

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Executive Session

Monday, March 9, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair
John Nunnari, Vice-chair
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber

Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Ackerman
Melinda Coyle

Norman Plourde
Marcie Zaharee

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Chair Watson called the executive session of the School Committee to order at 8:20 PM. Chair Watson turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pandiscio.

Members were provided copies of the Salary Freeze/Steps/Contract Increase Analysis (attachment 1). Superintendent Pandiscio reviewed the document in detail and members were given the opportunity to ask questions while the review and explanation were going on. Members' attention was then directed to a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Wachusett Regional School District and the Wachusett Administrators' Association (attachment 2).

8:38 PM Member Hammond left the table.

The Superintendent explained that the proposed Memorandum of Agreement would extend the WAA contract for one year, to expire on June 30, 2010, salaries would increase by 2%, but there would be no step increases. Members were again given the opportunity to ask questions of the Superintendent.

8:40 PM Member Hammond returned to the table.

The question was raised if the School Committee is required to take action on the FY10 budget at its meeting on March 23rd. Action is required 45 days in advance of the first Member Annual Town Meeting, which will be Paxton on May 4th, so the Committee must take a vote on the budget, following the Annual Budget Hearing on March 23rd.

Motion: To authorize Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio to negotiate, in principle, with all bargaining units to freeze all step increases and offer no more than 2% salary increases.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Discussion of the motion ensued. Member Sherman offered a friendly amendment to added the following language: *in order to build a budget model that results in a \$3.5 million to \$4 million decrease in the Member Town assessments.* The maker and seconder of the motion accepted this friendly amendment.

Motion: To authorize Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio to negotiate, in principle, with all bargaining units to freeze all step increases and offer no more than 2% salary increases, in order to build a budget model that results in a \$3.5 million to \$4 million decrease in the Member Town assessments.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Duncan Leith
John Nunnari

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Sherman)
(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The executive session adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp