

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1155 Monday, November 24, 2008

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
Shirley Conrad	Michael Sherman
Steven Hammond	

Committee Members Absent:

Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
Stacey Jackson	Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Locke, Deputy Superintendent
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Keara Aquino

Guest Presenters Present:

Charles Fasnacht, Energy Education, Inc.
Blaine Duggan, Energy Education, Inc.

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 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1154th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on November 10, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 10, 2008.

(S. Hammond)
(M. James)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 10, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman and Cipro abstaining.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on November 10, 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 November 10, 2008, not to be released.

(D. Leith)
(M. Pantos)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro

(Motion passed 13-0-2)

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 welcomed Energy Education, Inc. representatives Charles Fasnacht and Blaine Duggan. Mr. Fasnacht addressed the School Committee, congratulating the District on receiving the Energy Pacesetter Award. Mr. Fasnacht read the following:

For conserving our nation's precious resources through the excellent implementation of Energy Education's Transformational Energy Management Process, serving as a role model for energy conservation to follow organizations, and achieving more than \$1 million - 30% - in savings in less than two years, through September 2008.

Mr. Fasnacht represented the plaque to Chair Watson, who also extended congratulations to the District for this achievement. Superintendent Pandiscio recognized many in the District who have contributed to this accomplishment.

Mr. Fasnacht and Mr. Duggan left the meeting.

Chair Watson reminded members that beginning on January 12, 2009 School Committee meetings will be held at Wachusett Regional High School, exact location to be determined. Superintendent Pandiscio added his comments that he is not sure all members will be pleased with the meeting location being changed from Davis Hill to the high school. He explained that on any given evening, because the high school can be a hub of activities in the evenings, parking could be at a premium and, depending on where the meetings are held, the walk from the parking lots to the meeting location could be a distance.

Chair Watson reminded members of the dedication ceremony to name the Harold M. Lane Athletic Field scheduled to take place before the start of the high school football game on Thanksgiving Thursday, November 27, 2008.

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Keara Aquino reported on many recent activities which have taken place or will be taking place at WRHS (*Diary of Anne Frank* performance, free evening showing of movies with historical themes, physics award won by a high school teacher, lack of student interest has resulted in Model U.N. being dissolved, State soccer playoff game was hosted on the new fields at WRHS).

C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, M. Coyle, R. Imber, D. Leith, M. Pantos, N. Plourde, M. Sherman)

Chair Watson reported that a quorum was not achieved at the November 13th Management meeting. The next meeting of the Management Subcommittee will be December 4, 2008.

D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, M. Zaharee)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported on the November 19th meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

1. Amended Policy – AP6437 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes*** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP6437 ***Policy Relating to Pupil Services Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes***, waiving the reading.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet explained the housekeeping change to be made to the policy, naming the Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services as the District Equity Coordinator.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James

Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet referred to attachment 6 of the Superintendent's Report, the Superintendent's 2008-2009 goals, which will be addressed later in this meeting.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported on the November 12th meeting, which Treasurer Dunbar attended. Subcommittee Chair Sherman will draft an evaluation narrative, which will be reviewed at the December 3, 2008 Business/Finance meeting and a recommendation to the full School Committee can be expected at the December 8, 2008 School Committee meeting. Subcommittee Chair Sherman informed the Committee that Treasurer Dunbar has been invited to the December School Committee meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman reported that the requests posed by the Regional Selectboard were considered by the Business/Finance Subcommittee at its November meeting. It was agreed that Member Town Selectboard Chairs could be included in the membership of the Budget Advisory Task Force. The request to give Member Towns the opportunity to present their budgets to the BATF was discussed. It was agreed that revenue discussions around the table would be acceptable; debate and comparison of town budgets vs school budget (paving and salting vs paper and teaching) would not be appropriate.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, N. Plourde)

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported the subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting. Community Outreach members have attended Member Town Selectboard meetings to share information about the District's energy cost avoidance program. The subcommittee will meet at 6:30 PM on December 8th, before the start of the School Committee meeting.

- G. Audit Advisory Board (S. Conrad, J. Sova)

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad gave an overview of the AAB meeting with Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan on November 18th.

Motion: To accept the findings and recommendations contained in District Auditor's Powers & Sullivan's DRAFT *Management Letter* (June 30, 2008) and DRAFT *Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements* (Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008)

(S. Conrad)
(M. Sherman)

Chair Watson summarized the findings and recommendations.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Recommendations contained in the Management Letter will be kept as an open item on the Business/Finance Subcommittee agenda.

AAB Chair Conrad anticipates a meeting in January.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District (S. Hammond, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Coyle, R. Imber, J. Nunnari)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Hammond reported on the meeting held just before this School Committee meeting. The next meeting will be December 1st, with a report to the full School Committee on December 8th.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported on the status of construction of baseball and softball dugouts and an equipment storage building. He commented on the State soccer championship game held at Wachusett and on the field dedication to take place on November 27th.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (C. Bazinet), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (R. Pelczarski), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson)

Member Bazinet – Mountview Middle School – November 17, 2008

Member Leith – Wachusett Regional High School – November 18, 2008

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

In answer to a special education tuition question posed by Member Carter, Superintendent Pandiscio explained Circuit Breaker.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the 2008 – 2009 Evaluation Instrument for the Superintendent of Schools, recommended by the Management Subcommittee.

(M. Pantos)

(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Watson thanked Member Bazinet for formatting the evaluation instrument.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent of Schools' 2008 – 2009 goals, as presented.

(C. Bazinet)
(S. Hammond)

Education Subcommittee Chair Bazinet called the Committee's attention to attachment 6 of the November 20, 2008 Superintendent's Report, which she read aloud (attachment 2). Goals being quantifiable vs measurable was discussed and debated.

Before the motion was voted on, Member Sherman asked Chair Watson to call for a vote by a show of hands, rather than a roll call vote.

Vote by a show of hands:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro

(Motion passed 13 - 2)

Motion: That the annual School Improvement Plan oral review made by the District principals be discontinued, and that the building principals respectively be invited to attend a School Committee meeting to present a brief overview of their school. Further, that the School Improvement Plans be made available on the District web site; and that summaries of projected budgetary implications for each District school for the following fiscal year be made available to the Wachusett Regional District School Committee by the first week in February.

(D. Leith)
(M. Pantos)

It was explained that summaries of the SIP would be included in Deputy Superintendent's Locke's reports and Director of Operations McCall's reports, School Committee members would be provided copies of all the School Improvement Plans and School Improvement Plans would be posted on the District website.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To accept the \$5,000 Municipal Innovation Award from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts to the Wachusett Regional School District in honor of efforts made to address rising health care costs and improve members' health through innovative practices.

(S. Conrad)

(J. Nunnari)

Superintendent Pandiscio explained how the award was won, giving kudos to those in the District who coordinated the Go Walking program and those employees who participated. He read for the record:

In honor of efforts made to address rising health care costs and improve members' health through innovative practices, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts presents this Municipal Innovation Award to the Wachusett Regional School District.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

8:56 PM Member Nunnari left the table.

Member Carter reported on the annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference which he attended in November.

8:58 PM Member Nunnari returned to the table.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(S. Hammond)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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