

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1133 Monday, September 10, 2007

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

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
Jack Locke, Director of Operations
Darryll McCall, Interim Director of Operations
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Sean Lane
Stephen Palumbo

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. She referred the Committee to the Revised Agenda (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of the 279th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 9, 2007

The minutes of the special meeting held August 9, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Conrad, Coyle, Imber, James, Sherman, Sova and Zaharee abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1132nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 13, 2007

It was noted that under *Administration Present*, Darryll McCall should be referenced as “Interim” Director of Operations. The minutes, as corrected, of the regular meeting held August 13, 2007 were approved by consensus, with Members Conrad, Hammond, Imber, Leith and Sherman abstaining.

- B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 13, 2007

Chair Watson asked members to review the minutes and if no corrections of substance were noted, these minutes could be approved in public session. If substantive corrections are noted, the minutes would be approved in executive session.

Motion: To approve the executive session minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 13, 2007.

(R. Carter)

(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Thomas Ackerman
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Mark James
Julianne Kelley
Judith Newton
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Kathleen Sweeney
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Michael Sherman

(Motion passed 13-0-5)

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 reported that Member Carter will be attending the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November and will serve as the official delegate for this School Committee. Chair Watson asked any other members who might be interested in attending this conference let her know.

Chair Watson turned the meeting over to Vice-chair Bazinet, who read the following motion:

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School Committee officially recognize in writing Detective Chris Carey from the Holden Police Department for his thoughtful, professional, and thorough investigation and handling of the recent situation at May Elementary School.

(C. Bazinet)
(M. James)

Member Bazinet read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

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)

Chair Watson read a prepared statement (attachment 4).

The Committee gave Detective Carey, who was in the audience, a round of applause.

Motion: To recognize Mayo Elementary School Principal Judith Evans and the staff of the Mayo Elementary School for the smooth opening of that school on September 5, 2007, and to send a letter of thanks to the principal and staff.

(S. Hammond)

(D. Leith)

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)

Vice-chair Bazinet returned the gavel to Chair Watson.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Chair Watson introduced Student Advisory representatives Sean Lane and Stephen Palumbo and thanked them for their presence. She told the Committee that on September 24, 2007 the Management Subcommittee will meet with students and Wachusett Regional High School Assistant Principal Drew Weymouth to review the roles and responsibilities of student representatives.

C. Strategic Plan Steering Committee

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee will meet on September 27, 2007.

D. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, D. Leith, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, C. Bazinet, R. Carter, R. Imber, J. Nunnari, M. Sherman, J. Sova)

1. Amended Policy AP5241.11 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Standards for Employment** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP5241.11 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Standards for Employment.**

(D. Leith)
(M. Coyle)

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)

2. Amended Policy AP5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations** - first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP5273.3 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management Employee Travel for Workshops, Conferences, Visitations** -

(M. James)
(J. Sova)

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)

3. Amended Policy AP5274 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management** **Unrepresented Non-contract Employees Benefits**
- first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP5274 **Policy Relating to Personnel Management** **Unrepresented Non-contract Employees Benefits**

(R. Carter)

(R. Imber)

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: The Superintendent will acquaint the School Committee, through his bi-monthly reports, with the District's efforts and progress in attracting regular education students at the Early Childhood Center (ECC).

(R. Carter)

(J. Kelley)

The Superintendent spoke to the Committee, explaining the history of the District's relationship with the private day care provider, how the District might go about recruiting typically developing children, what he envisions for the future of the Early Childhood Center and its students. Member Kelley publicly thanked the Superintendent and the Management Subcommittee for addressing this matter.

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 full School Committee remand Policy 4242 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Early Childhood** to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for review and update.

(M. Sherman)

(M. James)

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 Management Subcommittee will meet on Monday, September 24, 2007, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center.

E. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, C. Ahearn, J. Kelley, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney, M. Zaharee)

1. Amended Policy AP6400 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Behavior and Discipline** – first reading

Note was made that in paragraph #4, first new sentence, language should read “school” council, not “student” council.

Motion: To approve, as corrected, the first reading of Amended Policy AP6400 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services Behavior and Discipline**.

(M. James)
(S. Hammond)

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)

2. Amended Policy AP6433 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**
Substance Abuse - first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP6433
Policy Relating to Pupil Services **Substance Abuse**

(J. Sova)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
Melinda Coyle

(Motion passed 17-1)

3. Amended Policy AP6435 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**
Weapons - first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP6435
Policy Relating to Pupil Services **Weapons**

(R. Carter)
(T. Ackerman)

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)

4. Amended Policy AP6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**
Appreciation of Diversity - first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP6436
Policy Relating to Pupil Services **Appreciation of Diversity**

(K. Sweeney)

(S. Conrad)

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)

Education Subcommittee Vice-chair Hammond reported on the August meeting. Subcommittee Chair Bazinet announced the next meeting has been posted for September 19, 2007.

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

1. Amended Policy AP7211 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Ridership** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP7211 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Ridership**
(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

This policy, and the amendment, were discussed and whether this policy would be more appropriately placed in the 6000 series (**Policy Relating to Pupil Services**), under Education Subcommittee jurisdiction, was debated. Chair Watson and Superintendent Pandiscio will continue consideration of this change.

7:55 PM Member Carter left the table.

7:59 Member Carter returned to the table.

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)

2. Amended Policy AP7222 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Contract Transportation Services** - first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy AP7222 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Contract Transportation Services**.

(M. Sherman)
(J. Sova)

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)

Business/Finance Chair Sherman will be posting a meeting the first week in October.

- G. Community Outreach Subcommittee (K. Sweeney, Chair, N. Plourde, Vice-chair, C. Cipro, M. Coyle, J. Newton)

Community Outreach Chair Sweeney reported the next meeting will be Monday, September 17th.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

- I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

In Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari's absence, Chair Watson reported that this subcommittee has completed the task of reviewing the Regional Agreement and has a meeting on September 11, 2007, to which District Counsel Leo McCabe has been invited. Beginning Thursday, September 20th, and continuing for the next five Thursday evenings, this subcommittee will hold public hearings in each of the five Member Towns to give the public the opportunity to address the subcommittee.

- J. Building Committees

- 1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported that progress continues to be made at the high school and that it is anticipated that the musical programs scheduled for October 24th and 25th will take place in the auditorium. He further reported it is hoped that turf for the field will be delivered by September 16, 2007 and the track surface will be installed the week of September 17th. Student Representative Lane spoke on the status of the project.

K. School Council Reports

Central Tree Middle School (J. Nunnari), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (M. Sherman), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (C. Ahearn), Thomas Prince School (R Imber/K. Sweeney), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Zaharee)

To date, no school councils have met this school year.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

In answer to an inquiry made by Member Plourde, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the day-to-day schedule of Department Heads Brewer and Sullivan, explaining they teach three classes per day and have two class periods per day to address department head responsibilities.

Member Plourde noted that the correct identification of the students sitting at the table should be Student Representatives, as opposed to Student Advisory Committee.

Member Plourde asked the status of an email he had sent to the Superintendent, on behalf of the Chocksett Club in Sterling, requesting that a pictorial tour of the high school be prepared for showing at a future meeting of the Chocksett Club, perhaps for as early as September 25th. Superintendent Pandiscio asked if High School Building Committee Chair Leith could contact Holden Cable to find out if they have footage that could be turned into such a pictorial tour.

When asked if and when the School Committee meetings might be moved to the high school media center, the Superintendent explained that at this point in time parking is a problem and the distance from the parking lots to the media center could be problematic for members of the Committee and members of the public.

Upon inquiry, Business Manager Brennan reported on the status of roof repairs needed at the Thomas Prince School.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the difference between curriculum specialist positions vs department head positions.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To authorize the transfer of the indirect cost budget of the academic support program grant (Academic Support 632) to the Professional Development revolving account.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
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

Abstained:

Cynthia Bazinet

(Motion passed 17-0-1)

Motion: To approve the 2008 School Committee meeting schedule, as presented.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Coyle)

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: To approve the establishment of the position of Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

(M. Sherman)
(T. Ackerman)

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)

8:55 PM Student Representatives Lane and Palumbo left the meeting.

Motion: To appoint John Locke to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Schools and fix the compensation at \$120,000 for fiscal year FY08.

(D. Leith)

(S. Hammond)

This motion, as well as the previous motion establishing the position of Deputy Superintendent, were discussed. The matter of certification was addressed. The Superintendent can provide a copy of Mr. Locke's certification in his next Report to the School Committee.

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)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

Chair Watson distributed copies of the updated posting for School Committee, subcommittee and Building Committee meetings (attachment 5).

Member Zaharee asked for an explanation on the next step(s) to be taken regarding Holden Selectboard Chair Jumonville's August 15, 2007 letter regarding School Committee size. Chair Watson explained she will respond to the letter, but has not yet.

Member Carter had questions regarding the cost of out-of-District placements.

The Superintendent will provide student fee information in his next Report, as requested.

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School Committee admonish School Committee Member Ms. Melinda Coyle for bringing forth a motion to dismiss Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio that was in violation of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 Section 23b which prohibits discussion of an employee's reputation and character in open session. In addition, the intent of this motion is to remind and caution Member Coyle that a motion to dismiss a District employee is a very grave matter and should only be brought forth for reasons that are in keeping with the gravity of such a matter, lest the professional integrity of the entire School Committee be compromised.

(M. James)

(C. Bazinet)

Member Coyle responded to this motion, explaining she meant merely to not renew the Superintendent's contract, not to terminate him.

Further discussion ensued. When invited to, Superintendent Pandiscio addressed the motion and this matter. Member James re-read the motion.

Motion: To move the question.

(M. Sherman)

(C. Bazinet)

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)

Member James re-read the main motion.

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
Melinda Coyle
Norman Plourde

(Motion passed 16-2)

VIII. New Business

Member Kelley asked if the Early Childhood Center prepares a school improvement plan and if there is a School Committee liaison to an ECC school council. It was explained that neither are required.

IX. Executive session for the purpose of contract negotiation, not to return to public session.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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