

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1157 Monday, January 12, 2009

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Watson, Chair	Mark James
John Nunnari, Vice-chair	Duncan Leith
Thomas Ackerman	Michael Pantos
Cynthia Bazinet	Robert Pelczarski
Robert Carter	Norman Plourde
Colleen Cipro	Michael Sherman
Shirley Conrad	Joseph Sova
Melinda Coyle	Marcie Zaharee
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Steven Hammond	Stacey Jackson
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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 Representative Present:

Keara Aquino

Guests Present:

James Dunbar, District Treasurer
Preston Shaw, Principal, Mountview Middle 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 7:05 PM.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Secretary's Report

Chair Watson called members' attention to the revised agenda for this evening's meeting (attachment 2).

- A. Approval of 1156th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRDSC held on December 8, 2008

Motion: To approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held December 8, 2008.

(D. Leith)
(M. James)

The minutes of the regular School Committee meeting held December 8, 2008 were approved by consensus, with Members Ackerman, Coyle and Zaharee 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 members of the annual School Committee Retreat, scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 12 noon, in the Media Center of WRHS. She also mentioned the New Member Orientation that will be presented on Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Curriculum Center at the Central Office.

Chair Watson then introduced Mountview Middle School principal Preston Shaw, who gave a brief presentation on school highlights. Following Mr. Shaw's presentation, members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Following this question and answer period, Chair Watson extended the thanks of the Committee to Mr. Shaw.

- B. Student Representatives

Student Representative Keara Aquino let the Committee know of the recent DECA competition and the National Honor Society induction ceremony taking place that evening. She gave an update on winter sports activities.

7:24 PM Mr. Shaw left the meeting.

7:24 PM Superintendent Pandiscio left the table to attend the NHS induction ceremony.

- 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 reminded members of the Management Subcommittee meeting on January 13th.

1. Amended Policy – AP1660 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Public Participation**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1660 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Public Participation**, waiving the reading.

(J. Sova)

(M. Zaharee)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

2. Amended Policy – AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**– first reading

Motion: To approve the first reading of AP1680 **Policy Relating to School Committee Operation Minutes of School Committee**, waiving the reading.

(J. Sova)

(S. Conrad)

Vote:

In favor:

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

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

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

Subcommittee Chair Bazinet told that the subcommittee had not met since the last School Committee meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Education Subcommittee is Wednesday, January 28th.

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

Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair Sherman noted he expects to call a meeting of the subcommittee before the January 26th School Committee meeting.

Subcommittee Chair Sherman introduced District Treasurer James Dunbar, who addressed the School Committee, reporting on the District's fiscal status. Treasurer Dunbar's memorandum of January 9, 2009 (RE: Revenue Anticipation Note) and his Treasurer's Update – October 2008, dated December 29, 2008 were distributed (attachments 3 & 4). At the conclusion of Mr. Dunbar's address, members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Treasurer.

7:35 PM Student Representative Keara Aquino left the meeting.

Mr. Dunbar's presentation concluded at 7:45 PM.

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

Community Outreach Chair Cipro reported on the meeting of that subcommittee which took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. Community Outreach Subcommittee members will be attending town Selectboard meetings in the next couple of weeks. Subcommittee members have been provided with a WRHS Outcomes Report, which they will present to the Selectboards.

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

Audit Advisory Board Chair Conrad reported the AAB has not met since the last School Committee meeting and it is likely the AAB will not need to meet again until the spring.

7:47 PM Member Cipro left the table.

7:48 PM Superintendent Pandiscio returned to the table.

- 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, R. Imber, J. Nunnari)

In Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Disparity Chair Hammond's absence, Vice-chair Imber reported on the meeting of this subcommittee that took place immediately before this School Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the final set of minutes (December 1, 2008), as the ad hoc subcommittee has concluded its work. Chair Watson thanked the members of this ad hoc subcommittee for the time and attention given this important task and she discharged the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Study Possible Academic Disparity Among the Schools in the Wachusett District.

- I. Building Committee

- 1. High School

High School Building Committee Chair Leith gave an update on the building project, explaining that project activities are drawing to a close. He told there are two posted meetings of the Building Committee (January 28, 2009 and March 4, 2009).

7:50 PM Member Cipro returned to the table.

7:55 PM Treasurer Dunbar left the meeting.

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)

Member Carter – Davis Hill Elementary School, January 6, 2009
Member Leith – Wachusett Regional High School, December 2008 meeting, and plans to attend the January 20th meeting

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent Pandiscio mentioned the special education parent survey he had included in his last Report to the School Committee. There was a short discussion of the survey results.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

Motion: To commend District building principals, custodial staff and food service staff for actions taken during the December 2008 ice storm.

(J. Sova)
(D. Leith)

Vote:

In favor:

Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet
Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos

Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Superintendent Pandiscio called the Committee's attention to attachment 9 of his January 8th Report (December 9, 2008 memorandum from Darryll McCall RE: full-day kindergarten proposal). The Superintendent spoke about this proposal, explaining enrollment will be tuition based, Glenwood Elementary School in Rutland and Mayo Elementary School in Holden would not have full-day kindergarten classrooms, class size would be targeted at 18 students, and selection would be by lottery, if necessary.

Motion: To approve the full-day kindergarten proposal for 2009-2010, as presented, with full-day classrooms at Davis Hill Elementary School and Dawson Elementary School in Holden, Paxton Center School in Paxton, Thomas Prince School in Princeton, Naquag Elementary School in Rutland and Houghton Elementary School in Sterling. Tuition for full-day kindergarten enrollment will be \$3,000 per student.

(R. Carter)
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

Superintendent Pandiscio distributed his memorandum to the School Committee, dated January 12, 2009, the proposed revised 2008-2009 school calendar, and a flow chart entitled "WRSD Alternate Academic Schedule 2009" (attachments 5, 6 & 7). He told the Committee he would be attending a meeting with DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester on January 13, 2009, in Worcester.

8:34 PM Member Pantos left the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio explained to the Committee the need to make up the school days missed because of the December ice storm and some possible scenarios. He explained a new option "Cancellation of Morning Classes Day" (schools open in the late morning/early afternoon and are in session for four hours) in the event of a snow storm/weather-related need to delay the start of school. When asked, the Superintendent confirmed this option would be in place for the rest of this school year only, although he would want to evaluate its value at the end of the school year.

8:36 PM Member Pantos returned to the table.

Superintendent Pandiscio informed the Committee that school will be in session March 20th and April 10th (two previously scheduled "no school" days) and also on two Saturdays in March, March 7, 2009 and March 21, 2009.

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

(M. Sherman)
(M. Zaharee)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

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

Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

Opposed:
Robert Pelczarski

(Motion passed 16-1)

Motion: To approve the sale of a \$10,000,000 2.75 percent General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Note of the district dated January 22, 2009 and payable June 30, 2009, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$10,972.05.

Further Voted: that in connection with the sale of the Note, the preparation of a Preliminary Official Statement dated January 9, 2009, and a final Official Statement dated January 9, 2009, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the District Treasurer and the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a material events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Note for the benefit of the holders of the Note from time to time.

Further Voted: that the Chairman of the Regional District School Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

(M. Sherman)
(M. Pantos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:
Margaret Watson
John Nunnari
Thomas Ackerman
Cynthia Bazinet

Robert Carter
Colleen Cipro
Shirley Conrad
Melinda Coyle
Robert Imber
Mark James
Duncan Leith
Michael Pantos
Robert Pelczarski
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova
Marcie Zaharee

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.

(J. Sova)
(M. Zaharee)

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
Norman Plourde
Michael Sherman
Joseph Sova

Opposed:
None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TGP:rlp