

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1113, Monday, July 24, 2006

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Melinda Coyle
Kathleen Sweeney, Vice-chair	David Gibbs
Thomas Ackerman (7:50 PM)	Steven Hammond
Cynthia Ahearn (7:06 PM)	Mark James
John Bangrazi (7:51 PM)	John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet	Norman Plourde
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	

Committee Members Absent:

Kelly Maxwell	Edward Pescaro
Judith Newton	Tammy Tod

Administration Present:

Thomas G. 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 Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Edwin Meyer, Holden, addressed the School Committee, sharing a copy of The Princeton Outlook, Volume IV, No. III (attachment 2)

Lou Cornacchioli, Rutland, addressed the School Committee.

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1112th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 12, 2006. Member Carter referred to the

definition of Dawson Elementary School's motto (IALAC), correcting page five of the minutes, changing "capable" to "caring." Following this correction being made, the minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Plourde abstaining.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 12, 2006 – Approval of the executive session minutes of June 12, 2006 deferred to this meeting's executive session.
- C. Approval of the 276th Special Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on June 19, 2006 – Minutes were approved by consensus, with Members Ahearn, James and Plourde abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson explained to the full Committee that the Business/Finance Subcommittee has put into place a monthly schedule for subcommittee members to sign warrants. When assigned, those members have agreed to arrive at the School Committee meetings 30 minutes in advance of the start of the meeting in order to have time to review and sign warrants.

Chair Watson 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. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Watson reminded members of the upcoming MASC *On Board* orientation offering on July 22, 2006.

Chair Watson reported she will on vacation July 28 – August 6. Any School Committee questions/concerns during that time should be referred to Vice-chair Sweeney.

B. Student Advisory Committee

Student representatives for the 2006-2007 school year have not yet been appointed.

C. Management Subcommittee

A Management Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for August 7, 2006, 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

D. Education Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reviewed the June 28th meeting of the Education Subcommittee and reported that the next meeting will be July 26th. The Education Subcommittee is seeking full Committee direction on pursuing the matter of full day kindergarten. Following discussion, it was decided that this matter would be a topic for the strategic planning process; therefore, it can be taken off the Education Subcommittee plate for the time being.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Sherman, Chair, T. Ackerman, J. Bangrazi, S. Conrad, M. Coyle, D. Gibbs, M. James, J. Newton)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman gave an overview of the last two meetings of the subcommittee.

Amended policy - AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**.

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Subcommittee Chair Sherman walked those present through the proposed changes to this policy. Discussion ensued.

7:50 PM Member Ackerman joined the meeting

7:51 PM Member Bangrazi joined the meeting.

Following discussion, the first paragraph of AP4713.1 was amended as follows:

The School Committee will create an Audit Advisory Board consisting of seven (7) voting members: one (1) from each Member Town ~~appointed~~ ~~recommended by their Board of Selectmen~~ and two (2) members appointed by the School Committee Chair from members of the School Committee, **who shall serve as Chair and Vice-chair**. Each member shall ~~be appointed~~ **serve** for three (3) years, except for the initial ~~appointment term~~ **term** which should be staggered into 1, 2 and 3 year terms at the discretion of the School Committee Chair. **All appointees, including Member Town appointees, shall be subject to the sole determination and approval of the SITTING SCHOOL COMMITTEE Chair.** ~~In the event a Member Town fails to appoint a member, the Chair shall appoint a member from the~~

~~respective town.~~ The District's administration (Superintendent and Comptroller) will act as staff to the Audit Advisory Board.

*(The School Committee will create an Audit Advisory Board consisting of seven (7) voting members: one (1) from each Member Town and two (2) members appointed by the School Committee Chair from members of the School Committee, **who shall serve as Chair and Vice-chair.** Each member shall **serve** for three (3) years, except for the initial **term** which should be staggered into 1, 2 and 3 year terms at the discretion of the School Committee Chair. **All appointees, including Member Town appointees, shall be subject to the sole determination and approval of the SITTING SCHOOL COMMITTEE Chair.** The District's administration (Superintendent and Comptroller) will act as staff to the Audit Advisory Board.)*

Motion: To approve amendments to paragraph #1 of AP4713.1.
(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

8:07 PM Member Sweeney left the table.

8:08 PM Member Sweeney returned to the table.

Discussion of this policy language continued. Member Bazinet made the following friendly amendment, seconded by Member Hammond:

Paragraph 3, page 1:

Acceptable membership qualifications shall be at the sole determination of the School Committee Chair. ~~Preferred~~
~~Membership qualifications should include:~~ **Members should possess skills or experience in one or more of the following:**

Motion: To accept the friendly amendment to paragraph 3 of AP4713.1.

(C. Bazinet)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP4713.1 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Audit Advisory Board**, reflecting amended language.

(M. Sherman)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, August 8, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

G. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

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

Motion: To rename the ad hoc subcommittee charged with studying the size of the membership of the School Committee, now to be known as the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study the Size of the Membership of the School Committee.

(R. Carter)

(K. Sweeney)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman

Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
David Gibbs
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee will be Wednesday, August 23, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office. On September 13th there will be another meeting, at which time the public will be given the opportunity to address the ad hoc subcommittee.

2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate Non-Union Contract (C. Ahearn, Chair, T. Ackerman, J. Bangrazi, K. Maxwell, N. Plourde)

Subcommittee Chair Ahearn reported this ad hoc subcommittee will report in tonight's executive session.

3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Employ a District Business Manager (J. Nunnari, Chair, S. Conrad, M. Sherman, M. Watson)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Nunnari reviewed the minutes of the July 17, 2006 meeting. He then referred to attachment 12 of the July 20th Superintendent's Report, amended Job Description – Business Manager (attachment 4).

8:32 Member Plourde left the table.

Motion: To adopt the revised Job Description – Business Manager, as presented.

(J. Nunnari)
(M. Sherman)

Following inquiry, the Superintendent will seek clarification on the difference between one being “certified” by the DOE vs being “licensed” by the DOE.

8:34 PM Member Plourde returned to the table.

Discussion between and among School Committee members and the Superintendent continued on the details regarding the Business Manager position.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

David Gibbs

(Motion passed 14-0-1)

H. Building Committees

1. High School – Kelly Maxwell

In Member Maxwell’s absence, the Superintendent gave an overview of recent activities on the high school project.

2. Rutland – Elementary School – Edward Pescaro

In Member Pescaro’s absence, the Superintendent gave an overview of recent activities on the Glenwood project.

- I. School Council Reports: Central Tree Middle School (T. Ackerman), Chocksett Middle School (S. Conrad), Davis Hill Elementary School (C. Bazinet), Dawson Elementary School (M. James), Glenwood Elementary School (E. Pescaro), Houghton Elementary School (N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (J. Newton), Naquag Elementary School (J. Nunnari), Paxton Center School (M. Coyle), Thomas Prince School (K. Sweeney/J. Bangrazi), Wachusett Regional High School (M. Sherman/T. Tod), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (T. Tod/C. Ahearn)

V. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report
- B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 1. Energy Education, Inc.

Superintendent Pandiscio introduced Charles Fasnacht, President – Northeast Division, Energy Education, Inc.

8:57 PM Member Gibbs left the meeting.

Mr. Fasnacht spoke of the intent and merits of Energy Education, Inc., giving a summary of services and benefits they offer. School Committee members were invited to ask questions of Mr. Fasnacht following his presentation.

9:01 PM Municipal Representative Kenneth O'Brien joined the meeting.

9:14 PM Member Bazinet left the table.

9:16 PM Member Bazinet returned to the table.

Mr. Fasnacht shared two handouts – New England Regional Top Performers and Energy Education Program Components (attachments 5 & 6).

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Energy Education, Inc.

(M. Sherman)
(C. Bazinet)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:27 PM Member Conrad left the table.

Mr. Fasnacht was thanked for his attendance at this meeting. Chair Watson noted to Mr. Fasnacht that the School Committee would appreciate receiving periodic reports on activities connected with Energy Education, Inc.

2. Student Activity Accounts

Motion: To authorize the School Committee to establish student activity accounts for Glenwood Elementary School and the Early Childhood Center.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

9:29 PM Member Conrad returned to the table.

3. Transfer of Indirect Cost Budget

Motion: To authorize the transfer of the indirect cost budget of both academic support program grants (MCAS 625 and Academic Support 632) to the Professional Development revolving account.

(C. Bazinet)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Executive Session

VI. Public Hearing

John Rokicki of Rutland addressed the School Committee.

VII. Unfinished Business

Member Carter wished to discuss BusRadio, referring to an article he had read in the local newspaper. Superintendent Pandiscio gave a history lesson, outlining District actions connected with BusRadio during the past year.

Motion: To refer BusRadio to the Management Subcommittee for review and consideration.

(M. Sherman)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn
John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies of collective bargaining and contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel, not to return to public session.

(C. Bazinet)
(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Kathleen Sweeney
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Ahearn

John Bangrazi
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Mark James
John Nunnari
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM, taking a five minute recess before entering executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

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