

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1149 Monday, July 14, 2008

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos (7:12 PM)
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad (7:03 PM)	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Marcie Zaharee
Stacey Jackson	

Committee Members Absent:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
Thomas Ackerman	Mark James
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman

Administration Present:

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

Student Representatives Present:

Keara Aquino
Hillary Blakeney
Greg Savageau)

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

Vice-chair Nunnari called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1148th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 9, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held June 9, 2008.

(J. Sova)
(C. Cipro)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held June 9, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Bazinet and Plourde abstaining.

- B. Approval of minutes of the executive session held on June 9, 2008

Vice-chair Nunnari 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 June 9, 2008.

(D. Leith)
(M. Coyle)

Member Conrad joined the meeting.

Vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Norman Plourde
Marcie Zaharee

(Motion passed 8-0-4)

Member Pantos joined the meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Vice-chair Nunnari 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

Vice-chair Nunnari gave an update on Chair Watson's recuperation.

Vice-chair Nunnari commented on the article which appeared in the July 13th *Telegram & Gazette* announcing local athletic "super teams," listing a number of Wachusett students named to the teams.

B. Student Representatives

Vice-chair Nunnari introduced new student representatives Keara Aquino of Sterling, Hillary Blakeney of Sterling and Greg Savageau of Holden. He thanked the students for attending the meeting, particularly impressive because of the time of year. Vice-chair Nunnari told the students he looks forward to hearing from them at future School Committee meetings. He further explained to the students that they will be invited to a meeting of the Management Subcommittee, in August or September, at which time their roles as Student Representatives will be explained and clarified.

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

There was no report by the Management Subcommittee. Vice-chair Nunnari expects a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet announced the previously scheduled meeting of the Education Subcommittee, on July 16th, has been canceled. The first meeting of the newly appointed Education Subcommittee will be Wednesday, August 20th.

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

In Business/Finance Chair Sherman's absence, Member Conrad reported the subcommittee has not met, but members have been signing warrants as needed.

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

Subcommittee Chair Cipro announced the Community Outreach Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, August 14th. (NOTE: At the conclusion of the School Committee meeting, Subcommittee Chair Cipro, at the request of a subcommittee member, rescheduled the meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee to Wednesday, August 13th, at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.)

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad gave a brief report of the June 18th meeting with the auditors. She informed the Committee the auditors will be back at the Central Office the end of August.

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 this subcommittee most likely will not meet until September, after principals have gathered requested information/data.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (C. Bazinet, Chair, T. Ackerman, D. Leith, J. Nunnari, N. Plourde)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported this subcommittee will meet Wednesday, August 6th, at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith gave an update on the status of the baseball dugouts, stating the bid will appear in the July 23rd Register and it can be expected the bid should be awarded mid-August.

Building Committee Chair Leith informed the Committee that a TLT employee who had been on-site at the high school and was

responsible for directing the subcontractors has been reassigned, leaving a void. Chair Leith spoke more about building-related activities taking place on the high school site.

Chair Leith reminded members of the dedication ceremonies being planned for the weekend of September 20th/21st.

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

Stacey Jackson reported on a recent meeting of the SEPAC.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There was general discussion of the recently released Readiness Project, copies of which were available for those members wanting a copy.

The topic of International Baccalaureate vs Advanced Placement programs was raised and discussed. The Superintendent offered his opinion (pros and cons) of both programs.

Member Zaharee asked the Superintendent how the District will deal with the high cost of heating oil during the coming year. Superintendent Pandiscio explained energy conservation will continue to be stressed and strongly encouraged in all District buildings and the savings resulting from such conservation will help with the fuel budget.

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke about the Corrective Action Plan and noted he was pleased with the response received from DESE. He did add he was a bit disappointed that the letter from DESE did not mention the fact DESE had commented to Superintendent Pandiscio that WRSD is doing more than DESE would require.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported additional funds had been received from extra Chapter 71 monies. The Superintendent will bring forward his recommendation at the August meeting that this money be held for FY09 extraordinary and unanticipated expenditures and if funds are

not expended these funds will be applied to assessment reductions for FY10.

Superintendent Pandiscio updated the Committee on health insurance, saying the 8.4% increase should be manageable within the budget.

Superintendent Pandiscio received a telephone call from Lunenburg Superintendent Loxi Calmes. Superintendent Calmes explained that the towns of Lunenburg, Ayer and Shirley are discussing regionalization and representatives from those three towns would like to sit down with representatives from the Wachusett District to discuss regionalization. Superintendent Pandiscio is looking for two/three School Committee volunteers who would be willing to meet with Superintendent Calmes and others. Possible meeting dates are Wednesday, August 13th, or Monday, August 18th. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Members Bazinet and Nunnari volunteered to attend this meeting. Any other School Committee members willing to volunteer were asked to contact Rebecca Petersen.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There were no recommendations requiring action by the School Committee.

VI. Public Hearing

Denise Forsberg-DiMarzio, Jefferson, addressed the School Committee.

High School Building Committee Chair Leith responded to Ms. Forsberg-DiMarzio's comments about the high school building project. Chair Leith reported the next meeting of the Building Committee will be Wednesday, July 30th, at 6:30 PM.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

VIII. New Business

Member Leith raised the matter of naming the field at the high school and stated he is looking for guidance on how to proceed. He read Policy 7161 *Policy Relating to Support Operations Naming of School Property* (attachment 2). At the request of Member Leith, Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to this matter. He also referred to Policy 7161, expressing his opinion that a "blanket procedure" would be difficult to develop. The Superintendent might suggest a procedure, specific to the naming of the turf field at the high school, to include:

- Solicit input from the public, advertised in local newspapers

- The Building Committee would evaluate nominations
- The Building Committee would bring a recommendation forward to the School Committee

Comment was made that it might be difficult to conclude this process in time for the September dedication ceremonies at the high school, but perhaps the process could be completed by Homecoming Weekend. Discussion around the table leaned towards moving the process forward sooner than later.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent of Schools to develop a procedure for naming the turf athletic field at Wachusett Regional High School, with input from residents of the Member Towns, students and teachers.

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Member Hammond made a friendly amendment that the School Committee approve the procedure outlined by the Superintendent at this meeting, in an attempt to move the process forward. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Motion: To approve the following procedure for naming the turf athletic field at Wachusett Regional High School, with input from residents of the Member Towns, students and teachers:

- Solicit input from the public, advertised in local newspapers
- The Building Committee would evaluate nominations
- The Building Committee would bring a recommendation forward to the School Committee

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed 13-0)

Members were reminded of the annual MASS/MASC Joint Conference to take place in November. Members interested in attending should contact the Superintendent's office to be registered. "Early registration" is open until mid-August.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(D. Leith)
(M. Zaharee)

Vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Shirley Conrad
Colleen Cipro
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 13-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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