

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1148 Monday, June 9, 2008

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mark James
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	Michael Pantos
Shirley Conrad	Robert Pelczarski
Melinda Coyle	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	Marcie Zaharee

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman	Norman Plourde
Cynthia Bazinet	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Interim Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
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 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson read Guidelines to the Public Hearing.

Erica Ploof, Sterling, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Alison Bushnell, Rutland, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on May 27, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the organizational meeting of the School Committee held on May 27, 2008.

(M. Coyle)
(D. Leith)

The minutes of the organizational meeting of the School Committee held May 27, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members James and Zaharee abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1147th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on May 27, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held May 27, 2008.

(R. Carter)
(D. Leith)

Member Jackson corrected the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of May 27, 2008, stating the minutes should reflect that “following the close of the public hearing, the Coordinated Program Review was discussed briefly.”

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held May 27, 2008 were approved, as corrected, by consensus, with Members James and Zaharee abstaining.

- C. Approval of minutes of the executive session held on May 27, 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 May 27, 2008.

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro

Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Mark James
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 14-0-2)

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 let the Committee know she is reviewing members' subcommittee preference sheets and is working on subcommittee assignments. When the listing is finalized it will be mailed to members.

For the benefit of new members, Chair Watson explained that in June, July, August and September (as well as in May and December) the School Committee has one regular meeting each month. She further explained that occasionally there is a need for a special meeting of the School Committee, which must be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Additionally, the Chair or Superintendent can call a special meeting upon written request of no less than one-third of the membership made to the Chair.

Chair Watson turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio, who distributed the June 5, 2008 memorandum he received from Interim Director of Operations Darryll McCall and Administrator of

Special Education Marie Harrington (attachment 4). This memorandum outlines the CPR/CAP (Coordinated Program Review/Corrective Action Plan) timeline and highlights. Superintendent Pandiscio told parents in the audience he welcomes the offer of parents to participate in achieving compliance. The Superintendent's recommendation will be that the Education Subcommittee add the Corrective Action Plan to its future meeting agendas. The Superintendent said that a task force will be appointed to address SE18B which is associated with student placement.

The Superintendent called School Committee members' attention to the April 8, 2008 Coordinated Program Review Report of Findings and the May 30, 2008 Corrective Action Plan submitted by the District, copies of which had been distributed to School Committee members (attachments 5 & 6).

For the Committee and the public, Superintendent Pandiscio reviewed the June 5, 2008 timeline/highlights, the CPR Report of Findings and the CAP.

The Superintendent gave an overview of actions and activities that will take place to address this matter. He explained his vision of a series of "mini-audits" being conducted to keep abreast of how the District is doing by way of achieving compliance. He said that School Committee members and parents would be welcome to sit in on these "mini-audits."

Following Superintendent Pandiscio's presentation, School Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Chair Watson noted that task force members would be selected by the Superintendent and the task force would report to the Superintendent and the administration. This task force will not be a School Committee subcommittee.

Motion: The Education Subcommittee be tasked with monitoring the administration's progress towards completing the Corrective Action Plan and report back on no less than a monthly basis to the full School Committee on such progress.

(S. Hammond)
(R. Imber)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad

Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

B. Student Representatives

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)

There was no report by the Business/Finance Subcommittee.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

There was no report by the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad told that the AAB will meet with District auditors on Wednesday, June 18th, at 5:30 PM at the Central Office. The appointments of members of the Audit Advisory Board continue until June 30th.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported on his visit to the high school site on June 9th. He reported that baseball dugouts will be going to bid shortly. Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to copies of two Huntress Reports, which were included in the Superintendent's Report. Building Committee Chair Leith was proud to report that the tennis team won Districts and will be going onto the State competition. Chair Leith announced preliminary plans for the high school dedication ceremony during the weekend of September 21st and he promised to keep the School Committee apprised of plans for that weekend as they unfold.

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.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Watson called the Committee's attention to the copy of Superintendent Pandiscio's current contract, a copy of which was included in the Superintendent's Report. Her recommendation to the Committee would be that the Business/Finance Subcommittee or a special ad hoc subcommittee be appointed to review Superintendent Pandiscio's contract and bring a recommendation to the full School Committee.

Motion: The Chair will appoint an ad hoc subcommittee to work with Superintendent of Schools Thomas G. Pandiscio to negotiate the Superintendent's contract.

(D. Leith)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro

Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson will develop a charge and will appoint an ad hoc subcommittee to negotiate the Superintendent's contract. Membership of this ad hoc subcommittee will include a representative from each town. It was also agreed that Attorney Naomi Stonberg will be involved with these negotiations.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 Bond Anticipation Note to Eastern Bank with a Net Interest Cost of 2.0940% payable on August 29, 2008

Further, that the consent to bid by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, for bidding the note, dated May 29, 2008, is hereby confirmed.

Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 Bond Anticipation Note to Eastern Bank with a Net Interest Cost of 2.0940% payable on August 29, 2008

Further, that the consent to bid by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, for bidding the note, dated May 29, 2008, is hereby confirmed.

(D. Leith)
(M. Sherman)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Approval of the FY09 Pre-Approved Vendor List

Motion: To approve the FY09 Pre-Approved Vendor List, as presented.

(J. Sova)
(M. Coyle)

Some questions about this listing were asked and answered.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Acceptance of the 2008-2009 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans

Motion: To accept the 2008 – 2009 Wachusett Regional School District School Improvement Plans, as presented to the School Committee on May 29, 2008, June 2, 2008 and June 4, 2008.

(M. Pantos)
(S. Conrad)

Members who sat in on these presentations spoke about the presentations. It was suggested that next year a glossary be prepared identifying acronyms used in the SIPs.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
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 School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Motion: To reconstitute the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District, the work of which should be completed by the end of 2008.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Coyle)

Chair Watson asked the Committee's advice on what the constitution of this ad hoc subcommittee should be. Following discussion, a friendly amendment was made and accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion that a representative from each town be on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District and, if possible, the subcommittees of the School Committee be represented on this ad hoc subcommittee.

Motion: To reconstitute the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District, the work of which should be completed by the end of 2008. The membership on this ad hoc subcommittee will consist of a School Committee representative from each of the five Member Towns and, if possible, a member of each of the School Committee subcommittees.

(S. Hammond)
(M. Coyle)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

In Member Plourde's absence, but at his request, Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of a list entitled "Readiness Project" (attachment 7). Members were given a brief explanation of how they can register on the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's *mascinfo* site. *mascinfo* is an online mail list on the MASC website. *mascinfo* enables MASC school committee members who are signed up to share information with each other, other school leaders and members of the MASC staff.

IX. Executive Session

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

(S. Hammond)
(M. James)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp