

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING**

Organizational Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, June 30, 2020  
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

*Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Nicole Amos	Kenneth Mills
Krista Bennett	Benjamin Mitchel
Scott Brown	Karl Ottmar
Michael Dennis	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva
Sherrie Haber	Christina Smith
Robert Imber	Megan Weeks
Laura Kirshenbaum	Kelly Williamson
Matthew Lavoie	Linda Woodland
Linda Long-Bellil	Adam Young

*Committee Members Absent:*

Jeffrey Haynes

*Administration Present:*

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent  
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance  
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources  
Brendan Keenan, Director of SEL  
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education  
Barry Sclar, Supervisor of Information Services  
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

*Student Representatives Present:*

Kenichi Gomi                      K. Mangus

I. Call to Order

Superintendent McCall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He welcomed the new Student Representatives and the new members (Members Amos, Bennett, Shapiro, and Williamson) to the meeting. Superintendent McCall announced that since the meeting is being conducted virtually, all votes will be by roll call.

## II. Election of Chairman

The Superintendent briefly explained the process to elect the next School Committee Chair and Vice-chair. The Superintendent explained that due to the meeting being conducted remotely, the elections will be conducted by roll call vote. For the information of the new members of the School Committee as well as the public, Superintendent McCall read aloud two sections from the WRSDC By-Laws, Section 2 and Section 3, noting again that upon advice of District Counsel, the elections will be conducted by roll call vote rather than by paper ballot:

### *Section 2. Organizational Meeting*

*The Wachusett Regional School District Committee shall, in accordance with Section 13 of the amended Regional Agreement, organize and elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair, and if the offices are vacant a Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be members of the Committee. The Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair by paper ballot from its membership in accordance with Chapter 71, Section 16A of the Massachusetts General Laws. The Secretary and Treasurer may or may not be members of the Committee, and if not may be reimbursed for this work. This organizational meeting shall be posted at least 14 days in advance.*

### *Section 3. Chair/Vice-Chair*

*No member may be elected as the Chair of the Committee unless said member has served on the Committee for at least two years prior to assuming the office of the Chair. No member may be elected as the Vice-Chair of the Committee unless said member has served on the Committee for at least two years prior to assuming the office of the Vice-Chair. The offices of Chair and Vice-Chair shall be for a term of one year, and they may not succeed themselves more than three additional times.*

*Should the Chair be unable to complete the one-year term of office, the Vice-Chair shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chair to the completion of the one-year term. Should the Vice-Chair be unable to complete the one-year term of office, for reasons including being elevated to the position of Chair, then the Committee, at its next regular meeting, shall elect a Vice-Chair.*

*Should the Chair and Vice-Chair vacate the positions simultaneously, the Committee, at its next regular meeting, shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve the balance of the one-year term.*

Superintendent McCall noted that the full version of the WRSDC By-Laws can be found on the District website.

The Superintendent accepted the following nominations for Chair:

Motion: To nominate Megan Weeks to serve as Chair.

(L. Long-Bellil)  
(S. Brown)

Motion: To nominate Michael Dennis to serve as Chair.

(M. Gustafson)

(M. Lavoie)

The Superintendent closed nominations for Chair.

Significant discussion ensued regarding the method of voting for the School Committee Chair, paper ballot v roll call vote. It was explained that per legal opinion from District Counsel, voting by email for the Chair and the Vice-chair is now allowable.

Roll call vote:

Nicole Amos	abstained
Krista Bennett	abstained
Scott Brown	Member Weeks
Michael Dennis	Member Dennis
Maleah Gustafson	Member Dennis
Sherrie Haber	Member Dennis
Robert Imber	Member Weeks
Laura Kirshenbaum	Member Dennis
Matthew Lavoie	Member Dennis
Linda Long-Bellil	Member Weeks
Kenneth Mills	Member Weeks
Benjamin Mitchel	Member Dennis
Karl Ottmar	Member Weeks
Deidre Shapio	abstained
Asima Silva	Member Dennis
Christina Smith	Member Weeks
Megan Weeks	Member Weeks
Kelly Williamson	Member Dennis
Linda Woodland	Member Weeks
Adam Young	Member Weeks

Member Weeks took over as Chair of the School Committee. Chair Weeks thanked the Committee for electing her as Chair of the School Committee.

III. Election of Vice-chair

Chair Weeks accepted the following nominations for Vice-chair:

Motion: To nominate Michael Dennis to serve as Vice-chair.

(B. Mitchel)

(K. Mills)

Motion: To nominate Asima Silva to serve as Vice-chair.

(M. Lavoie)

(S. Brown)

Motion: To nominate Christina Smith to serve as Vice-chair.

(L. Long-Bellil)  
(R. Imber)

At Member Mills' inquiry, it was confirmed that Member Smith is eligible to serve as Vice-chair, as she has served as Vice-chair for just three years.

There was discussion if the election would be by majority vote or by plurality. The vote for Vice-chair would be by plurality.

Chair Weeks closed nominations for Vice-chair.

Roll call:

Nicole Amos	abstained
Krista Bennett	abstained
Scott Brown	Member Smith
Michael Dennis	Member Dennis
Maleah Gustafson	Member Dennis
Sherrie Haber	Member Dennis
Robert Imber	Member Smith
Laura Kirshenbaum	Member Dennis
Matthew Lavoie	Member Dennis
Linda Long-Bellil	Member Smith
Kenneth Mills	Member Dennis
Benjamin Mitchel	Member Dennis
Karl Ottmar	Member Silva
Deidre Shapio	abstained
Asima Silva	Member Silva
Christina Smith	Member Dennis
Megan Weeks	abstained
Kelly Williamson	Member Dennis
Linda Woodland	Member Dennis
Adam Young	Member Dennis

Member Dennis will serve as Vice-chair of the School Committee.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the Organizational Meeting.

(R. Imber)  
(B. Mitchel)

Roll call vote:

*In favor:*

Megan Weeks  
Michael Dennis  
Scott Brown  
Maleah Gustafson  
Sherrie Haber

Robert Imber  
Laura Kirshenbaum  
Matthew Lavoie  
Linda Long-Bellil  
Kenneth Mills  
Benjamin Mitchel  
Karl Ottmar  
Deidre Shapiro  
Asima Silva  
Christina Smith  
Kelly Williamson  
Linda Woodland  
Adam Young

*Opposed:*

None

*Abstained:*

Nicole Amos  
Krista Bennett

Motion passed 18-0-2.

The Organizational Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp