

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Executive Session

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Lauren Maldonado
Scott Brown	Amy Michalowski
Michael Dennis	Jon Edward Novak
Stephen Godbout	Michael Rivers
Susan Hitchcock	Asima Silva
Robert Imber	Charles Witkes
Linda Long-Bellil	

Committee Members Absent:

Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Benjamin Mitchel
Thomas Curran	Robin Van Liew
Harriet Fradellos	Megan Weeks
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young
Matthew Lavoie	

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Municipal Representative Present:

Not present

Others:

Joseph Bartulis, District Counsel

Chair Mills called the executive session to order at 8:23 PM. Chair Mills reminded members that discussions in executive session are to be kept confidential.

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock. Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock introduced Attorney Bartulis and thanked him for his attendance. Attorney Bartulis reported the WREA has filed for mediation, and he then gave a brief overview of what steps are taken when negotiations are stalled, explained how a mediation works, spoke about “fact finding” and other specifics of negotiations. Many members had questions about next steps, how retroactive pay is determined, if an offer on the table can be pulled back if there is a significant change in circumstances. It was reported that the District has made an offer to the WREA but to date the WREA has not responded to the offer. Superintendent McCall informed the School Committee, in confidence, that health insurance projections for FY19 are looking very favorable. There was some discussion about the reduction in student enrollment and the impact that could have on MLC (Minimum Local Contribution). General discussion continued.

8:52 PM Member Silva left the table.

Chair Mills asked Attorney Bartulis about strategy when negotiating with the other bargaining units, and he also asked what steps need to be followed before either side in negotiations can speak publically about stalled negotiations. Attorney Bartulis explained that 48 hours advanced notice to the opposing side is required prior to either side speaking publically about negotiations.

8:57 PM Member Silva returned to the table.

Attorney Bartulis explained how a mediation session is scheduled and, once scheduled, how the mediation session(s) would be conducted. When asked, Attorney Bartulis agreed that the District can reach out to the WREA and ask that the union provide the District with either an acceptance or a rejection of the offer put on the table by the District when the two sides met on December 15, 2017, which Superintendent McCall will do, giving the union a date certain by which to respond. When asked, Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock confirmed that Attorney Bartulis will be present at the mediation session(s), when and if scheduled, but he will not prepare materials for the mediation. Some additional discussion took place.

Motion: To adjourn executive session, not to return to public session
(M. Rivers)
(S. Brown)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Stephen Godbout
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Linda Long-Bellil
Lauren Maldonado
Amy Michalowski

Jon Edward Novak
Michael Rivers
Asima Silva
Charles Witkes

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The executive session adjourned at 9:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp