

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session #1

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School, Holden

*Committee Members Present:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet, Vice-chair	Julianne Kelley
Thomas Ackerman	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Judith Newton
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Imber	Marcie Zaharee

*Committee Members Absent:*

Cynthia Ahearn	John Nunnari
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*Administration Present:*

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

*Others Present:*

Leo P. McCabe, Esq., District Counsel  
Denise O'Leary, Court Stenographer  
John Doe #1  
Parents of John Doe #1  
Lindsey Hefferman, Esq., Counsel for John Doe #1  
Lisa Gigliotti, Social Service Advocate  
William Beando, Principal, Wachusett Regional High School  
Peter McMorrow, Assistant Principal, Wachusett Regional High School

Chair Watson called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 7:08 PM.

The Court Stenographer swore in Principal William Beando and Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio.

Attorney McCabe asked questions of Principal Beando, after which members of the School Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of Principal Beando. Several members directed questions to Principal Beando.

Attorney Hefferman was given the opportunity to question Principal Beando, after which members of the School Committee were given another opportunity ask questions of Principal Beando.

Attorney McCabe asked questions of Superintendent Pandiscio.

7:59 PM Member Carter left the table.

Following Attorney McCabe's questioning of Superintendent Pandiscio, members of the School Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of Superintendent Pandiscio. Several members directed questions to Superintendent Pandiscio.

8:01 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Attorney Hefferman was given the opportunity to question Superintendent Pandiscio, after which members of the School Committee were given another opportunity ask questions of Superintendent Pandiscio.

The Court Stenographer swore in Social Service Advocate Lisa Gigliotti.

Ms. Gigliotti answered questions asked by Attorney Hefferman and Attorney McCabe, as well as by a School Committee member.

Attorney Hefferman called Parents of John Doe #1 to the podium. The Court Stenographer swore in the Parents of John Doe #1. Attorney Hefferman asked questions of the Parents of John Doe #1. School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Parents of John Doe #1.

Attorney Hefferman explained that John Doe #1 would not be addressing the School Committee on her advice. Attorney Hefferman presented a closing statement.

Motion: To close the hearing.

(M. Sherman)  
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Thomas Ackerman  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Julianne Kelley

Duncan Leith  
Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Marcie Zaharee

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

At 8:28 PM John Doe #1, Parents of John Doe #1, Attorney Hefferman and Ms. Gigliotti left the room.

Motion: To continue the executive session for purposes of deliberation.

(M. Zaharee)

(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Thomas Ackerman  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Marcie Zaharee

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

The School Committee deliberated.

8:53 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

8:55 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

9:01 PM Peter McMorrow left the room.

9:04 PM Member Carter left the table.

9:05 PM Peter McMorrow returned to the room.

9:06 PM Member Carter returned to the table.

Attorney McCabe brought forward the Proposed Findings of Fact – John Doe #1, which were reviewed, discussed and corrected, point by point.

Motion: To adopt the Proposed Findings of Fact – John Doe #1, as a whole, as presented and amended.

(M. Sherman)  
(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Thomas Ackerman  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Marcie Zaharee

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional District School Committee, acting pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c. 76, §17, and based upon the Findings of Fact adopted by

the Committee, vote to exclude the student, John Doe #1, from the Wachusett Regional High School, its advantages and privileges, this exclusion to be permanent, with a review of these findings no earlier than June 2009, for possible reinstatement to Wachusett Regional High School in September 2009 based upon the student's successful fulfillment of the conditions established and reviewed by District administration in collaboration with the student's Special Education Team.

(R. Imber)  
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Thomas Ackerman  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Marcie Zaharee

*Opposed:*

Judith Newton

(Motion passed 17-1)

At 9:46 PM, while still in executive session, John Doe #1, Parents of John Doe #1, Attorney Hefferman and Ms. Gigliotti were invited back into the room. Chair Watson read the exclusion language passed by the School Committee. Attorney Hefferman asked what the process will be. It was explained that District administration will develop criteria for John Doe #1's return to Wachusett Regional High School and if he fulfills the requirements of this criteria, his reinstatement to Wachusett Regional High School in September 2009 will be considered. It was further explained that District administration will work with the family of John Doe #1 to arrange a placement for John Doe #1 in a special education program.

Motion: To return to public session.

(M. Sherman)  
(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Margaret Watson  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Thomas Ackerman  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Melinda Coyle  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Mark James  
Julianne Kelley  
Duncan Leith  
Judith Newton  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Kathleen Sweeney  
Marcie Zaharee

*Opposed:*

None

(Motion passed unanimously.)

The executive session concluded at 9:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp