

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1173 Monday, November 23, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Stacey Jackson
John Nunnari	Julianne Kelley
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Robert Pelczarski
Colleen Cipro	Norman Plourde
William Clute (7:08 PM)	Michelle Sciabarrasi
Kristine Goodwin	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	Dawn Torres-Gale
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Sherry Conrad	Kori Stuart
Michael Pantos	

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 Representatives Present:

Leanne Becker

Guest Speaker:

Patricia Scales, Principal, Dawson Elementary School

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 7:03 PM. She explained that the meeting is being taped live.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1172nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on November 10, 2009

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held November 10, 2009, as presented.

(R. Imber)

(D. Leith)

The minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee held November 10, 2009 were approved, by consensus, with Members Bazinet, Jackson and Sova 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 introduced Dawson Elementary School Principal Patricia Scales.

7:08 PM Member Clute joined the meeting.

Mrs. Scales addressed the School Committee. She explained to the Committee Dawson's IALAC spirit (I Am Loving and Capable) and she then presented each School Committee member with their own IALAC award. Mrs. Scales went on to inform the Committee of the many exciting activities taking place at Dawson Elementary School. Following questions from the Committee, Mrs. Scales was given a round of applause and was thanked for her presentation.

7:31 PM Dawson Principal Scales left the meeting.

Chair Watson told that Holden Police Chief George Sherrill and Holden Town Manager Brian Bullock are planning to attend the December 14th School Committee meeting to recognize individuals for their efforts during the December 2008 ice storm.

Chair Watson reported that she had met with the Holden Selectboard and further reported that the Holden Selectboard has asked to schedule a meeting with the eight Holden School Committee representatives to have a budget discussion, knowing that no decisions can be made at such a meeting. Chair

Watson and Holden Selectboard Chair Kimberly Ferguson are trying to find a mutually convenient date for such a meeting.

Chair Watson announced an executive session at the conclusion of the regular School Committee meeting, for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to public session.

Chair Watson assured the School Committee that minutes are approved in a timely manner and there is no backlog of unapproved minutes. Any approved executive session minutes not yet posted on the District website deal with matters that are still pending and/or unresolved.

B. Student Representatives (Greg Savageau, Leanne Becker, Katie Carlson)

Student Representative Becker reported that Model U.N. recently participated in a program at Princeton University, that the Eighth Grade/Incoming Freshmen open house was held on November 19th and that members of the Freshmen Mentoring program assisted at the open house, that the H1N1 virus seems to be going around the high school and teachers are being understanding when students must be out of school while ill with the flu.

C. Management Subcommittee (M. Watson, Chair, J. Nunnari, Vice-chair, C. Bazinet, R. Imber, J. Kelley, D. Leith, N. Plourde, K. Stuart)

Chair Watson reminded members of the next meeting of the Management Subcommittee which will be on Monday, November 30, 2009, at 7:00 in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office. Members of the Management Subcommittee were provided with materials to review in advance of the November 30th Management Subcommittee meeting.

The Management Subcommittee has discussed the possibility of having a School Committee member volunteer to act as a "policy editor." This volunteer would review policy revisions/amendments or draft language in advance of the amended or draft policy being brought to the full School Committee for action. Chair Watson is looking for the full Committee's direction on this suggestion. A formal School Committee position could require a WRDSC By-Law revision. The proposed process would be (1) subcommittee review of policy; (2) "policy editor" would review recommended amendments or draft language; (3) final amended or draft language would be sent back to the subcommittee chair; (4) amended or draft policy to the full School Committee for action. The intention of this suggestion is to save the full Committee time when acting on proposed amendments/draft language. Chair Watson has been approached by two School Committee members willing to act as "policy editors."

Motion: A list will be maintained of School Committee members willing to edit amended and/or draft policy language in advance of full School Committee action.

(K. Goodwin)
(R. Carter)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Following the vote, Chair Watson announced that Members Bazinet and Nunnari have volunteered to serve as “policy editors.”

- D. Education Subcommittee (C. Bazinet, Chair, S. Hammond, Vice-chair, R. Imber, S. Jackson, J. Nunnari, R. Pelczarski, N. Plourde, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reported the posted November 16, 2009 meeting of the Education Subcommittee had been canceled and that subcommittee appears to have dispatched all duties/assignments at this time. The next meeting of this subcommittee will be scheduled when needed.

- E. Business/Finance Subcommittee (D. Leith, Chair, S. Conrad, Vice-chair, R. Carter, W. Clute, M. Pantos, M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Subcommittee Chair Leith explained the Business/Finance Subcommittee is recommending minor amendments to three policies in the 7000 Series (Policies Relating to Support Operations). He outlined the amendments for the Committee, before acting on the second reading.

1. Amended Policy – AP7151 **Policy Relating to Support Operations School Plans** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP7151 **Policy Relating to Support Operations School Plans**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. Amended Policy – AP7152 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Safety Procedures and Programs** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP7152 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Safety Procedures and Programs**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. Amended Policy – AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Transportation Routes and Services** – second reading

Motion: To approve the second reading of AP7210 **Policy Relating to Support Operations Transportation Routes and Services**, waiving the reading.

(D. Leith)

(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Subcommittee Chair Leith announced the next meeting of the Business/Finance Subcommittee will be Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 6:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office. He reported District Treasurer James Dunbar will be attending the meeting, as it is time for the Treasurer's annual evaluation. Business/Finance Subcommittee members were provided with a packet of materials dealing with the Wachusett Trust and were asked to review these materials in advance of the December 3rd meeting.

- F. Community Outreach Subcommittee (C. Cipro, Chair, R. Pelczarski, Vice-chair, R. Carter, K. Goodwin, M. Sciabarrasi, K. Stuart, D. Torres-Gale)

Subcommittee Chair Cipro reported on the November 17, 2009 meeting of this subcommittee and announced the next Community Outreach meeting has been posted for December 15th at 6:30 PM. Subcommittee Chair Cipro asked that Community Outreach members advise if they are unable to attend a meeting on December 15th, in order to assure there will be a quorum.

1. Amended Policy – AP8150 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Complaints from the Community** – first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP8150 **Policy Relating to Communication/Public Relations Complaints from the Community**.

(C. Cipro)
(D. Torres-Gale)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

There was some discussion pertaining to school surveys.

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

In AAB Chair Conrad's absence, Vice-chair Sova told that the AAB will meet next on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Motion: Move the recommendation of the Audit Advisory Board to accept the findings and recommendations contained in District Auditor Powers & Sullivan's *Management Letter, Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements and Reports on Federal Award Programs* for the year ended June 30, 2009.

(J. Sova)
(D. Leith)

AAB Vice-chair Sova spoke to the motion.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

H. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Supplemental Revenue FY11 (M. Sciabarrasi, J. Sova)

Co-chairs Sciabarrasi and Sova reported that the next meeting of this ad hoc subcommittee was changed from November 19th to December 7th, at 7:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

I. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Pantos), Chocksett Middle School (J. Sova), Davis Hill Elementary School (R. Carter), Dawson Elementary School (D. Torres-Gale), Glenwood Elementary School (J. Kelley), Houghton Elementary School (S. Conrad/N. Plourde), Mayo Elementary School (S. Hammond), Mountview Middle School (K. Goodwin), Naquag Elementary School (C. Cipro), Paxton Center School (W. Clute), Thomas Prince School (R. Imber/M. Sciabarrasi), Wachusett Regional High School (D. Leith), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S. Jackson), Early Childhood Center (S. Jackson)

Michelle Sciabarrasi – November 9, 2009 H1N1 clinic held at Thomas Prince School

Joseph Sova – Chocksett Middle School

Stacey Jackson – SEPAC

Stacey Jackson – Davis Hill (she attended the meeting in Member Carter's absence)

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Member Jackson asked the status of the new listserv, which will electronically notify interested members of the public when School Committee agendas and minutes are available on the District website. Superintendent Pandiscio reported the IT Department is finalizing this listserv and it should be in operation by the time the December School Committee agenda is posted.

Questions were asked and answered about two matters (reducing transportation costs and Building and Grounds Maintenance) addressed in the Business Manager's Report.

Member Kelley reported she did not receive a copy of the Superintendent's letter to parents RE: listserv by way of backpack letter from Glenwood Elementary School. District administration to check to be sure letters were sent home to parents.

Many members are intrigued about the Superintendent's invitation to meet with the West Boylston Regional Task Force on December 8th. Superintendent Pandiscio does not have any specific details about the intent of the meeting, but is very willing to sit and have a conversation with this group. The Superintendent will report back to the School Committee following the meeting on the 8th.

Chair Watson congratulated District administration on the recent receipt of a K-12 Literacy Professional Development Partnerships grant.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Pandiscio explained the reimbursement the District has received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in connection with the recently completed high school addition and renovation project, referencing attachment 17A of his November 19, 2009 Report to the School Committee. High School Building Committee Chair Leith further explained that certain building project related costs are not reimbursable (land purchase, legal costs, a swimming pool (for example)).

Chair Watson acknowledged the generosity of the Rutland Agricultural Commission in offering to help facilitate improvements needed to be made to the greenhouse at Naquag Elementary School.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. 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, Dr. Leroy Mayo Elementary School, and Davis Hill 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, Dr. Leroy Mayo Elementary School, and Davis Hill Elementary School.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

2. To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the various specified grants in the total amount of \$93,520 to the Professional Development account

Motion: To approve the transfer of indirect costs from the various specified grants in the total amount of \$93,520 to the Professional Development account.

(D. Leith)

(J. Nunnari)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski

Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:
None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

3. Motion: To direct the Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools to write letters to area legislators to advise the legislature that the District is vehemently opposed to a proposed amendment to education reform that allows regions to charge a transportation fee.

(R. Carter)

(J. Kelley)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:
Dawn Torres-Gale

(The motion passed 16-1)

VI. Public Hearing

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

VII. Unfinished Business

The Superintendent was complimented on actions taken to encourage telephone calls and email contacts to Governor Patrick's office in opposition to recent 9C cuts.

Member Bazinet told the Committee that she, as a private citizen, has contacted attorneys to discuss a possible constitutional challenge, which could potentially develop into a lawsuit, claiming that one group of students may be disadvantaged due to the cut of Chapter 71. To date, she has not found anyone willing to move forward with such a claim, but she has not given up.

VIII. New Business

Motion: To acknowledge receipt of microscopes presented to the Central Tree Middle School from Rutland resident Charles Veith and to have the Chair of the School Committee thank Mr. Veith on behalf of the School Committee.

(R. Imber)
(C. Cipro)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

Member Kelley reported the Town of Rutland has called a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

IX. Adjournment

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

(J. Nunnari)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
William Clute
Kristine Goodwin
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Julianne Kelley
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michelle Sciabarrasi
Joseph Sova
Dawn Torres-Gale

Opposed:

None

(The motion passed unanimously.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp