

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1130, Monday, June 11, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Thomas Ackerman (7:43 PM)	Judith Newton
Colleen Cipro	John Nunnari
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Kathleen Sweeney
Robert Imber	Marcie Zaharee
Mark James	

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Ahearn	Joseph Sova
Robert Carter	

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).

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson addressed those present, explaining the intent of the public hearing session.

Margo Esser, West Brookfield, addressed the School Committee.

Sharlene O'Connor, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

Cynthia Hanson, Princeton, addressed the School Committee.

At 7:12 PM Chair Watson closed the first public hearing.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 23, 2007

The minutes of the organizational meeting held May 23, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Member Kelley abstaining.

B. Approval of 1129th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 23, 2007

The minutes of the regular meeting held May 23, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Member Kelley abstaining.

C. Approval of 1128th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 23, 2007 – enclosed

The minutes of the regular meeting held April 23, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Members Cipro, Kelley, Leith and Zaharee abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Business Manager'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.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson introduced Bob LaPointe and Paul Lenz of RPB Systems and Services, Nadya Aswad Higgins of the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association, Inc. and Houghton Elementary School Principal Tony Cipro. Mr. LaPointe presented Mr. Cipro with the MESPA leadership award in thanks for his serving as president the last year. Mr. Cipro thanked Mr. LaPointe, Mr. Lenz and Ms. Higgins for this recognition.

Chair Watson introduced WRHS Science Seminar Advisor Carol Sullivan, who in turn introduced seven representatives of Science Seminar, each of whom gave a brief explanation of their latest project. Students in attendance were Matt Dzaugis, Molly Pistrang, Brandon

Foy, Mary Kate Schneeweis, Scott Luro, Gianna Wilkie and James Valcourt. Following this presentation, Chair Watson thanked the students and Ms. Sullivan for their attendance and wished them luck in the year ahead.

Chair Watson distributed copies of the 2007-2008 School Committee subcommittee assignments and asked members to contact her if there were any problems (attachment 2).

Chair Watson explained to the new members the requirement that they receive orientation and training as new School Committee members. Arrangements will be made for Members Cipro, Kelley and Zaharee to be oriented. Member Leith received orientation during his previous terms on the School Committee.

Chair Watson called members' attention to Attachment 15 in the June 7, 2007 Superintendent's Report, the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, explaining they now have a finalized and signed copy of the document.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Neither student representative was present.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Chair Watson reported the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be June 14, 2007.

D. Management Subcommittee

There is nothing to report at this time.

E. Education Subcommittee

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet will poll subcommittee members to determine a date for a meeting.

F. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, T. Ackerman, M. Coyle, M. James, J. Newton, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported the Business/Finance Subcommittee had met immediately before this School Committee meeting. He distributed copies of documents that had been reviewed and discussed at the Business/Finance meeting (FY07 Adopted Appropriation History & Monitoring, General Fund and Other Revenues & Expenditures Report for FY07 Appropriation, General Fund and Other Revenues & Expenditures Report for FY07

Appropriation, FY07 Proposed Appropriation, Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services FY2008 Local Aid Estimates, School Choice, Transportation Reimbursement and Expenditures, Transportation Reimbursement Projection May 2007, FY08 Appropriation) (attachment 3).

7:43 PM Member Ackerman joined the meeting.

Superintendent Pandiscio referenced his Attachment 4 (June 7, 2007 Superintendent's Report) (41.05: Regional School District Budgets) (attachment 4).

Chair Watson altered the meeting agenda, moving V.B.1 and V.B.2 forward in the agenda, to be acted upon at this time in the meeting.

Motion: To appropriate from E&D funds the total sum of \$548,460.19, to the FY07 categories as presented.

(M. Sherman)

(T. Ackerman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

MOTION: Subject to the approval of the FY08 State budget by Governor Duval Patrick, to approve the FY08 appropriation of \$69,123,241 and Member Town assessments totaling \$44,197,365., as presented.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman noted that the documents that were reviewed at the Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting and subsequently shared with the full School Committee should be made a part of the minutes of this meeting (attachment 4).

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

Motion: Be it resolved that it is the intent of the School Committee to use the balance of the line item "Reserve for Extraordinary and Unanticipated Expenditures," to the extent that it may be known and available, will be committed to the FY09 budgeting process as first-dollars-in revenue for the purpose of assessment reduction.

(M. Sherman)
(M. Coyle)

It was confirmed that this vote would pertain to the FY09 budget only and would not be precedent setting.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

G. Community Outreach Subcommittee

There is nothing to report at this time.

H. Audit Advisory Board (Shirley Conrad, Chair, Judith Newton, Vice-chair, School Committee Representatives)

The Audit Advisory Board will meet on June 14, 2007. Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad distributed copies of a recent article which appeared in the June 2007 American School Board Journal (attachment 5).

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Regional Agreement (J. Nunnari, Chair, M. Coyle, S. Hammond, R. Imber, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari reported on the June 6, 2007 meeting and told that the next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

J. Building Committees

1. High School

Member Leith reported the next meeting of the Building Committee will be Wednesday, June 13, 2007, starting at 5:15 PM with a tour of the fields. He encouraged School Committee members to join the Building Committee for this tour.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on status of the project, noting the roof is now 100% complete.

K. Central Tree Middle School, Chocksett Middle School, Davis Hill Elementary School, Dawson Elementary School, Glenwood Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Mayo Elementary School, Mountview Middle School, Naquag Elementary School, Paxton Center School, Thomas Prince School, Wachusett Regional High School, Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Member Cipro reported on behalf of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (attachment 6).

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on the status of hiring Literacy Coaches, detailing one hire, two strongly interested candidates and additional interviews scheduled for June 14th. He also reported that 50+ teachers have volunteered to attend summer professional development offerings focused on the literacy initiative. He is extremely impressed and pleased with staff's interest in this program.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. To appropriate School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,077,495 to the Town of Sterling reimbursement for the Houghton/Chocksett School, School Construction Reimbursement

Motion: To appropriate School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,077,495 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for the Houghton/Chocksett School, School Construction Reimbursement.

(N. Plourde)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Approval of the High School Field Maintenance Contract with Northeast Turf

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a multi-year (eight year) contract with Northeast Turf Services for high school field maintenance, at a cost of \$9,800. per year.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Approval of Superintendent's Vacation Carry-Over

Motion: To approve the request of Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio that three vacation days accrued in FY07 be carried over to be used in FY08.

(R. Imber)
(K. Sweeney)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Approval of School Improvement Plans

Motion: To accepted the 2007-2008 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans as presented on June 1, 2007, including subsequently made amendments.

(M. Coyle)
(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Judith Newton
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Julianne Kelley
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 15-0-2)

Following this vote, there was discussion of how School Improvement Plans should be reviewed by the School Committee, as it seems that scheduling this review to take place in one day, all day, makes it difficult for School Committee members to sit in on the presentations by the principals. This matter will be considered before next year's review.

5. Approval of FY08 Pre-Approved Vendor List

Motion: To approve the FY08 Pre-Approved Vendor List.

(S. Conrad)
(M. James)

It was noted that in the introductory paragraph, Comptroller should be replaced by Business Manager. This correction will be made.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

6. Approval of Disposal of Surplus Materials

Motion: The Administration is authorized to dispose of surplus supplies at less than fair market value to the First Congregational Church of Rutland for schools in New Orleans still devastated from Hurricane Katrina.

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

No one from the public wished to address the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VIII. New Business

Motion: To formally recognize and express the School Committee's appreciation and thanks to Jason Newton for his valuable services to the Wachusett Regional School District over the years.

(M. James)

(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To formally recognize and express the School Committee's appreciation and thanks to John Sullivan for his valuable services to the Wachusett Regional School District over the years.

(D. Leith)

(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To direct the administration to conduct a follow-up investigation of the comments made during the first public session with regard to diversity and that a report be made to the full School Committee, in either public session or in executive session, by way of a letter to the School Committee by June 15, 2007 and a response given at the July 23, 2007 School Committee meeting.

(N. Plourde)

(J. Newton)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Robert Imber
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
John Nunnari

Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

Colleen Cipro
Steven Hammond
Duncan Leith

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman

(Motion passed 12-3-2)

Discussion ensued regarding the need to revisit public hearing protocol and to review the guidelines for public address.

Motion: To remand to the Community Outreach Subcommittee School Committee public hearing protocols and procedures.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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