

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1151 Monday, September 8, 2008

Cafeteria
Davis Hill Elementary School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Robert Imber
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Stacey Jackson
Thomas Ackerman (7:07 PM)	Mark James
Cynthia Bazinet	Duncan Leith
Robert Carter	Michael Pantos
Colleen Cipro	Robert Pelczarski
Shirley Conrad	Norman Plourde
Melinda Coyle	Joseph Sova
Steven Hammond	

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Sherman	Marcie Zaharee
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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:

Keara Aquino
Hillary Blakeney
Greg Savageau

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 7:02 PM.

I. Public Hearing

Chair Watson read Guidelines to the Public Hearing.

Denise Forsberg-DiMarzio, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

II. Secretary's Report

- A. Approval of 1150th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSD Committee held on August 11, 2008

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

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held August 11, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Watson, Coyle, James and Leith abstaining.

- B. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes (Part I) of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on August 11, 2008

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.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session, part I, held August 11, 2008, not to be released.

(S. Conrad)
(T. Ackerman)

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
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Melinda Coyle

Mark James
Duncan Leith

(Motion passed 13-0-4)

C. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes (Part II) of the Wachusett Regional District School Committee held on August 11, 2008

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.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the executive session, part II, held August 11, 2008, not to be released.

(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
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Margaret Watson
Melinda Coyle
Mark James
Duncan Leith

(Motion passed 13-0-4)

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 thanked Committee members for their care and concern during her recuperation and she thanked Vice-chair Nunnari for stepping up and filling in for her during that time.

Chair Watson mentioned the ribbon cutting at the high school on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 12 noon and she encouraged members to attend. Chair Watson would welcome School Committee member input as she prepares her remarks she will make on behalf of the School Committee.

MASC has been approached about conducting new member orientation, hopefully sometime in October at the Central Office. Details to follow.

B. Student Representatives

Hillary Blakeney reported on the first few days of this school year. The first Student Council meeting will take place September 10th.

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

Chair Watson reminded the students, and informed the School Committee, of the Management Subcommittee meeting on Monday, September 22nd, at which meeting the student representatives would be oriented to their roles and responsibilities as Student Representatives to the School Committee.

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet reviewed the August 20th meeting of the Education Subcommittee and announced the next meeting would be Wednesday, September 17th.

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

In Business/Finance Chair Sherman's absence, Business/Finance Member Conrad announced the Business/Finance Subcommittee would be meeting Thursday, September 11th.

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

Subcommittee Chair Cipro gave reports of the August 13th and September 8th meetings of the Community Outreach Subcommittee. She informed the Committee that Community Outreach members will attend their "home town" Selectboard meetings, as often as every other month, to keep the lines of communication open between the School Committee and the Member Towns. Subcommittee Chair Cipro also said that "office hours" will be held semi-annually in each of the Member Towns.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported on the August 27th meeting with Powers & Sullivan representative Craig Peacock. It is expected the Audit Advisory Board will meet again the end of September/early part of October, when the audit is completed.

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 reported on the meeting held August 25th and announced the next meeting is scheduled for September 16th.

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 meetings of August 19th and August 26th would be given in executive session.

I. Building Committee

1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith reported on the smooth opening of school at the high school on September 3rd. He told that work had been complete on the front entrance area, substantially improving the appearance of that area. He reported

on the status of the tennis courts and the baseball field. He commended many coaches who have worked on the athletic areas. The bids received for dugouts were expensive, so the District is looking to have the structures built by temporary District employees. Again School Committee members were reminded about the ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for September 21st and invited all members to join in the celebration.

Superintendent Pandiscio reported on actions and activities in preparation for the upcoming arbitration meetings scheduled to begin on September 10th.

Superintendent Pandiscio also spoke about the athletic facilities and commented that significant progress has been made on the baseball fields. He noted he was surprised by criticism about progress made on the fields, because the goal has always been to have the baseball area ready for play in the spring of 2009, not for fall baseball in the fall of 2008. Building Committee Chair Leith added that the baseball field fencing and warning track will be installed when it is known and confirmed that the upper field is no longer needed for a practice field.

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.

7:37 PM Member Sova left the table.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

At the questioning of Member Carter, the Superintendent explained the District has a contract with Tufts University for specific training in connection with the literacy program. He further explained that each year the District works with Tufts less and less.

7:40 PM Member Sova returned to the table.

Member Carter asked why there is a delay when some subcommittee minutes are shared with the School Committee. It was explained that subcommittee minutes are shared with the full School Committee, included with the Superintendent's Report, following approval by the particular subcommittee. If a subcommittee does not meet during the summer, as an example, the approval of the minutes is delayed until the next time that subcommittee meets.

High School Building Committee Chair Leith asked, on behalf of the Building Committee, if the members of the Building Committee would be getting passes to District events, to which the Superintendent answered he would be happy to provide such passes to those members.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Recommendation: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Motion: To authorize the Wachusett Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 17.

(R.Imber)
(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond

Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Recommendation: To approve the sale by the District of a \$5,100,000, 3 percent coupon rate, Revenue Anticipation Note, dated September 11, 2008 and payable November 14, 2008, to First Southwest Company at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$7,497.25.

Further, that the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed.

Motion: To approve the sale by the District of a \$5,100,000, 3 percent coupon rate, Revenue Anticipation Note, dated September 11, 2008 and payable November 14, 2008, to First Southwest Company at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$7,497.25.

Further, that the consent to bid as executed by the Treasurer to First Southwest Company, the financial advisor, to bid the note is hereby confirmed.

(J. Sova)
(S. Hammond)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson

Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

3. Recommendation: Naming of field at Wachusett Regional High School

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed copies of his memorandum to the School Committee dated September 5, 2008 (attachment 3). Superintendent Pandiscio reported to the School Committee the process that had been followed, explaining that recommendations had been solicited from the public and that information had been forwarded to the High School Building Committee. Superintendent Pandiscio went on to give history of some of the individuals whose names had been brought forward by the public (Fred Warren, Bill Griffin, Joe Daniels, Rich Lewis, Hal Lane). Following consideration of what has been suggested, and following discussion of this matter at the High School Building Committee meeting, Superintendent Pandiscio's recommendations to the School Committee would be to name the athletic field at the high school after Harold M. Lane, honor Joe Daniels on a plaque at the entrance of the field, post a plaque at the entrance of the field house honoring Bill Griffin and Rich Lewis, leaving space on this plaque for future additional honorees.

Building Committee Chair Leith confirmed to the School Committee that the Building Committee supports the recommendations of the Superintendent.

Motion: To name the athletic field at the high school after Harold M. Lane. To honor Joe Daniels on a plaque at the entrance of the field. To post a plaque at the entrance of the field house honoring Bill Griffin and Rich Lewis, leaving space on this plaque for future additional honorees.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Chair Watson re-read the motion.

Discussion of the motion continued. The question was asked, and answered, about selling the naming rights. There was also talk about those who do not feel the field should be named after an individual.

8:10 PM Member Pantos left the table.

The suggestion was made to name the athletic complex, then to name the individual fields. This suggestion was discussed around the table. Following discussion of this suggestion, Superintendent Pandiscio proposed the “Mountaineer Athletic Complex.”

8:12 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

After a member recommended deferring this matter to the next meeting of the School Committee, before which the Superintendent could put his recommendation in writing, Building Committee Chair Leith said, on behalf of the Building Committee, that the Building Committee would agree with Superintendent Pandiscio’s recommendation to use the name “Mountaineer Athletic Complex,” and he does not see the need to defer this matter to the next meeting of the School Committee.

Member James offered a substitute motion.

Motion: To name the entire athletic complex located at Wachusett Regional High School the “Mountaineer Athletic Complex.”

(M. James)

(M. Coyle)

Vote on Substitute Motion:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith

Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Members Leith and Nunnari withdrew their original motion.

Motion: To name the main athletic field at Wachusett
Regional High School in honor of Harold M. Lane.

(D. Leith)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:
In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Motion: To erect a plaque at the entrance of the Field House
at Wachusett Regional High School to recognize Joe Daniels,
William Griffin and Rich Lewis, leaving space on the plaque
for future addition of names.

(M. James)
(J. Nunnari)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

4. Recommendation: 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 of 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.

(D. Leith)

(J. Sova)

Superintendent Pandiscio explained this need for this extension and why these additional funds are needed.

Member Imber made a friendly amendment, adding “not to exceed \$150,000” to the language of the motion. This friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Motion: To approve the extension of 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, not to exceed \$150,000.

(D. Leith)
(J. Sova)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Michael Pantos

(Motion passed 16-0-1)

5. Recommendation: To approve the amendment between Wachusett Regional School District and Strekalovsky Hoit Raymond LLC.

Superintendent Pandiscio spoke to this recommendation, explaining the need to amend, and suggested including the language “not to exceed \$35,000”

Motion: To approve the amendment between Wachusett Regional School District and Strekalovsky Hoit Raymond LLC, not to exceed \$35,000.

(J. Sova)
(D. Leith)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:

None

(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 union and non-union negotiations, and pending litigation, not to return to public session

(M. James)

(M. Coyle)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson

John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Steven Hammond
Robert Imber
Stacey Jackson
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp