

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2018

Executive Session

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Amy Michalowski
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Jon Edward Novak
Thomas Curran	Michael Rivers
Michael Dennis	Asima Silva
Susan Hitchcock	Megan Weeks
Robert Imber	Adam Young
Linda Long-Bellil	

Committee Members Absent:

Scott Brown	Lauren Maldonado
Harriet Fradellos	Benjamin Mitchel
Stephen Godbout	Robin Van Liew
Sarah LaMountain	Charles Witkes
Matthew Lavoie	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Municipal Representative Present:

Sheila Dibb

Chair Mills called the executive session to order at 9:45 PM. Chair Mills reminded members that discussions in executive session are to be kept confidential.

Member Dennis called attention to the sixth full paragraph on page 2 of the draft minutes of the December 11, 2017 executive session, questioning the use of the wording “straw poll” and “informal poll.” Discussion ensued, following which it was agreed the paragraph in question in the draft minutes of the December 11, 2017 executive session would be replaced with *Additional discussion took place, after which the general*

consensus of those present was that a simple majority of members in attendance could support 1%/2%/2% COLA increases (FY18, FY19, FY20), and this general agreement was arrived at to provide the negotiating teams with direction.

Motion: Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes, as amended, of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on December 11, 2017, not to be released.

(M. Dennis)

(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Mills explained that when the time comes for School Committee ratification of contracts with the eight bargaining units, majority votes by School Committee membership in favor will be required to ratify each of the contracts with the eight bargaining units.

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock, who reported on the December 15, 2017 negotiating session with the WREA, at which time the two sides did not come to agreement. She reported the WREA rejected the District's offer of 1%/2%/2% COLA increases (FY18, FY19, FY20) and the District did not amend the offer. Superintendent McCall explained a proposal made by the District side, which would add \$100 to each of the two longevity steps (year 16 and year 22), at an approximate cost of \$19,000 annually. Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock went on to explain that WREA may file for mediation, but that has not yet happened to the best of her knowledge. Both Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock and Superintendent McCall spoke about informational meetings the WREA has scheduled for January 8th and January 9th, after which Superintendent McCall will await word from Heidi Lahey about WREA's intent to move forward (or not) toward mediation. Member Dennis asked the status of "work to rule," which he suggested be checked with building principals. General

agreement was that if teachers revert back to “work to rule,” then the School Committee should consider making a public statement.

Motion: To extend the executive session for 30 minutes, until 10:30 PM.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hitchcock)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Adam Young
Sheila Dibb

Opposed:

None

The motion unanimously approved.

Discussion continued, with most in attendance, including Municipal Representative Dibb, participating in the discussions. When questioned about a comment made in open session about an increase for health insurance for FY19 in the 8% range, Superintendent McCall confirmed that percentage increase is likely the worst case scenario, though he did clarify that the projection is not firm at this time. More discussion took place, with the Superintendent assuring members he would keep them updated as necessary, reminding members that all updates and talks relating to negotiations are strictly confidential.

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported negotiations with the other seven bargaining units will move forward and Director Carlson will schedule negotiating sessions.

Motion: To adjourn executive session, not to return to public session

(J. E. Novak)

(T. Curran)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith

Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Adam Young
Sheila Dibb

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The executive session adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp