiency is certified.

More discussion took place, with several members participating.

At Chair Dennis' inquiry, Director Deedy clarified the differences in offsets and carry forward funding between the last meeting presentation and what is being presented at this meeting.

Chair Dennis inquired how confident the Superintendent was in the assessment numbers to be presented to each of the towns. Superintendent McCall stated it would be close but did expect some pushback. Superintendent McCall cautioned that we would not want to lower the budget too much.

Chair Dennis asked Vice-chair Smith to take the virtual gavel as Chair so Chair Dennis could make a comment as a member, and not seen through the Chair.

Member Dennis stated that he has trouble supporting the budget as presented. He suggested a trade off of bringing over more carry forward dollars and perhaps lowering the amount of E&D, and that utilization of E&D would be a last option. He reported hearing from three of the Member Towns that the assessments are coming in higher than what was expected. He continued that the more that can be done to carry forward funds from FY21 to FY22 would be beneficial, and that he is disappointed that additional carryover has not been included in the proposed FY22 budget. At the conclusion of his comments, Chair Dennis retrieved the virtual gavel.

Questions and comments continued, including ESSR funds, Title I monies, and other funding courses.

At the conclusion of discussion of the motion on the floor and the proposed FY22 Appropriation, Chair Dennis brought the motion forward for action.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Eric Knowlton
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Ken Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed

Michael Dennis
Matthew Lavoie
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos
Aisma Silva
Jeffrey Sullivan

The motion passed 16-6

At the conclusion of discussion and the vote on the FY22 budget, Chair Dennis invited Superintendent McCall to address the Committee and to provide and update on the return to school plan.

Superintendent McCall projected a presentation and spoke to the information (attachment 2). At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion, questions, and comments.

Member Lavoie asked for clarification on what the day might look like and asked for clarification on in-person time on Wednesdays. Superintendent McCall indicated plans are still being worked out. Superintendent McCall confirmed that per DESE, the District needs to schedule 25 hours of in-person learning. Superintendent McCall expects to have more details in the coming week, and parents will be asked to make a decision about their children's return to school by March 22nd.

Members had questions about Cohort C and if these students, who will continue in the remote model, will remain with their currency teachers; how mask breaks and snack breaks will be managed; pool testing and BINEX texting. Superintendent McCall spoke to these and other questions.

Member Gustafson asked if the School Committee will need to approve the plan for in-person learning. Superintendent McCall confirmed that the School Committee did not need to approve and no waiver is needed if the District provides 25 hours of learning.

Chair Dennis reported that there is a School Committee meeting scheduled on March 29th, and he asked the District be prepared to present details on the final implementation plans. Superintendent McCall confirmed that parents will have the opportunity to make a final decision after the meeting on March 29th.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

Without objection Chair Dennis proposed to defer approval of Executive Session minutes until the next Executive Session, tentatively scheduled for March 29th.

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

Deferred

- 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 the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 8, 2021

Deferred

- H. Approval of the #1359 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional

- I. School District Committee held on March 1, 2021

Approved under unanimous consent with one modification: Member Imber asked March 1, 2021 minutes be amended to remove him from being present at roll call as he did not attend the meeting.

- J. Approval of the #332 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 8, 2021

Approved via unanimous consent.

VII. Treasurer/s Report/Financial Statements

No report was made.

VIII. Committee Updates

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

Chair Dennis provided an update and announced the subcommittee's next meeting will be April 1st.

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

Subcommittee Vice-chair Long-Bellil provided an update.

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

Subcommittee Vice-chair Mills provided an update. Next meeting to be scheduled.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee: (S. Brown, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, K. Williamson)

Subcommittee Vice-chair Ottmar provided an update. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2021.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, M. Dennis, E. Knowlton, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported the last meeting of the subcommittee was in December, and the next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021.

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

Subcommittee Chair Young provided an update, and reported the next meeting is March 25th.

- 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 provided an update and stated that Superintendent McCall would be attending the next meeting, scheduled for March 23, 2021.

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

AAB Chair Mitchel mentioned the AAB has not met this year, waiting for the initial FY20 audit results. AAB Chair Mitchel will work with Director Deedy on next steps.

I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (K. Mills, Chair, K. Williamson, Vice-chair, S. Brown, E. Knowlton, M. Lavoie, K. Ottmar)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Mills reported on the first meeting of the subcommittee. He reported a virtual public hearing will be conducted on Thursday, April 8, 2021, to provide the opportunity for Member Town officials and members of the public to provide suggestions and input and to ask questions about the Regional Agreement and the review process

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)

The following school council updates were given:

Early Childhood Center: Member Woodland reported that she met with ECC SIMCO and the full reopening is going smoothly.

Wachusett Regional High School: Member Mills visited with the High School and they are meeting again on April 6th or 13th to discuss the return of high school students.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Mills)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
DM: rj

Attachments:

- FY22 Appropriation (attachment 1)
- Update on Return to School Plan (attachment 2)

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN □ PAXTON □ PRINCETON □ RUTLAND □ STERLING

DRAFT Minutes

Special Meeting #334

Monday, March 29, 2021
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Michael Dennis, Chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala	Karl Ottmar
Krista Benntt (7:35 PM)	Michael Pantos, Jr.
Scott Brown	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva (7:14 PM)
Sherrie Haber	Jeffrey Sullivan
Laura Kirshenbaum	Kelly Williamson
Eric Knowlton	Linda Woodland
Matthew Lavoie	Adam Young

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Imber	Benjamin Mitchel
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Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Kenichi Gomi	Kathryn Mangus
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Others:

Peter Bogren, Municipal Representative

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

Chair Dennis 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 Dennis without objection, took the agenda out of order to start with Public Comment.

Chair Dennis explained that members of the public could submit comments for Public Hearing by way of a link and will be extended a Google Meet invite in order to address the Committee personally. Chair Dennis invited members of the public to address the School Committee:

Mary Shepherd, President of WREA, addressed the School Committee.

- II. Motion: To enter Executive Session to discuss strategy for negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, and to provide an update on contract negotiations with bargaining units (Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals), SEIU Local 888 (ABA PAs)); as the Chair deems discussions in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, to return to public session.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(K. Ottmar)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee entered the executive session at 7:08 PM.

The Committee returned to open session at 8:15 PM.

III. Public Hearing

Conducted previously in the meeting.

IV. Collective Bargaining Units

Motion: To ratify the collectively bargained Contract between WRSD and the SEIU Local 888 - ABA Program Assistants, as written (attachment 1).

(S. Haber)

(K. Ottmar)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Christina Smith
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To ratify the COVID-19 Memorandum of Agreement between WRSD and Teamsters Local 170, Paraprofessionals, as written (attachment 2).

(K. Ottmar)

(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson

Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. MCAS Testing

Chair Dennis read aloud the resolution on MCAS testing, which had been provided to members in advance of the meeting (attachment 3). Chair Dennis explained the resolution, when approved, will be sent to local legislators.

Motion: To support the resolution regarding MCAS Testing

(S.Brown)

(A.Young)

Vice-chair Smith, who is Chair of the Education Subcommittee, discussed the reasoning behind the motion which came about from an Education Subcommittee meeting. Discussions ensued to answer questions. Deputy Berlo spoke to assessments that have/are being used to measure students' baseline and growth. Superintendent Mc Call confirmed other Districts are also putting forward a resolution on MCAS Testing.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Abstained:
Jeffrey Sullivan

The motion passed 19-0-1.

VI. Update on Reopening of Schools

Chair Dennis turned the meeting over to the Superintendent McCall to present on update on the reopening of schools. Upon completion of the presentation, Chair Dennis talked to a motion made on return to school.

Motion: For all WRSD schools to return to school, full time in-person education, for grades K-8, for any student who has elected full time in-person education. The return to full time in-person education will begin no later than April 5, 2021 and will include full days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

(M. Lavoie)
(M. Pantos)

Discussion ensued about the motion. Member Lavoie talked about why the motion was brought forward.

Member Ottmar requested to make an amendment to the motion. Amendment was deferred to after discussion was completed on original motion.

Discussion continued from several members on pros and cons of the original motion.

Member Lavoie made a Point of Information on the motion and cited guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on in-person time-on-learning.

Chair Dennis circled back to Member Ottmar regarding the request for an amendment to the motion. Member Ottmar requested to amend the motion on the floor to read: No later than April 5, 2020 and will include full days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with Wednesdays being a half day. Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated for small-group instruction of remote students and planning.

Chair Dennis read the amended motion: Change Wednesday from full to half day

dedicated for small-group instruction of remote students and planning. No later than April 5, 2020 and will include full days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with Wednesdays being a half day. Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated for small-group instruction of remote students and planning.

(K. Ottmar)

(A. Silva)

Chair Dennis opened the floor to questions on the amendment.

Motion: To close debate on the discussion on the amendment.

(M. Pantos)

(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Melissa Ayala

Scott Brown

Laura Kirshenbaum

Michael Pantos, Jr.

Linda Woodland

Opposed:

Michael Dennis

Christina Smith

Melissa Ayala

Krista Bennett

Maleah Gustafson

Sherrie Haber

Eric Knowlton

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Kenneth Mills

Deidre Shapiro

Asima Silva

Jeffrey Sullivan

Kelly Williamson

Adam Young

The motion failed 5-14.

Member Shapiro left the table.

Member Shapiro returned to the table.

Discussion on the amendment resumed.

Chair Dennis asked for a roll call on the amendment to the original motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Karl Ottmar

Opposed:

Michael Dennis

Christina Smith

Melissa Ayala

Krista Bennett

Scott Brown

Maleah Gustafson

Sherrie Haber

Laura Kirshenbaum

Eric Knowlton

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Kenneth Mills

Michael Pantos, Jr.

Deidre Shapiro

Asima Silva

Jeffrey Sullivan

Kelly Williamson

Linda Woodland

Adam Young

The motion failed 18-1.

Chair Dennis went back to the original motion on the floor

Motion: For all WRSD schools to return to school, full time in-person education, for grades K-8, for any student who has elected full time in-person education. The return to full time in-person education will begin no later than April 5, 2021 and will include full days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Laura Kirshenbaum

Eric Knowlton

Matt Lavoie

Michael Pantos, Jr.

Deidre Shapiro

Jeffrey Sullivan

Opposed:

Michael Dennis

Christina Smith

Krista Bennett

Maleah Gustafson

Linda Long-Bellil

Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Kelly Williamson
Adam Young
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Laura Kirshenbaum
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Linda Woodland

The motion failed 6-14

Discussion then continued on return to in-person learning.

Scott Brown left the meeting at 9:31PM.

Member Mills encouraged the Superintendent to join a conference call being held on remote learning for Fall 2021. Superintendent McCall confirmed he would attend and bring back information to the Committee.

Chair Dennis asked if the Administration could provide an update on the April 26th return for in-person WRHS students at the April 12th meeting. A request was made to have Principal Beando attend the meeting.

VII. Planning for Student Assessments and Remediation

Chair Dennis moved on to the next item on the agenda and turned it back to the Superintendent. to present on Planning for Student Assessments and Remediation.

Superintendent McCall will have more details/communication to students who may require remediation after April break. Remedial support will be offered for students this coming summer.

Administrator Smith talked about Special Education ESY (Extended School Year) summer plans. The SPED team is looking into expanding a pilot program conducted last summer by one of the psychologists and expanding on this. Administrator Smith also shared that there is a SEPAC ESY Committee if anyone wants to join.

Member Long-Bellil suggested that the Administration come up with a different name for 'Summer School' to help get rid of the stigma to students about attending 'Summer School'.

Discussion ensued about how the summer remediation will be funded.

A point was made that the needs of all students should be looked at, as there are some students who have not failed but were excelling and then due to the

pandemic went off course. Superintendent McCall is to speak to Principal Beando on how we are capturing all students who may need remediation.

Motion: To extend the meeting to 10:30

(M. Gustafson)

(K. Ottmar)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Melissa Ayala
Krisa Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Linda Long-Ballil
Karl Ottmar
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Mike Dennis

Opposed:

Matt Lavoie
Ken Mills
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Jeffrey Sullivan
Adam Young

The motion passed 12-7.

VIII. Superintendent Evaluation Timeline

- Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported on the March 22, 2021 meeting of this subcommittee and he provided the timeline for this year's annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools:
- April 7 - Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee meeting; MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher; review evidence; what to send to School Committee
- April 12 - regular School Committee meeting; Superintendent McCall to provide evidence; MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher to present to full School Committee
- April 13 - Open electronic evaluation tool to School Committee members
- April 23 - Close evaluation tool
- April 27 - Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee meeting; review evaluations from and assigns themes and writing assignments

- May 1 - writing assignments due to Chair of full School Committee, Michael Dennis
- May 4 - Superintendent Goals and Evaluations Subcommittee meeting; review Chair Dennis' draft evaluation narrative
- May 5- Special School Committee meeting; deliver annual evaluation of the Superintendent of School

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(L. Woodland)
(A. Young)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Michael Dennis
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Eric Knowlton
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Michael Pantos, Jr.
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Jeffrey Sullivan
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Attachments:

- Contract between WRSD and the SEI Local 888 - ABA Program Assistants (attachment 1)
- COVID-19 Memorandum of Agreement between WRSD and Teamsters Local 170, Paraprofessionals (attachment 2)
- Resolution - MCAS Testing (attachment 3)



Wachusett Regional School District

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

From: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent

Date: March 26, 2021

Re: Deputy Superintendent's Report

This month, my report will focus on assessments.

Mandated Assessment of our English Language Learners

Each year, any student who is classified as being an English Language Learner needs to be assessed by all public schools and districts. We are currently in the midst of doing this. Recently, this state mandated assessment has gone online, and this year both in-person and remote students have had to come in to school to be assessed. To provide a better understanding of the assessment and our process, Jodi Brunelle, our English Language Specialist, has provided a more detailed look into the process:

1. Each year the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires school districts to assess the English language skills of any student who is classified as an English Language Learner (ELL). Here at Wachusett Regional School District, 130 students are classified as English Language Learners and are currently being assessed in school using the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 ® online assessment.
2. ACCESS for ELLs ® (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment given to all Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English Language Learners in the state of Massachusetts. To date, we have tested more than half of the ELL students. Approximately 80 of our 130 students have already been assessed in school by our English as a Second Language teachers. Testing will continue until the end of May. Many of our remote only students this year have been coming in on Wednesdays for testing when the buildings are not populated with in-person students and staff. Testing has gone well so far without any technical difficulties.
3. Students are assessed in four domains; listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Similar to MCAS, scores are released at a later date. We use the scores to help inform instructional decisions.

Star Reading and Star Math Assessments

This year, the district purchased Star Reading and Star Math online assessments by Renaissance Learning to help us better measure student learning and growth while we taught students both remotely and in-person. The following information provide a better look at what these assessments do. It is from the [Renaissance website](#):

1. Star Assessments are short tests that provide teachers with learning data. Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust to each answer a child provides. This helps teachers get the best data to help any child in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests take).
2. Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. Star Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery.
3. By pinpointing exactly what each child knows, teachers can personalize a child's practice to keep them growing.

At Wachusett, we have trained staff on giving the assessment and on interpreting and understanding the reports. Our plans are to use assessment results to help us identify which students are most in need of additional support, which areas require remediation, and to monitor student progress. Finally, STAR data will be used along with other information to help identify who might benefit from either summer remediation, extended school day, or both.