

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Special Meeting #260 Tuesday, May 3, 2005
7:00 PM

Curriculum Center
District Central Office

Committee Members Present:

Duncan Leith, Chair	Alice Livdahl
John Nunnari, Vice-chair (7:20 PM)	Mary Catherine Maher (7:03 PM)
Cynthia Bazinet	Kelly Maxwell
Elizabeth Brennan	Phillip Mighdoll (7:05 PM)
Charles Capparelli	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter (7:03 PM)	Michael Sherman
David Gibbs	Margaret Watson
Mark James	

Committee Members Absent:

Patricia Gates	Natalie Mello
John Kane	Cheryl Rauh

Administration Present:

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Paul K. Soojian, Deputy Superintendent and Director of Operations
Steven Penka, Director of Administrative Services
Peter Brennan, Comptroller

I. Call to Order

Chair Duncan Leith called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Review of Superintendent's Budget Presentation for Annual Town Meetings

Prior to the PowerPoint presentation the Superintendent distributed a copy of two possible motions, one he was recommending, the other he was submitting to the Committee for discussion (attachment 1). The Superintendent recommended to the Committee that any increase in

Chapter 70 Aid be used to reduce Member Town assessments pending passage of the School Committee's March 28, 2005 Appropriation. The second motion was not being recommended by the Superintendent but represented a similar commitment of *Chapter 71 Transportation Reimbursement* be used to reduce Member Town assessments. The Superintendent recommended that due to the upcoming negotiation for a new transportation contract for FY07 and the projected increase in fuel costs, that any additional Chapter 71 Regional Transportation reimbursement be put aside to help defer the increase expected in the transportation assessments in FY07. However, the Superintendent indicated that the Committee may wish to use all of its additional State revenues to reduce Member Town assessments.

Following inquiry as to what additional aid might be forthcoming from the Senate, the Superintendent advised the Committee that the Senate has traditionally been more generous with State education funds. The Superintendent noted, however, that the District would not know until the end of June the amount of any additional aid. By consensus, the Committee agreed that if there was an increase in Chapter 70, that the Treasurer's revised assessment letter include reference to the Committee's action.

Motion: The Superintendent recommends and the School Committee agrees that any increase in *Chapter 70 Aid* realized by the Wachusett Regional School District in the final State FY06 budget will be used to reduce assessments to Member Towns, pending the passage of the School Committee's appropriation, adopted on March 28, 2005.

(M. Sherman)
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll

Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The Superintendent distributed a copy of the draft FY06 Appropriation, with accompanying appendices (attachment 2).

Motion: To adopt the FY06 Appropriation, as presented by the Superintendent as Appendix 3 in the draft FY06 Appropriation
(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Phillip Mighdoll

(Motion passed 13-0-1)

The Superintendent presented the PowerPoint Town Meeting Presentation. Committee members commented on the deletion or revision of particular

slides. The Superintendent also invited comments via email following the meeting.

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(M. Sherman)
(A. Livdahl)

Vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Elizabeth Brennan
Charles Capparelli
Robert Carter
David Gibbs
Mark James
Alice Livdahl
Mary Catherine Maher
Kelly Maxwell
Phillip Mighdoll
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:ss/School Committee/Minutes