

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1160 Monday, February 23, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Mark James
Thomas Ackerman	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Steven Hammond	Joseph Sova
Robert Imber	Marcie Zaharee

Committee Members Absent:

Cynthia Bazinet	Michael Pantos
Robert Carter	Michael Sherman
Melinda Coyle	

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Darryll McCall, Director of Operations
Susan Sullivan, Director of Human Resources
Peter Brennan, Business Manager
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representative Present:

Hillary Blakeney

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 7:08 PM. She noted a revised agenda had been prepared (attachment 2).

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 283rd Special Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on February 7, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special meeting held February 7, 2009.

(M. James)
(D. Leith)

Minutes were approved by consensus, with Member Zaharee abstaining.

- B. Approval of 1159th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on February 9, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 9, 2009.

(R. Imber)
(J. Sova)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held February 9, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Member Ackerman abstaining.

III. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Watson 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

Chair Watson reminded the Committee of the New Member Orientation scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2009, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Central Office.

Chair Watson reminded members that the Superintendent's evaluation instrument should be completed and turned into her by March 9th. Chair Watson listed which standards need to be addressed by which subcommittees; she will put this list in writing for inclusion in the next Superintendent's Report.

Chair Watson told that Members Conrad, Leith and Pelczarski have volunteered to serve on the spring 2009 principal interview committee, and Chair Watson will serve as an alternate.

Chair Watson reported on her attendance at a February 17, 2009 meeting sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (attachment 3).

B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Hillary Blakeney reported on activities that have taken place at the high school since the last School Committee meeting, noting that one week was February vacation. Before vacation week, *Rachel's Challenge* presentations were given the evening of February 12th and during the day on February 13th and she commented that this was a very well-received performance. The Drama Club is conducting tryouts for the spring production. An update on winter sports teams was given.

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

Chair Watson reported on the February 3rd meeting and told the next meeting is scheduled for March 16th.

1. Amended Policy – AP1500 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Definition of Policy and Regulations**– second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP1500 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Definition of Policy and Regulations** waiving the reading.

(R. Imber)
(M. Zaharee)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

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

In Subcommittee Chair Bazinet's absence, Vice-chair Hammond reminded members of the meeting on Wednesday, February 25th, at which time the Superintendent's evaluation will be addressed.

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

In Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman's absence, Vice-chair Conrad reported on the February 12th Business/Finance Subcommittee meeting, which was followed by a meeting with the Budget Advisory Task Force. She commented that the five Member Towns were represented at the Budget Advisory Task Force meeting. The Budget Advisory Task Force will meet again on March 26th at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

1. Amended Policy – AP4650 **Policy Relating to Business/Finance**
Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of Amended Policy – AP4650
Policy Relating to Business/Finance ***Wachusett Regional School***
District Treasurer – waiving the reading.

(S. Conrad)

(J. Sova)

Vice-chair Conrad explained this policy (Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer) had previously been included in the 1000 series (P1320, Policy Relating to School Committee Operations). Vice-chair Conrad summarized the amended language.

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

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

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported on the meeting of this subcommittee which took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet next on March 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The Community Outreach portion of the Superintendent's evaluation will be addressed at that meeting.

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

The Audit Advisory Board has not recently met. AAB Chair Conrad commented the Board is between responsibilities at this time.

- H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith said the Building Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7:00 PM (a time change from the usual 6:00 PM call to order). The field house at the high school was dedicated before the start of the boys' basketball game on February 17th; Jack Locke represented administration at the ceremony.

- 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)

Stacey Jackson – A Special Education Parent Advisory Council workshop is planned for February 25th.

Colleen Cipro – A Title I parent/student evening at Naquag Elementary School was very well attended.

Duncan Leith – WRHS School Council met on February 11th

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

There were no questions about the February 13, 2009 Superintendent's Report.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To approve the appropriation of School Building Authority funds in the amount of \$1,034,230 to the Town of Sterling for reimbursement for Houghton/Chocksett Schools

(S. Conrad)

(M. Zaharee)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Member Imber asked to go back to the Superintendent's Report, as he had a question about the Coordinated Program Review/Corrective Action Plan response from DESE. Director of Operations McCall explained that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has changed some submission deadlines from June to March.

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed a revised calendar for the remainder of this school year and explained the extended day proposal (attachment 4). He gave the results of parental input ascertained by building principals.

Motion: To approve the REVISED 2008-2009 School Calendar, as presented.

(S. Conrad)
(J. Sova)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

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

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp