

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1150 Monday, August 11, 2008

Cafeteria

Davis Hill Elementary School

*Committee Members Present:*

John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Thomas Ackerman	Michael Pantos
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Marcie Zaharee
Robert Imber	

*Committee Members Absent:*

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
Melinda Coyle	Duncan Leith

*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:*

None

*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 7:03 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1149<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on July 11, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held July 11, 2008.

(J. Sova)  
(N. Plourde)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held July 11, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Carter, Imber and Sherman abstaining.

### 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.

#### B. Student Representatives

No student representatives were in attendance.

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

Vice-chair Nunnari reported the Management Subcommittee has not yet met. Vice-chair Nunnari expects a meeting will be scheduled in September; subcommittee members will be polled on availability.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet announced the first meeting of the Education Subcommittee will be Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Business/Finance Chair Sherman reported he expects to call a meeting of this subcommittee in September.

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

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reminded members of the meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported on the new member orientation conducted August 7<sup>th</sup> and announced the next meeting of the AAB, with the auditors, will be Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM.

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 would like to call the first meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee for Monday, August 25, at 7:00 PM. He asked members to let him know if that date would be inconvenient.

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 told that a report on the meeting of August 6<sup>th</sup> would be given in executive session and announced the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

In High School Building Committee Chair Leith's absence, Superintendent Pandiscio gave an update on progress made on the athletic fields. He reported bids for the baseball dugouts would be opened on August 17, 2008. The tennis court area has been stabilized with plantings. The high school facility will be ready for opening day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. In executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting, Superintendent Pandiscio will give a report on litigation.

Superintendent Pandiscio reminded members of the ribbon cutting ceremony being planning for Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

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)

There were no School Council reports made.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There was general discussion of the Superintendent's Report of August 7, 2008, including the status of approval by DESE of the Regional Agreement, roof inspections being done throughout the District, Every Day Math use in the schools.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Recommendation: To approve FY09 Amended Appropriation

The Committee's attention was called to Attachment D (Business Manager Peter Brennan's report to the Superintendent, included in the August 7, 2008 Superintendent's Report) and the FY09 Proposed Appropriation 08.11.08 (attachment 2). Superintendent Pandiscio explained the figures that show in the column titled "Accumulative Changes Due to Principals Requests," an amount that totals \$166,709. Superintendent Pandiscio reminded the Committee that a two-thirds vote of the membership (13) is required to increase the Appropriation.

Motion: To approve the FY09 Proposed Appropriation dated 8/11/08, as presented.

(M. Sherman)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad

Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

2. Recommendation: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major FY08 Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer within the same major FY08 Appropriation categories surplus account balances to deficit account balances.

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

3. Recommendation: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major FY08 Appropriation categories to deficit Appropriation categories.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed a spreadsheet entitled Budget Transfers and explained the reason for this recommendation (attachment 3).

Motion: To authorize the Business Manager to transfer from surplus major FY08 Appropriation categories to deficit Appropriation categories.

(T. Ackerman)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

4. Recommendation: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grants identified in the Superintendent's Report of August 6, 2008 in the total amount of \$1,758 to the Professional Development revolving account

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grants identified in the Superintendent's Report of August 6, 2008 in the total amount of \$1,758 to the Professional Development revolving account.

(M. Sherman)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

5. Recommendation: To approve the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 General Obligation School Bond dated August 15, 2008, authorized September 30, 2002 to Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. with a True Interest Cost of 4.189671%.

At a member's request, Business Manager Peter Brennan spoke to the motion, explaining the difference between a bond vs a BAN. The Superintendent distributed copies of votes prepared by bond counsel (attachment 4).

Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 General Obligation School Bond dated August 15, 2008, authorized September 30, 2002 to Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. with a True Interest Cost of 4.189671%, and to approve additional language included in the Vote of the Regional District School Committee (attachment 4), as prepared by bond counsel, waiving the reading.

(M. Pantos)

(S. Conrad)

Upon inquiry why a vote is needed this date, Business Manager Brennan explained the closing on the bond is scheduled for August 15, 2008. Members were uncomfortable voting on the language prepared by bond counsel without the language being

read into the public record. Upon reconsideration, Vice-chair Nunnari read into the record language prepared by bond counsel:

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated July 25, 2008, and a Final Official Statement dated August 6, 2008, (the "Official Statement"), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the District, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

Further Voted: that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Bonds, as executed prior to the bidding for the Bonds, is hereby confirmed.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee (the "Chairman") be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer, the Secretary and Chairman be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of the District and with the Town Clerks of each Member Town and a copy thereof posted in the office of the Secretary or on the principal official bulletin board of the District and in the office of the Town Clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of each Member Town at least 48 hours, including Saturdays but not Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decisions in connection with the sale of the Bonds were taken in executive session, and

that the official record of the meeting was made available to the public promptly and remains available to the public, all in accordance with G.L. c39, s.23B as amended.

Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$6,100,000 General Obligation School Bond dated August 15, 2008, authorized September 30, 2002 to Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc. with a True Interest Cost of 4.189671%.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated July 25, 2008, and a Final Official Statement dated August 6, 2008, (the "Official Statement"), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the District, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

Further Voted: that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Bonds, as executed prior to the bidding for the Bonds, is hereby confirmed.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee (the "Chairman") be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer, the Secretary and Chairman be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of the District and with the Town Clerks of each member Town and a copy thereof posted in the office of the Secretary or on the principal official bulletin board of the District and in the office of the Town Clerk or on the principal

official bulletin board of each Member Town at least 48 hours, including Saturdays but not Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decisions in connection with the sale of the Bonds were taken in executive session, and that the official record of the meeting was made available to the public promptly and remains available to the public, all in accordance with G.L. c39, s.23B as amended.

(M. Pantos)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

6. Recommendation: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$527,990 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Glenwood Elementary School

Member Cipro corrected the recommendation citing the reimbursement is for the Central Tree Middle School, not the Glenwood Elementary School.

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$527,990 to the Town of Rutland for reimbursement for Central Tree Middle School.

(M. Pantos)

(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

7. Recommendation: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for Paxton Center School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$338,045 to the Town of Paxton for reimbursement for Paxton Center School.

(J. Sova)

(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

8. Recommendation: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,870,996. to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dawson Elementary School, Davis Hill Elementary School and Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,870,996. to the Town of Holden for reimbursement for Dawson Elementary School, Davis Hill Elementary School and Dr. Leroy E. Mayo Elementary School.

(J. Sova)  
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:  
None

(Motion passed 15-0)

9. Recommendation: To accept the Evaluation of the Business Manager

Motion: To accept the Evaluation of the Business Manager, as presented (attachment 5).

(M. Sherman)

(J. Sova)

Member Carter asked if a numerical evaluation had been prepared, which the Superintendent explained had been done by the Business/Finance Subcommittee. Member Cipro noted that Business Manager Brennan had signed the evaluation before it was brought before the School Committee. Superintendent Pandiscio explained Business Manager Brennan's signature served as a signal back to the Superintendent that the evaluation had been received by the Business Manager.

Vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

10. Approval to Extend the Contract, dated July 1, 2003, Between URS Corporation and the Wachusett Regional School District, for the provision of professional services in connection with the high school addition and renovation project.

Motion: To approve the extension to the Contract, dated July 1, 2003, to December 31, 2008, between Wachusett Regional

School District and URS Corporation, for the provision of professional services in connection with the high school addition and renovation project, as presented.

(M. Sherman)

(S. Conrad)

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to this motion, explaining to the Committee that URS Corporation will not charge a monthly fee, but rather will bill on an hourly basis when services are needed.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

Superintendent Pandiscio wished to give the Committee a heads up about just received news that the health protection grant, a long time reoccurring grant, has not been awarded Wachusett for the 2008-2009 school year. The Superintendent briefly explained what these grant funds have historically been used for and wanted members to know that he may come to the School Committee recommending a shift in funds from non-student accounts to cover positions previously covered by grant funds.

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

Member Hammond raised the topic of essential school principles.

Motion: To direct the Education Subcommittee to investigate essential school learning principles and how such might work within the Wachusett Regional School District and to report back to the full School Committee, no time certain.

(S. Hammond)  
(R. Carter)

Member Plourde suggested the Committee wait to hear District Administration's response to the recently released Readiness Plan and at that time take action on investigating essential schools. Superintendent Pandiscio responded that he does not believe such investigation and discussion would derail any response/reaction to the Governor's Readiness Plan.

Vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of non-union negotiations and pending litigation, not to return to public session

(J. Sova)  
(R. Carter)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

John Nunnari  
Thomas Ackerman  
Cynthia Bazinet  
Robert Carter  
Colleen Cipro  
Shirley Conrad  
Steven Hammond  
Robert Imber  
Stacey Jackson  
Michael Pantos  
Robert Pelczarski  
Norman Plourde  
Michael Sherman  
Joseph Sova  
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed 15-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp