

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1109, Wednesday, April 12, 2006  
7:00 PM

Cafeteria  
Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

Alice Livdahl, Chair	Kelly Maxwell (7:17 PM)
Michael Sherman, Vice-chair	Judith Newton (7:12 PM)
Elizabeth Brennan	John Nunnari
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
David Gibbs	Kathleen Sweeney
Mark James (8:56 PM)	Tammy Tod
Mary Catherine Maher	Margaret Watson

*Committee Members Absent:*

Thomas Ackerman	Shirley Conrad
Cynthia Ahearn	Phillip Mighdoll
Cynthia Bazinet	

*Administration Present:*

Thomas Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools  
Peter Brennan, Comptroller  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Others present, who desired to be recorded as present (see attached Attendance Sheet – attachment 1).*

Chair Livdahl called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Chair Livdahl called for a moment of silence in memory of Member Charles Capparelli.

I. Public Hearing

Edwin Meyer, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2)

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3)

Cynthia Hanson, Princeton, read a prepared statement (attachment 4)

7:19 PM Superintendent Pandiscio joined the meeting.

7:21 PM Representative Lewis Evangelidis joined the meeting.

Chair Livdahl introduced Representative Evangelidis, who wished to address the School Committee to give an update on State budget activities. Representative Evangelidis concluded his comments at 7:30 PM, at which time Chair Livdahl opened the floor to questions from School Committee members.

7:29 PM Attorney John Foskett joined the meeting.

Agenda item IV was taken out of order. Lou Cornacchioli, Rutland School Building Chair, gave an update and showed a PowerPoint presentation of progress being made at the Glenwood Elementary School in Rutland.

Mr. Cornacchioli's presentation concluded at 7:49 PM. Chair Livdahl thanked him and those on the Rutland School Building Committee in attendance for attending the meeting.

II. Secretary's Report – 7:05 PM

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Budget Hearing of the WRSD Committee held on March 27, 2006 – approved by consensus, with Member Carter abstaining.
- B. Approval of 1108<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on March 27, 2006

Member Watson questioned the *FY07 Revised Proposed Appropriation* numbers that appeared in these minutes, as the number voted on differed from the numbers on page 3 of the minutes. Those numbers which appear on page 3 of the minutes should be corrected to reflect the numbers as they appeared on the REVISED Agenda for Regular Meeting #1108, March 27, 2006.

Motion: Approval of minutes of March 27, 2006 regular School Committee meeting, correcting the *FY07 Appropriation* numbers which appear on page 3 to read as follows:

Adoption of the *FY07 Appropriation* in the amount of \$63,905,101 and assessments to the Member Towns of:

Holden:	\$18,979,324
Paxton:	\$ 4,304,821
Princeton:	\$ 4,113,589
Rutland:	\$ 5,888,547
Sterling:	\$ 8,269,767

(M. Sherman)  
(E. Brennan)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
E. Brennan  
D. Gibbs  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

R. Carter

(Motion passed 12-0-1)

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining and possible litigation, to return to public session.

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Member Nunnari made a friendly amendment, seconded by Member Newton, to go into executive session to review minutes that relate to possible litigation, limiting discussion to the minutes. Member Sherman accepted this friendly amendment.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
E. Brennan  
R. Carter  
D. Gibbs  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod

Opposed:  
M. Watson

(Motion passed 12-1)

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:19 PM.

Meeting returned to public session at 9:33 PM.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Livdahl reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Comptroller'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. Presentation by the Rutland School Building Committee  
RE: Glenwood Elementary School

See above.

V. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining and possible litigation.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Livdahl reminded members of the April 26, 2006 school funding rally to be held at the State House in Boston. Member James spoke on behalf of Holden for Children and as a School Committee member. Member James had available an endorsement form for Chair Livdahl's signature, on behalf of the School Committee. Member James also had information cards available for Committee members (attachment 2).

9:38 PM Member Gibbs left the table.

Motion: That the Wachusett Regional School District Committee endorses Stand for Children's statewide campaign advocating for increased state aid to all local public schools, minimally restored to 2002 funding levels, adjusted for inflation and enrollment.

(M. James)

(M. Sherman)

Vote:  
In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
E. Brennan  
R. Carter  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Chair Livdahl informed the members there would be a tour of the high school project starting at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. Those interested were told to meet at the main door of the high school at 5:00 PM.

Chair Livdahl reminded members that the deadline for returning Superintendent evaluation forms is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Chair Livdahl reminded members of the School Committee self-evaluation forms which she is also gathering.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Marissa Johnson, Holden; Dave Mullaney, Paxton; Chrissie Smith, Holden

No student members were present.

C. Management Subcommittee (A. Livdahl, Chair, C. Ahearn, E. Brennan, R. Carter, D. Gibbs, M. C. Maher, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

1. Amended Policy 8130 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Distribution of Notices by Students*** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Amended Policy 8130 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations *Distribution of Notices by Students***, waiving the reading, noting in the fifth paragraph “outside group” should be corrected to read “non-school group.”

(R. Carter)  
(M. Sherman)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
E. Brennan  
R. Carter  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:42 PM Member Gibbs returned to the table.

Chair Livdahl called on Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Brennan to report to the School Committee out of order, as Member Brennan must leave the meeting.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, T. Ackerman, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, P. Mighdoll, N. Plourde)

Subcommittee Chair Brennan reported on the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of that subcommittee, outlining what is planned in preparation for the upcoming Annual Town Meetings. Member Brennan reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet again next on April 24<sup>th</sup>, just before the School Committee meeting.

9:44 PM Member Brennan left the meeting.

- D. Education Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, C. Bazinet, D. Gibbs, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde, K. Sweeney)

1. Amended Policy 3431 **Policy Relating to Education Audio-Visual Materials** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Amended Policy 3431 **Policy Relating to Education *Audio-Visual Materials*** waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(M. Sherman)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2. Amended Policy 6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Assignment of Students to Classes*** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Amended Policy 6260 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Assignment of Students to Classes***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(K. Maxwell)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Amended Policy 6411 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Bicycle Helmet Usage*** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Amended Policy 6411 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Bicycle Helmet Usage***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(J. Nunnari)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

4. Amended Policy 6435 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Weapons*** – first reading

Motion: To approve first reading of Amended Policy 6435 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Weapons***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(D. Gibbs)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The next policy was taken out of order.

6. Draft Policy 6437 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes*** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Draft Policy 6437 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Hate Crimes***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(M. James)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Amended Policy 6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Tolerance*** – second reading

Motion: To approve second reading of Amended Policy 6436 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Tolerance***, waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(K. Sweeney)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The next policy was taken out of order.

8. Draft Policy 6618 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Nutrition and Wellness Policy*** – first reading

Motion: To approve first reading of Draft Policy 6618 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services *Nutrition and Wellness Policy***, not waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)

(K. Sweeney)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 30 minutes.

(D. Gibbs)

(M. James)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
R. Carter  
D. Gibbs  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton

J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

7. Amended Policy 6540 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
*Fund-Raising by Students* – first reading

Motion: To approve first reading of Amended Policy 6540  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services** *Fund-Raising by Students*  
waiving the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(J. Nunnari)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

9. Amended Policy 6910 **Policy Relating to Pupil Services**  
*Student Records* – first reading

Motion: To approve first reading of Amended Policy 6910  
**Policy Relating to Pupil Services** *Student Records* waiving  
the reading.

(M. Watson)  
(M. James)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Education Subcommittee Chair Watson spoke to the topic of the  
Wachusett Charitable Trust and plans to bring forward a formal  
motion at the April 24, 2006 School Committee meeting.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, S. Conrad, M.  
James, A. Livdahl, M.C. Maher, P. Mighdoll, J. Nunnari, J. Newton,  
T. Tod)

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman gave an overview of  
the April 5, 2006 meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee. He  
referred to the Management Letter and the Annual Financial  
Statements, as well as the April 6, 2006 letter from District auditors  
Melanson Heath.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (E. Brennan, Chair, T. Ackerman, C. Ahearn, S. Conrad, P. Mighdoll, N. Plourde)

See above.

- G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Downsize the School Committee (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Ahearn, R. Carter, K. Sweeney, T. Tod)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reminded School Committee members he is collecting the downsizing advantages/disadvantages survey. He told that information gathered about membership on other districts' school committees will be reviewed at the April 25, 2006 meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee.

Member Gibbs referred to the motion passed at the March 1, 2006 School Committee when this ad hoc subcommittee was named. He is of the opinion that inviting representatives from the Member Towns to sit on this ad hoc subcommittee falls outside the language of the motion passed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde responded to Member Gibbs' concerns.

Motion: To extend the School Committee meeting for 15 minutes.

(M. Sherman)

(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
R. Carter  
D. Gibbs  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:

J. Newton

(Motion passed 12-1)

Motion: To reaffirm the strict interpretation of the original motion  
of 3/1/06.

(M. James)  
(M. Sherman)

Motion: To move the question.

(K. Maxwell)  
(T. Tod)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

A. Livdahl  
M. Sherman  
R. Carter  
D. Gibbs  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
J. Nunnari  
N. Plourde  
K. Sweeney  
T. Tod  
M. Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Roll call vote on main motion:

In favor:

M. Sherman  
R. Carter  
D. Gibbs  
M. James  
M. C. Maher  
J. Nunnari  
K. Sweeney  
M. Watson

Opposed:

K. Maxwell  
J. Newton  
N. Plourde  
T. Tod

Abstained:

A. Livdahl

(Motion passed 8-4-1)

H. Building Committees

High School – Kelly Maxwell

Member Maxwell passed.

Rutland – Elementary School – Elizabeth Brennan

- I. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (N. Plourde), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (M. Watson), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (E. Brennan), Paxton Center School (C. Ahearn), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney), and Wachusett Regional High School (T. Tod)

Passed over.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

VIII. Public Hearing

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Maxwell)  
(M. James)

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp