

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1324

Monday, March 11, 2019

7:00 PM

Media Center

Wachusett Regional High School

1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Christina Smith, Vice-chair

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Anthony DiFonso

Rachel Dolan

Stephen Godbout

Maleah Gustafson

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Amy Michalowski

Benjamin Mitchel

Megan Weeks

Adam Young

Committee Members Absent:

Kenneth Mills, Chair

Scott Brown

Sarah LaMountain

Michael Rivers

Asima Silva

Charles Witkes

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent

Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent

Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance

Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources

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).

In Chair Mills' absence, Vice-chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. She announced the meeting was not streaming live, but was being broadcast live on Channel 194 and will be broadcast on demand on HoldenTV.com.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Vice-chair Smith announced she would be chairing the meeting in Chair Mill's absence, and she took a moment to thank members for their service on the Committee.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

Student Representative Ferdinand reported DECA students had competed in Boston the previous weekend and top finishers, he being one, will compete in the international competition in Orlando, Florida. He further reported on the post-seasons for several of the high school teams, noting the boys' hockey team won Districts on March 10th and will be continuing post-season play on March 12th. Student Representative Ferdinand also reported rehearsals for upcoming spring concerts are underway. Student Representative Massoni-Nesman reported on the March 8, 2019 science fair held at W.P.I. in Worcester, noting the five top finishers, which she is one, will continue to compete. She reported Close-up will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in student public debate. Student Representative Massoni-Nesman also reported on the survey about the high school mascot, which has been re-sent due to the inability to open the survey results because of the high number of responses. When asked, Student Representative Massoni-Nesman reported the survey, the second time round, went to students only. Member Michalowski, a member of the WRHS SIMCO, added comments about the survey, which she learned about at a SIMCO meeting.

With no objection from the Committee, Vice-chair Smith announced the meeting agenda would be altered and item IV.B.1, approval of the FY20 Appropriation, would be the first order of business.

IV. Superintendent's Report

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the *FY20 Appropriation* in the amount of \$97,836,205 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden:	\$29,825,810
Paxton:	\$ 6,544,013
Princeton:	\$ 4,953,831
Rutland:	\$12,519,305
Sterling:	<u>\$11,683,458</u>
	\$65,526,417

(R. Imber)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Members were provided with “Budget Breakdown by Appropriation” and “Total Revenues” (attachments 2 & 3). Vice-chair Smith opened the floor to questions and discussion. Member Dolan began with questions about any buffer built into the proposed budget for unexpected employee or family health insurance changes that may occur during the year. Director Deedy confirmed approximately \$300,000 has been included in the proposed budget to cover such possibilities. She then asked about estimated balances in the School Choice Revolving Fund and the Special Education Revolving Fund. Per Director Deedy, the projected carry-forward for FY19 School Choice, assuming no additional changes are made by DESE, is approximately \$253,000. Director Deedy spoke about Circuit Breaker, which Member Dolan confirmed she was referring to, and reported the intent is to zero out Circuit Breaker at the end of FY19. Member Dolan asked if the second year increase for the bussing contract is known, which Director Deedy reported is approximately 3%. Superintendent McCall took the opportunity to provide further clarification in answer to Member Dolan’s questions, informing the Committee that zeroing out the Circuit Breaker account is standard practice, and the Kindergarten Revolving Account, similar to the School Choice Revolving Fund, does carry forward. Director Deedy reported the combined amount in the School Choice and Kindergarten Revolving Accounts is approximately \$434,000. Member Dennis, who is Chair of the Business/Finance Subcommittee, asked for an explanation of what changes have been made to the proposed FY20 budget between the February 11, 2019 Annual Budget Hearing and this date. Director Deedy, who was at the podium, listed how the FY20 proposed budget had been edited since the Annual Budget Hearing/last School Committee meeting. Discussion ensued.

Motion to amend motion on the floor: To amend the FY20 Proposed Draft Budget as presented on March 11, 2019 as follows:

1. Use the \$250,000 in Excess and Deficiency (E&D) that the School Committee voted to go towards the turf field to instead reduce the overall budget.
2. Use the \$200,000 in offsets currently in the budget for the turf field to reduce the overall budget.
3. Use the \$60,000 placeholder for borrowing for the turf field currently in the budget for a bond loan for the turf field to be paid back in an 8-year time period.
4. Reduce OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) budget from \$35,000 to \$20,000, putting the difference of \$15,000 to reduce the overall budget.

(R. Dolan)

(M. Lavoie)

Member Dolan took the opportunity to explain her rationale and the logic behind this amendment to the motion: “This equates to an overall reduction of \$465,000 from the current proposed budget as of March 11, 2019. When you add the already budget reduction of \$100,000 from the draft budget presented at the February [11, 2019] meeting. The total reduction is \$565,000 from the proposed February draft budget that was presented to the towns.” (attachments 4 & 5). Discussion ensued. Superintendent McCall noted FY18 E&D has not yet been certified; therefore, use of E&D cannot be used in the FY20 budget proposal. Member Dolan questioned if she could delete bullet

#1 of her motion to amend, eliminating use of E&D funds, resulting in her motion to amend would reduce the FY20 budget proposal by \$215,000 (use the \$200,000 in offsets currently in the budget for the turf field to reduce the overall budget and reduce OPEB budget by \$15,000). Discussion continued with many members participating in the discussions. Deputy Superintendent Berlo approached the podium.

7:47 PM Student Representative Massoni-Nesman left the meeting.

Discussion of the main motion and the motion to amend continued. As a result of discussion of the motion to amend, Member Dolan withdrew her motion. Vice-chair Smith reminded members that a two-thirds vote in favor (14 affirmative votes) is needed to pass the FY20 budget proposal.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Megan Weeks
Adam Young

Opposed:

Rachel Dolan

The motion was approved 14-1.

Motion: To authorize the Director of Business and Finance to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Salaries and Stipends Appropriation to the Benefits and Insurance Appropriation.

(A. Young)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Stephen Godbout

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

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Discussion of Report

At Member Michalowski's inquiry, Deputy Berlo, at the podium, answered questions and provided an update on the staffing plan being developed. Member Dennis suggested the Committee be provided with a road map and a timeline outlining the development of the staffing plan.

7:57 PM Student Representative Ferdinand left the meeting.

7:58 PM Member Weeks left the meeting.

Member Young spoke about Special Olympics which will take place at WRHS the morning of March 14, 2019, beginning at 10:00 AM, and he encouraged attending this event. Superintendent McCall reported Village Transportation of Sterling generously offered to provide transportation to and from for student participants, at no cost to the District, for which he is very grateful.

There was brief discussion about the letter from the Holden Selectboard and Superintendent McCall reported submission of a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for consideration of construction of a new elementary school in Holden will not be moving forward at this point in time.

District Anti-bullying Policy: Superintendent McCall opened discussion about this topic, beginning with social media and the impact it has on society and the challenges of monitoring what is on social media. He mentioned a recently established social media page dedicated to bullying/anti-bullying in and around the District. Superintendent McCall announced that Director of Social Emotional Learning and Guidance Jon Kron will be driving the review of the District's Bullying Intervention and Prevention Plan. Member Lavoie suggested the Superintendent provide the Committee with an overview of the District's actions and reactions to bullying on a regular basis.

8:17 PM Member Godbout left the meeting.

Director Krol approached the podium and fielded questions asked by members.

8:46 PM Member Mitchel left the meeting.

Some members voiced their interest in being provided with data associated with bullying to learn about any patterns or trends in the District.

8:57 PM Member Young left the meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Minutes of Annual Budget Hearing of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 11, 2019

Motion: To approve minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing of the WRSDC held on February 11 2019.

(R. Imber)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Approval of #1323 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on February 11, 2019

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on February 11 2019.

(T. Curran)
(A. DiFonso)

Members noted errors and omissions in the draft minutes.

Motion: To remand draft minutes of the #1323 regular meeting of the WRSDC held on February 11, 2019 back to District administration for correcting.

(M. Dennis)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Vice-chair Smith 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)

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

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

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee had met immediately before this meeting. He reported that District administration had received assurance from legal counsel that the two policies on the agenda for first readings this date are in proper form for School Committee approval.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Amended Policy 3450 **Policy Relating to Education Instructional Materials Non-Discrimination of Education Materials**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(S. Hitchcock)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the second reading of Draft Policy 3341 **Policy Relating to Education Curriculum Adoption**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(S. Hitchcock)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil

Amy Michalowski

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy 3240 **Policy Relating to Education School Ceremonies and Observances**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Anthony DiFonso

Rachel Dolan

Maleah Gustafson

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Amy Michalowski

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the first reading of Draft Policy 6124 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Educational Opportunities for Military Children**, waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith

Thomas Curran

Michael Dennis

Anthony DiFonso

Rachel Dolan

Maleah Gustafson

Susan Hitchcock

Robert Imber

Matthew Lavoie

Linda Long-Bellil

Amy Michalowski

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported on discussions at the meeting of the Education Subcommittee earlier in the evening, and announced the subcommittee will meet next on March 25, 2019.

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

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported on the March 4, 2019 subcommittee meeting and announced the subcommittee will meet next the beginning of April.

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

Subcommittee Chair Hitchcock reported this subcommittee will meet next on March 12, 2019, beginning at 4:30 PM.

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

Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported on the meeting of this subcommittee held on March 4, 2019, and will meet next on March 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM. He reported it is the expectation of the subcommittee to have the Superintendent's annual evaluation completed in April.

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

Subcommittee Chair Curran reported the next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for March 19, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

- G. Audit Advisory Board

No report was made. This Board has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

- H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

9:20 PM Member Dennis left the table.

- 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 Gustafson – SEPAC

Member Michalowski – WRHS SIMCO

9:21 PM Member Dennis returned to the table.

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.

(R. Imber)
(T. Curran)

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Thomas Curran
Michael Dennis
Anthony DiFonso
Rachel Dolan
Maleah Gustafson
Susan Hitchcock
Robert Imber
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets
- Attachment 2 – Budget Breakdown by Appropriation
- Attachment 3 – Total Revenues
- Attachment 4 – Motion to Amend (Dolan)
- Attachment 5 – Logic (Dolan)

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2019

**THIS ATTENDANCE SHEET IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT
WISH TO SPEAK BUT WHO WISH TO BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC
RECORD.**

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME AND YOUR TOWN

NAME	TOWN
Lynn Woodland	Sterling

BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY APPROPRIATION

Appropriation	FY19 Budget	FY20 Proposed	\$ Diff +/-(-)	% Diff
Salaries & Stipends	\$59,553,244	\$61,862,860	\$2,309,616	3.88%
Benefits & Insurance	\$14,593,414	\$15,058,468	\$465,054	3.19%
Instructional Support	\$3,087,677	\$3,507,865	\$420,188	13.61%
Operations & Maintenance	\$3,474,472	\$3,606,155	\$131,683	3.79%
Pupil Services	\$65,235	\$51,240	(\$13,995)	-21.45%
Special Ed Tuitions	\$2,913,244	\$3,136,147	\$222,903	7.65%
Other Operating Costs	\$1,205,101	\$1,196,951	(\$8,150)	-0.68%
Transportation	\$6,840,933	\$6,919,413	\$78,480	1.15%
Debt Service	\$2,476,131	\$2,497,106	\$20,975	0.85%
Total General Fund	\$94,209,451	\$97,836,205	\$3,626,754	3.85%

TOTAL REVENUES

Revenue Source	FY19 Budget	FY20 Proposed	\$Diff +/-(-)	% Diff +/-(-)
Holden Total	\$28,087,047	\$29,825,810	\$1,738,763	6.19%
Paxton Total	\$6,313,461	\$6,544,013	\$230,552	3.65%
Princeton Total	\$4,863,870	\$4,953,831	\$89,961	1.85%
Rutland Total	\$12,062,627	\$12,519,305	\$456,678	3.79%
Sterling Total	\$11,343,738	\$11,683,458	\$339,720	2.99%
Total Towns	\$62,670,743	\$65,526,417	\$2,855,674	4.56%
Total State Aid	\$29,949,185	\$30,712,011	\$762,826	2.55%
Total Local Revenues	\$1,589,523	\$1,597,777	\$8,254	0.52%
Total Revenue	\$94,209,451	\$97,836,205	\$3,626,754	3.85%

Budget:

Ⓢ Motion to amend the 2020 Proposed draft budget as presented on 3/11/19 as follows: *Withdrawn*

1. Use the \$250K in E&D that the SC voted to go towards the Turf Field to Instead reduce the Overall budget.
 2. Use the \$200K in offsets currently in the budget for the Turf Field to reduce the Overall budget.
 3. Use the \$60K placeholder for borrowing for the turf field currently in the budget for a bond loan for the Turf Field to be paid back in an 8-year time period.
 4. Reduce OPED budget from \$35,000 to \$20,000, putting the difference of \$15K to reduce the Overall budget.
- This equates to an overall reduction of \$465K from the current Proposed budget as of 3/11/19. When you add the already budget reduction of \$100k from the draft budget presented at the Feb. meeting. The total reduction is \$565K from the proposed February draft budget that was presented to the towns.

o motion to amend: to reduce \$215,000
~~keep~~ the 200k offsets } 215,000
15K OPED }
- motion withdrawn.

(Note: When you include the \$100k that was already made since the last Feb. meeting. Add 250k E&D, 200K in Offsets, \$15K OPED reduction, for a total overall budget reduction of \$565K.)

Logic: We maintain Full Day K, a small cushion in School Choice and Sped. Ed Revolving accounts. We still get a councilor fulfilling the need for each middle school having a full-time councilor and the needed HVAC position, 1 new Early Education Teacher, 3 Full Day K teachers and 3 paraprofessionals with the cushion to add another paraprofessional which is included in the budget. We have budgeted for an additional bus if needed. We get a new Turf Field as well, while trying to meet the financial needs of the Towns and the Voters. It does not make any cuts to the current draft budget priorities and provides for what the Administration has proposed in Technology, Textbooks, PD, SEL, Early Lit. programs, etc. It maintains everything proposed in the budget but provides a reduction to the towns assessments in order to meet the budget without a Prop 2½ override to pay for it. This option gives us an opportunity of getting a 2nd year in a row with a budget passed by all 5 towns.