

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1165 Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Cynthia Bazinet	Julianne Kelley
Robert Carter	Duncan Leith
Colleen Cipro	Michael Pantos
William Clute	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Kristine Goodwin	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Steven Hammond	

Committee Members Absent:

Joseph Sova

Administration Present:

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Superintendent of Schools
John 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).

Chair Watson called the regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:16 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of 1164th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on April 27, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 27, 2009.

(R. Imber)
(S. Conrad)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held April 27, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin, Kelley and Sciabarrasi abstaining.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session of the WRDSC held on April 27, 2009

Chair Watson 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. Chair Watson explained for the benefit of new members that minutes of executive sessions are printed on red paper for confidentiality and are not released until the subject(s) of the executive session(s) is settled/finalized.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session held April 27, 2009, not to be released.

(S. Conrad)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Julianne Kelley
Robert Pelczarski

Michelle Sciabarrasi

(The motion passed 12-0-5)

C. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on May 7, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting held May 7, 2009.

(M. Pantos)
(J. Nunnari)

The minutes of the special School Committee meeting held May 7, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Clute, Goodwin, Jackson, Kelley and Sciabarrasi 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 asked members to let her know of their subcommittee preferences by completing the subcommittee/school council request forms. She advised members to hold off on completing their biographical information sheets until subcommittee assignments are made.

Chair Watson asked for volunteers to represent the School Committee at the upcoming eighth grade graduations, planned for Thursday evening, June 25th.

B. Student Representatives

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

C. Management Subcommittee

There was no report by the Management Subcommittee.

D. Education Subcommittee

There was no report by the Education Subcommittee.

E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (S. Conrad, D. Leith, M. Pantos, J. Sova)

The Business/Finance Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

F. Community Outreach Subcommittee

There was no report by the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported the AAB will meet with District auditors on Thursday, June 11th, at 5:30 PM.

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Impact Bargaining with the Superintendent of Schools (N. Plourde, Chair, C. Bazinet, C. Cipro, D. Leith, J. Nunnari)

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Chair Plourde reported, in general, on meetings this subcommittee has had with the Superintendent of Schools. It is expected the subcommittee will impact bargain with the Superintendent the next time they meet, which Chair Plourde expects will be in early July, hopefully before the July 20th School Committee meeting.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

Building Committee Chair Leith reported the Building Committee will not meet the beginning of June, as had been tentatively planned, but he expects to post a meeting before the end of June. Building Committee Chair Leith is hopeful the work of the Building Committee will be concluded in the near future and he mentioned, again, that he would like to have all those who have served on the Building Committee through the years invited to a meeting of the School Committee, this summer or in September, to be recognized and thanked for their services.

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 – Special Education Parent Advisory Council – Final meeting

of this school year will be held on June 10th at Davis Hill Elementary School.

Robert Carter – Davis Hill Elementary School

Colleen Cipro – Naquag Elementary School

Member Carter added a comment that the Community Outreach is an effective subcommittee, keeping Member Town Selectboards and officials informed of School Committee activities.

V. Superintendent's Report

Chair Watson informed the members that School Committee meetings are now being broadcast live. She asked that members please turn off cell phones during the meetings.

A. Discussion of Report

Member Imber asked Superintendent Pandiscio to speak to the paragraph in his May 21st Report where he informed the Committee of the anticipated increase (31%) in health insurance. Superintendent Pandiscio explained that the District's experience with Blue Cross the past few years has not been favorable, plus the fact that no other insurance vendors submitted bids for the coming year to offer health insurance coverage comparable to what Blue Cross provides. A member questioned what was meant by "not been favorable," to which Director of Human Resources Sullivan explained there are a great number of "active" cases in excess of \$100,000. When questioned by a member, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the pros and cons of joining a "state insurance plan." When asked, Business Manager Brennan explained the post-retirement health benefits covered by GASB 45.

The Superintendent took this time to let the Committee know that, budget-wise, a plan is needed. It is unprecedented to be at this time of year with no solid numbers from the state. Critical decisions need to be made. For Committee review, the Superintendent will develop a model/will prepare a narrative with more definite information for discussion and consideration at the June 8, 2009 School Committee meeting.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Approval of Superintendent's Vacation Carry-Over

Motion: To approve the request of Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio that up to five vacation days accrued in FY09 be carried over to be used in FY10.

(R. Imber)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Recommendation: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grant identified in the Superintendent's Report of May 21, 2009 (632 MCAS) in the total amount of \$267.00 to the Professional Development account

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the grant identified in the Superintendent's Report of May 21, 2009 (632 MCAS) in the total amount of \$267.00 to the Professional Development account

(J. Nunnari)
(S. Conrad)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin

Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

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

Chair Watson referenced attachment 16 in the May 21, 2009 Superintendent's Report, a letter from Dawson Elementary School Principal Patricia Scales accepting a gift of stools for use in art rooms from the Dawson Elementary School PTA. Chair Watson explained this gift needs to be accepted and acknowledged by the School Committee.

Motion: To accept the gift of stools for use in art rooms from the Dawson Elementary School PTA.

(J. Nunnari)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson

Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

- IX. Executive session to consider the disciplinary charges against an individual session
- X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn to executive session to consider the disciplinary charges against an individual, not to return to public session.

(S. Hammond)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Shirley Conrad
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp