

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session Part I

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Mark James
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Marcie Zaharee
Michael Pantos	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Watson called part I of the executive session of the School Committee to order at 9:10 PM.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on September 29, 2008, not to be released.

(J. Sova)

(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Robert Pelczarski

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

Chair Watson turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio. Superintendent Pandiscio gave a detailed report on progress made, since the September 29, 2008 special School Committee meeting, with litigation involving the high school project. The Superintendent will continue to keep the School Committee apprised as litigation/mediation moves forward.

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to the September 17, 2008 memorandum to him from Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan (attachment 1). This memorandum, which the Superintendent explained to the Committee, outlines the additional information requested by the School Committee in connection with negotiations with the custodial union.

Motion: To ratify the three year contract (2008-2011) between the AFSCME Council 93 Local 2885 – Custodial Employees and the WRSD.

(J. Nunnari)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde

Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Sherman

(Motion passed 15-0-1)

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to the DRAFT copy of the Employment Contract with Business Manager Peter Brennan (attachment 2).

Motion: To approve the three year employment contract with Business Manager Peter Brennan, as presented.

(D. Leith)

(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

John Nunnari

Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter

Colleen Cipro

Shirley Conrad

Melinda Coyle

Steven Hammond

Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson

Mark James

Duncan Leith

Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde

Michael Sherman

Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:17 PM Member Leith recused himself and left the room.

Superintendent Pandiscio told the Committee that the Wachusett Regional Education Association has submitted a letter informing the District of the intention of the WREA to open contract negotiations, a copy of which letter had been included in the October 9, 2008 Superintendent's Report to the School Committee. Superintendent Pandiscio gave a

broad stroke overview of what he would propose to bring to the negotiating table. He also spoke to the School Committee about health insurance costs and the possibility of offering a “flexible spending plan,” something he is investigating. Superintendent Pandiscio reported on a recent meeting he had with representatives of Benefit Development Group, a meeting he called in an attempt to gather insurance information in advance of the first negotiation session with the WREA. The Superintendent told the Committee no action is needed at this time; he just wanted to give the Committee a heads-up of what he may be bringing forward in the next several months, as negotiations get underway.

9:41 PM Member Leith returned to the table.

9:42 PM Member Plourde left the table.

9:43 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the meeting.

Part I of the executive session adjourned at 9:43 PM when Superintendent Pandiscio exited the building.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TGP:rlp