

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1321

Monday, January 7, 2019  
7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School  
1401 Main Street, Holden

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Susan Hitchcock
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Scott Brown	Amy Michalowski
Thomas Curran	Benjamin Mitchel
Anthony DiFonso	Michael Rivers
Rachel Dolan	Megan Weeks
Stephen Godbout	Adam Young
Maleah Gustafson	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Michael Dennis	Matthew Lavoie
Robert Imber	Asima Silva
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes

*Committee Members Participating Remotely:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance  
Lincoln Waterhouse, Interim Administrator of Special Education  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Donroy Ferdinand	Rianna Massoni-Nesman
------------------	-----------------------

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

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He announced the meeting was being shown live on Channel 194 and on HoldenTV.com.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills announced the recently received notification of Paxton Member Harriet Fradellos' resignation from the School Committee. This resignation is in addition to the end-of-March resignation of Sterling Member Susan Hitchcock. Chair Mills extended thanks to both Member Fradellos and Member Hitchcock for their service on the Committee.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Massoni-Nesman spoke about a survey being circulated, and which WRHS students will receive on January 8, 2019, asking opinions about the WRHS mascot. She also mentioned mid-term exams are scheduled for the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>. Student Representative Ferdinand took the opportunity to speak about winter weather and to voice his opinion, to the Superintendent, that he should not hesitate to cancel school due to weather!

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Mills gave a brief history of the District's budget development process, speaking about School Committee "budget retreats," the Annual Budget Hearing, to be held February 11, 2019, and that the School Committee will vote on the proposed FY20 District Appropriation at the March 11, 2019 regular School Committee meeting. Chair Mills explained discussions at this meeting will focus on budget priorities. Director Deedy approached the podium. Superintendent McCall began his review of preliminary budget development, referencing a PowerPoint presentation (attachment 2). Superintendent McCall explained a more detailed FY20 presentation will be made at the January 22, 2019 meeting of the full School Committee. Superintendent McCall provided a thorough report on tuition-free, full-day kindergarten and space needs in Holden, specifically at Mayo Elementary School, in order to implement tuition-free, full-day kindergarten District-wide. Superintendent McCall reported he has met with Holden town officials twice to discuss space needs and that he and Director Deedy have a conference called with MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) on January 9, 2019. Superintendent McCall encouraged all to attend the January 14, 2019 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, when updated information about FY20 budget development will be shared, in advance of the January 22, 2019 School Committee meeting. Superintendent McCall continued review of the information and the slides in his presentation. At the conclusion of Superintendent McCall's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the presentation. Several

members asked questions, which Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy answered. When asked when it would be known if the District would be implementing tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year, Superintendent McCall explained that decision will not be made until sometime after the Annual Town Meetings in the Member Towns, which will take place in May. Member Michalowski commented she did not see anything in the preliminary budget presentation that would address class size, especially at the high school. Some additional FY20 budget discussion took place.

7:54 PM Student Representative Massoni-Nesman left the meeting.

At the conclusion of discussion about Superintendent McCall's presentation, discussion about other items in the Superintendent's Report began. Superintendent McCall encouraged members to view the newly redesigned District and school websites, and asked any issues or errors that are found be reported to the "webmaster." Chair Mills extended thanks to the Information Technology Department for the work done to update the websites. There was additional discussion about implementation of tuition-free, full-day kindergarten, with Member DiFonso suggesting creativity when seeking needed space at Mayo Elementary School, and Member Michalowski asked for an explanation of the MSBA SOI (Statement of Interest) process.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no items requiring School Committee action.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1320<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 10, 2018

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on December 10, 2018.

(M. Weeks)  
(T. Curran)

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Rachel Dolan  
Stephen Godbout

Maleah Gustafson  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Michael Rivers  
Megan Weeks  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

*Abstained:*  
Anthony DiFonso

The minutes were approved 14-0-1.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, T. Curran, M. Dennis, S. Hitchcock, R. Imber, M. Lavoie)

Chair Mills reported on the December 19, 2018 meeting of this subcommittee. Among other agenda items discussed at that meeting, there was discussion of quorum issues at both the full Committee and the subcommittee levels. Chair Mills took this opportunity to remind all members that a two-thirds vote is needed to pass a budget. This subcommittee will meet next on January 14, 2019.

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

Subcommittee Vice-chair Smith reported this subcommittee met immediately before this full Committee meeting, and she gave an overview of items addressed at that meeting.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 6631 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Non-discrimination*, waiving the reading.

(C. Smith)  
(R. Dolan)

Deputy Superintendent Berlo approached the podium to answer questions and provide background about this amended policy.

Motion: To amended Amended Policy 6631 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Non-discrimination**, inserting the word “creed” twice in the first paragraph, between the words “color” and “sex.”

(M. Rivers)

(B. Mitchel)

Discussion of the suggested amendment to the amended policy ensued.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Michael Rivers

*Opposed:*

Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Anthony DiFonso  
Rachel Dolan  
Stephen Godbout  
Maleah Gustafson  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Megan Weeks

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Adam Young

The motion failed 1-11-3.

Discussion about the original motion and the amended policy took place. Deputy Superintendent Berlo explained the language in the amended policy is based on MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) recommended policy language.

Vote on main motion:

*In favor:*

Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Anthony DiFonso  
Rachel Dolan  
Stephen Godbout

Maleah Gustafson  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Megan Weeks  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

Michael Rivers

*Abstained:*

Kenneth Mills

The motion passed 13-1-1.

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

In Subcommittee Chair Dennis' absence, Superintendent McCall noted this subcommittee will meet next on January 14, 2019 and again encouraged attendance at this meeting, which will be held in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

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

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee will meet on January 9, 2019, and that negotiations with three bargaining units (clerical, custodial, food service) are underway. She also reported this subcommittee is reviewing WRSDC By-Laws.

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

In Subcommittee Chair Lavoie's absence, Vice-chair Michalowski reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

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

Subcommittee Chair Curran reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, and has a meeting scheduled for January 16, 2019.

- G. Audit Advisory Board

AAB Vice-chair Mitchel reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Chair Mills again mentioned the need for representation on the AAB from the towns of Paxton, Princeton, and Rutland.

H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

No report was made.

J. School Council Reports:

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

Member Michalowski – WRHS

8:36 PM Student Representative Ferdinand left the meeting.

IX. Public Hearing

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

X. New Business

No new business was brought before the School Committee.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Vote:

*In favor:*

Kenneth Mills  
Christina Smith  
Scott Brown  
Thomas Curran  
Anthony DiFonso  
Rachel Dolan  
Stephen Godbout

Maleah Gustafson  
Susan Hitchcock  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Amy Michalowski  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Michael Rivers  
Megan Weeks  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*  
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets
- Attachment 2 – FY 2020 Budget Priority Review







# Wachusett Regional School District

Attachment 2



## FY 2020 Budget Priority Review January 7, 2019

### AGENDA

Per Pupil Spending  
Strategic Plan Update  
FY20 Budget Drivers  
Next Steps



## Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR)

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's *Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR)* take advantage of the state's student, educator, and finance data to provide school districts new analyses about their own use of people, time, and money, and allow comparisons to other districts.

RADAR reports were developed over the course of two years with the advice and assistance of various district representatives. In addition to consulting with district leaders through various statewide advisory groups, eight Massachusetts school districts participated in a yearlong pilot during the 2016-17 school year.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/radar/>

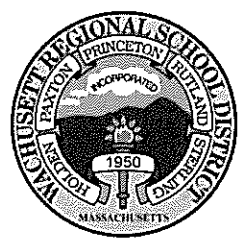


## BORDER DISTRICTS

BORDER DISTRICTS	Region	2017 \$ Per In-district Pupil	2018 Relative District Wealth*	Total Enrolled	Econ Disadv	SWD	EL
				#	%	%	%
Wachusett	Central	\$11,561	60%	7,147	10.2	14.4	1.5
West Boylston	Central	\$14,955	76%	907	19.5	17.1	3.4
Nashoba	Central	\$15,172	83%	3,343	7.6	16.0	1.9
Berlin-Boylston	Central	\$13,867	103%	594	11.4	17.7	1.9
Quabbin	Central	\$14,117	47%	2,226	26.8	20.4	0.3
Leominster	Central	\$13,266	40%	6,005	38.5	23.0	10.3
Clinton	Central	\$12,472	44%	1,883	36.3	21.1	8.6
Leicester	Central	\$13,181	47%	1,569	25.2	17.1	2.7
Ashburnham-Westminster	Central	\$12,343	52%	2,384	15.6	17.4	1.9
Spencer-E Brookfield	Central	\$14,780	46%	1,366	34.5	22.7	1.9
Worcester	Comm District	\$13,999	28%	25,306	59.5	18.8	34.4



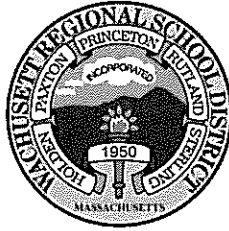
# Strategic Plan



## WRSD STRATEGIC PLAN



## FY20 Budget Drivers



13

**In order to continue to support the educational progress made in Wachusett, we are preparing a budget that will:**

- Maintain exceptional educational and extracurricular programs
- Offer curriculum and instruction that meets the needs of ALL learners
- Ensure that school facilities provide a safe and supportive environment for learning
- Support school safety measures
- Further enhance technology opportunities
- Support the School Improvement Plans



## Textbooks

- Continue next phase of textbook plan
- Includes grade 2 rollout of Fountas & Pinnell reading program for grade 2

FY20 increase of approximately \$60,000



## Salaries and Stipends

- Contractual obligations with various union/non-union employees
- Includes additional staffing for ECC, Thomas Prince and HVAC support.

FY20 increase of approximately \$2,500,000



## Special Education Tuitions

- We are projecting a 9.5% increase in out of district tuitions
- Projection based upon increased costs of programming

FY20 increase of approximately \$400,000



## Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

- FY19 included an initial investment of \$10,000 into the WRSD OPEB account
- For FY20, we are budgeting approximately \$50,000





## Next steps

- Business/Finance Meeting - January 14, 2019
- School Committee Preliminary Budget - January 22, 2019
- Governor's Budget - January 23, 2019
- Annual Budget Hearing - February 11, 2019
- Meetings with town officials - February/March 2019
- School Committee budget approval - March 11, 2019
- Town Meetings - May 2019

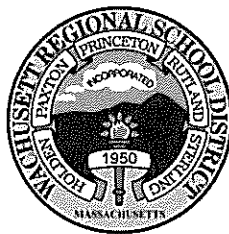


Wachusett Regional School District

25

## Wachusett Regional School District

# Thank You



26