

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1331

Monday, August 19, 2019

7:00 PM

Media Center
Wachusett Regional High School
1401 Main Street, Holden

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Laura Kirshenbaum
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Melissa Ayala	Amy Michalowski
Scott Brown	Karl Ottmar
Stephen Godbout	Asima Silva (7:20 PM)
Maleah Gustafson	Megan Weeks
Sherri Haber	Linda Woodland
Robert Imber	

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Dennis	Matthew Lavoie
Anthony DiFonso	Benjamin Mitchel
Sarah LaMountain	Adam Young

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education
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 Mills called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. He announced the meeting was being broadcast live on HCTV.

I. Public Hearing

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

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Mills opened by thanking District staff for getting the schools reading for opening day on August 27th.

Chair Mills spoke about the recent passings of former School Committee member Norman Plourde and former District Counsel Leo McCabe, and he asked members to observe a moment of silence.

III. Student Representatives' Reports

There were no Student Representatives in attendance.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Superintendent McCall took the opportunity to share kind words about Norman Plourde and commending Mr. Plourde's work as a member of the School Committee.

Superintendent McCall reported on the turf field replacement, informing members the project is nearing completion.

Superintendent McCall enthusiastically reported full-day kindergarten is set to become a reality across the District. Members Long-Bellil and Imber expressed appreciation to the Superintendent for implementation of tuition-free, full-day kindergarten throughout the District. At Member Michalowski's inquiry, Superintendent McCall spoke briefly about the schedule for kindergarten students, assuring all these students will have undirected "play time" during the course of their days in class.

Superintendent McCall gave kudos to I. T. staff for work done in preparation for distributing Chromebooks to the high school's incoming freshmen and seniors.

At Member Gustafson's inquiry, Superintendent McCall updated the Committee on the search for the Director of Social Emotional Learning, reporting interviews are scheduled for August 21, 2019 and anticipating an appointment shortly thereafter.

Member Woodland spoke about the special education program evaluations the Superintendent had shared with the School Committee, and she asked if recommendations made in these evaluations are being considered as District administration is working on the District staffing plan. She specifically had questions about co-teaching, which the Superintendent spoke to.

7:20 PM Member Silva joined the meeting.

Director Carlson approached the podium to answer questions posed by Member Ottmar about the status of teacher hires for the start of the school year.

Member Michalowski asked about an evaluation of social emotional learning which former Director of SEL and Guidance Krol had been working on. Superintendent McCall reported a final report was never completed.

Member Michalowski had questions about the FY20 budget shortfall and how the District is addressing this. The Superintendent reported this shortfall is in the \$800,000-\$853,600 range. Director Deedy approached the podium and gave an overview of Cherry Sheet numbers and anticipated Regional Transportation figures. Superintendent McCall reported consideration had been given to not filling the Director of SEL position, as a cost savings, but after further consideration he believes the position is too important to leave vacant, to which Member Imber voiced agreement.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To authorize the School Committee to appoint Fletcher Tilton; Brody, Hardoon, Perkins & Kesten, LLP; and Nuttall, MacAvoy & Joyce, P.C. as District Legal Counsel for the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
(S. Brown)
(R. Imber)

Legal Affairs Subcommittee Chair Brown spoke briefly about the appointment of District Counsel, reporting the Legal Affairs Subcommittee is in favor of continuing these appointments for FY20.

Vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Kenneth Mills

The motion was approved 14-0-1.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the Committee.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of #1330 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 9, 2019

Motion: To approve minutes of the regular meeting of the WRSDC held on July 9, 2019.

(S. Brown)
(C. Smith)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Mills reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance'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.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee

Chair Mills reported the Management Subcommittee will meet on September 3, 2019, and he also reminded members about the Special School Committee Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019, at which time the full Committee will meet in executive session to discuss the Superintendent's contract.

B. Education Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Imber reported this subcommittee met immediately before this School Committee meeting and will meet next on September 9, 2019.

C. Business/Finance Subcommittee

In Subcommittee Chair Dennis' and Vice-chair Mitchel's absences, Member Long-Bellil reported this subcommittee has not met since the last regular School Committee meeting. Chair Mills asked the status of Kindergarten and School Choice Revolving Accounts, which Director Deedy reported will be updated in his next monthly report.

D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Brown reported on the August 5, 2019 meeting of this subcommittee and informed the Committee of the next subcommittee meeting, scheduled for September 10, 2019.

E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee

In Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee Chair Lavoie's absence, Vice-chair Michalowski reported this subcommittee met immediately before this School Committee meeting.

F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee

In Subcommittee Chair Young's absence, Vice-chair Woodland reported this subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

G. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair)

In Chair Mitchel's absence, no report was made. Chair Mills again mentioned the need for representation from Paxton, Princeton, and Rutland, in addition to a volunteer from the School Committee to fill the still-vacant second WRSDC seat on the AAB.

H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

I. Building Committees

1. Mountview Building Committee

No report was made.

J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (S. Haber), Chocksett Middle School (L. Woodland), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (A. DiFonso), Houghton Elementary School (M. Ayala), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (L. Long-Bellil/A, Michalowski), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Gustafson), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland)

Member Gustafson – SEPAC – Meet & Greets with Administrator of Special Education Christine Smith have been scheduled for the evening of September 10, 2019 and the morning of September 11, 2019. These informal sessions will be held in the Curriculum Center at the District Central Office.

IX. Public Hearing

Heidi Lahey, WREA President, Wachusett teacher, and Holden resident, addressed, the School Committee.

X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(S. Brown)

Vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber

Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheets

