

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1147 Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Mark James	Marcie Zaharee
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Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Interim Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources (7:35 PM)
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 7:27 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson read Guidelines to the Public Hearing.

Ellen Chambers, SPEDWatch, Inc., Pepperell, addressed the Committee and referred to a handout (attachment 2).

Sharon Cournoyer, Jefferson, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Lisa Morgan, Rutland, read a portion of a prepared statement (attachment 3).

Following the close of the public hearing, the Coordinated Program Review was discussed briefly.

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1146th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on April 28, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 28, 2008.

(R. Imber)
(D. Leith)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 28, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Jackson, Pantos and Pelczarski abstaining.

- B. Approval of minutes of the executive session held on April 28, 2008

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 minutes of the executive session held April 28, 2008.

(D. Leith)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Stacey Jackson
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Joseph Sova

(Motion passed 10-0-7)

- C. Approval of Special Meeting #281 Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on May 6, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting held May 6, 2008.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the special School Committee meeting held May 6, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Jackson, Nunnari, Pantos and Pelczarski abstaining.

- D. Approval of Executive Session #1 Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on May 6, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of Executive Session #1 held May 6, 2008.

(D. Leith)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Duncan Leith
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski

(Motion passed 13-0-4)

E. Approval of the Executive Session #2 Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on May 6, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of Executive Session #2 held May 6, 2008.

(T. Ackerman)

(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski

(Motion passed 12-0-5)

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 explained to the new members that they should expect to receive a copy of the School Committee meeting agenda, included in the Superintendent's Report to the School Committee, forty-eight hours in advance of meetings. If a member does not receive the Superintendent's Report in a timely manner, they should contact the Superintendent's Office.

Chair Watson reminded members of the Wachusett Regional High School graduation ceremonies to take place Saturday, June 7, 2008, beginning at 1:00 PM at the DCU Center in Worcester. Chair Watson also reminded members of the 8th grade graduations which will take place in the five towns on Friday, June 20th. Chair Watson asked for volunteers to attend the 8th grade graduations to represent the School Committee.

Chair Watson asked members to complete, and return to her, the subcommittee preference sheets, indicating interest in serving on the subcommittees of the School Committee. Chair Watson took this opportunity to give a brief review of the workings of the various subcommittees and also explained the role of School Council liaisons.

Chair Watson reminded members of the annual School Committee review of School Improvement Plans. This year the reviews have been scheduled on three evenings (May 29th, June 2nd and June 4th) and will take place in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Members were encouraged to participate in these reviews.

8:04 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table.

Chair Watson asked members to complete the biographical information questionnaire which had been included in the May 22nd Superintendent's Report and to return to her the completed sheets.

8:06 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

B. Student Representatives (Hillary Blakeney, Sean Lane, Stephen Palombo)

There were no student representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee

There was no report by the Management Subcommittee.

D. Education Subcommittee

There was no report by the Education Subcommittee.

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

Chair Watson reminded the School Committee that the membership of the Business/Finance Subcommittee remains in place until the next Business/Finance Subcommittee is appointed.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

There was no report by the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

H. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reminded members meetings of the AAB may be scheduled during the summer months.

I. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

J. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported on recent project-related activities at the high school. He reported that tentative dates for an open house, building tours, ribbon cutting have been set for the weekend of September 20 & 21, 2008. More details will be shared when plans become more definitive.

J. School Council Reports:

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

There were no School Council reports.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Sherman called the Committee's attention to page 9 of Business Manager Brennan's report where it is noted that a yard sale recently held at the high school to dispose of surplus furniture and equipment realized \$10 revenue.

Motion: That the matter of disposal of surplus furniture and equipment be referred to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for study and recommendations.

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Member Sherman expressed thanks and congratulations to District administration and cabinet for the successful passage of the FY09 budget.

Superintendent Pandiscio updated the Committee on recent information received on energy consumption, oil bids, health insurance preliminary numbers, which he noted are "horrendous." He let the Committee know that he has directed principals to keep careful watch

over their energy budgets and energy consumption and he has also stressed the importance of their hiring frugally.

The passage of amendments to the Regional Agreement was discussed. Member Conrad wanted it reflected in the meeting minutes that when the Regional Agreement is reviewed in five years, an inflationary number should be included in **Section 16 Capital Expenditures from Surplus**. Chair Watson reminded Member Conrad and the other members that the Regional Agreement can be amended at any time, not just in five year intervals.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of Superintendent's Vacation Carry-Over

Motion: To approve the request of Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio that five vacation days accrued in FY08 be carried over to be used in FY09.

(D. Leith)
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VII. Public Hearing

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

IX. New Business

Member Leith spoke of the recent tragic accident involving a 2007 WRHS graduate.

The attendance at this meeting by representatives of the Holden Police Department was addressed.

Motion: That the Chair of the School Committee write letters of thanks and commendation to Holden Police Detective Albert Bourget, Holden Police Officer Anthony Gribbons and Holden Police Officer Jonathan Santimore in appreciation for their efforts in connection with the April 14, 2008 incident.

(R. Imber)

(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

For the benefit of new members, Chair Watson introduced Deputy Superintendent Jack Locke, Interim Director of Operations Darryll McCall,

Director of Human Resources Susan Sullivan and Business Manager Peter Brennan.

For the benefit of new members, Chair Watson spoke again of the responsibilities of the various subcommittees. When describing the responsibilities of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, Chair Watson posed to the Committee that it might be wise to reconstitute this subcommittee to have subcommittee members act as liaisons to the Member Town Selectboards and Finance Committees/Advisory Board, with a School Committee member from each of the five towns sitting on this subcommittee and being willing to attend their town's Selectboard meetings three or four times throughout the year. This might be a way for School Committee representatives to become familiar with Member Town administrations, Selectboards and Finance Committees/Advisory Board.

Member Plourde commented that school zone lights in the area of the Houghton and Chocksett Schools are now in working order, thanks to the efforts of the Sterling Light Department and the Sterling Police Department.

X. Executive Session

Motion: To adjourn to executive session purpose of union negotiations, not to return to public session

(M. Coyle)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp