

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #278, Thursday, May 3, 2007

7:00 PM

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Steven Hammond
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	Robert Imber
Cynthia Ahearn	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet	Judith Newton
Robert Carter	John Nunnari
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
David Gibbs	Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Tammy Tod
Kelly Maxwell	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

None

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Watson called the special meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04 PM. She distributed copies of the agenda (attachment 2).

Chair Watson took this opportunity to publicly thank outgoing School Committee members, David Gibbs of Sterling, Kelly Maxwell of Holden, Tammy Tod of Rutland, and Edward Pescaro of Rutland, who had recently resigned. She also thanked many other members for their service this past year, as members of the Committee and those who served as chairs of the various subcommittee and/or ad hoc subcommittees.

II. Presentations by Municipal Officials

At 7:06 PM Chair Watson welcomed the municipal officials in the audience and listed guidelines when addressing the School Committee (limiting remarks to 3 – 5 minutes, etc.).

Paul Challenger, Holden Finance Committee Chair, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Fred Goodrich, Paxton Selectboard member, read a prepared statement and referred to a statement prepared by Paxton Finance Committee Chair Richard Fenton (attachments 4 & 5).

Joe Becker, Rutland Finance Committee Chair, read a prepared statement (attachment 6).

Joe O'Brien, Princeton Selectboard member, read a prepared statement (attachment 7).

Following the municipal officials' statements, Superintendent Tom Pandiscio distributed copies of a memorandum to the School Committee, dated May 3, 2007, and copies of the Proposed FY08 Appropriation and the Proposed FY08 Member Town Assessment (attachments 8, 9 & 10). Following discussion of the handouts, Chair Watson invited School Committee members to ask questions of the Superintendent. One member asked if the official status of the Member Towns' governing bodies could be enumerated, which was as follows: voted positions in favor taken by the Holden Selectboard and Finance Committee, the Paxton Selectboard, with comment being made that the Paxton Finance Committee is also in favor, the Rutland Finance Committee; it was noted that the Princeton and the Rutland Selectboards have indicated support of the latest proposed FY08 Appropriation and Proposed FY08 Member Town Assessment.

Questions and answers continued.

8:11 PM Member Sova left the table.

8:14 PM Member Sova returned to the table.

III. FY08 Appropriation

Chair Watson explained that to pass a motion to accept the proposed appropriation would require a two-third vote (13 in favor).

Motion: To accept the *FY08 Proposed Appropriation* in the amount of \$68,564,310 and assessments to the Member Towns of \$44,397,365.

(R. Imber)

(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: When it can be found by the District administration to anticipate additional Chapter 71 transportation reimbursement above and beyond the \$2,566.854. on the Cherry Sheet of 2/28/07 and the \$341,754. (\$241,754. & \$100,000.) committed on 4/23/907 and this evening, that the first \$200,000. be brought forward to the School Committee for designation as an assessment reduction.

(M. Sherman)
(R. Imber)

Upon request, the Superintendent explained to the Committee the intent of this motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson called upon the Superintendent to explain the importance of cooperation between the Member Towns and the District in seeking additional Chapter 71 funds, as well as financial assistance for the oil remediation being undertaken at the Central Office building in Jefferson.

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School District request that the Member Towns join the District in an effort to lobby the governor and the state legislature for an increase in Chapter 71 funds approved by the House, and for the \$150,000 in special legislation for the remediation being undertaken at the Jefferson School building facility.

(M. James)
(J. Sova)

Discussion of this motion ensued. It was clearly pointed out that the word in the motion is “request” the Member Towns to join in an effort, not “force” the Member Towns. Chair Watson volunteered to send letters to the Member Towns requesting their support.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Coyle)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Cynthia Ahearn
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle

David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp