

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, April 9, 2020
REMOTE MEETING – GOOGLE HANGOUT MEET

Attending: Carl Seppala; Beth Erviti; Johanna Bartlett; Carla Halpern; Barbara Doyle; Anna Wetherby (minutes) members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Bruce Turner, Treasurer

Teachers: Patty Savage, Rachel Vitello
Public: Tim Alex from Colliers

A. Call Meeting to Order - meeting called to order 7:02. Johanna requested Jen to moderate meeting

B. Public Hearings

• FY21 Budget

Line 11 – not going with Suzor for the next year
Line 21 – new person to handle accounts, .8 position
Line 41 – reduced need for summer school
Lines 42, 43, 45, 46 – teacher compensation
Lines 51, 53, 54 – teacher aids
Line 69 – off set of reduction in central office. Increased position .15
Line 81 – Food service, Swift River not fully eligible for compensation, plant maintenance
Line 84 – custodial retirement, replacement not starting as salaried but hourly
Line 105 – assessment
Line 106 – 3% increase in unemployment
Health insurance increase 0% for plans, but changes within personnel on lines 108, 110, and 111

- Trending well with outgoing school choice, recommending support of same amount
- Grants within 2,000 of FY20
- Budget percent increase, 3.4% (\$79,822)
- There may be some benefits in the short term for COVID, but this could change rapidly in the future, possibly impacting grants.
- Negotiating with bus company about current contract. Somewhere about 20% reduction, not part if the FY21
- Chapter 70 – based on governor’s budget. 18K increase
- Due to population shifts, the towns impact is \$890,708 NS (-.5% to NS) \$1,105,488 Wendell (+12% increase in Wendell)
- Hope for approval of this budget but might need to be revisited in May. Can be adjusted before town meetings
- Request to approve the budget as is for
- Beth moves to approves, Carla 2nds
- Budget passes unanimously

• Other Public Hearings – none

C. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

- Batch: 419-\$73,488.20; 420-\$71,476.44; 820-\$26,233.47; 819-\$26,193.51
- Voucher: 8190-\$82,401.39; 8191-\$34,172.02; 8192-\$49,852.73; 8200-\$80,599.99; 2813-\$3,197.62; 4231-\$1,166.82; 4230-\$14,799.96

D. Superintendent’s Report

- Beginning in February – disaster relief plan meetings
- Frequent meetings with leadership team, various superintendents, Mass dept. of Public Health, DESE
- Teachers and staff rose the occasion of crafting remote learning

- Communicating with parents and staff with letters
- Opportunities for paraprofessionals to get professional development
- Out until at least May 4
- Mass Senate passed a bill waiving MCAS requirement for this year
- Johanna and Carla express appreciation for Jen; Barbara expressed appreciation for the communication with the teachers
- U28 is awesome

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Groups of schools negotiating terms with bus company
- Paying after school and food service directors
- Moving forward with the contract for the work of the school

F. Principal's Report

- A very different world for the community
- Community read aloud page on Facebook live
- Community sing on Facebook live, families can access the recording after if not able to watch live
- School working very hard together to keep moral up
- Custodians and secretaries working minimal shifts at the school
- Work is being done outside
- Following best practices for handling materials
- No reports of illness in the community
- U28 is leading with core values
- Johanna and Carla send appreciation for Kelley and the staff

G. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
Mahar meeting last week, poor connection, no quorum
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - Pandemic procedures
 - Very short meeting
- Budget and Personnel
– Next Meeting – None
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Virtual meeting – TBD 6:30 p.m.

H. April Items

- Meeting Monday April 13th to discuss April vacation
- Vote to Award Contract for MSBA Window and Doors Project – Discussion and Vote
 - Tim Alex, project manager
 - Bids had a large range, 7 contractor bid
 - Winning bid was \$784,000 from Kurtz In.c
 - Kurtz is known to be organized, work ahead of schedule, great reputation
 - Issued 'notice to proceed'
 - Greenfield Glass will be the glass contractor and installer
 - Recommend accept bid from Kurtz
- Beth moves, Barbara 2nds - passes unanimously
- Authorization of Signer of Contract on behalf of the District
 - Bruce requests a vote for making him authorized signer
 - Carla moves, Beth 2nd – passes unanimously
- School of Choice - Vote

- Swift River is a school of choice
- Carla moves, Beth 2nds – passes unanimously
- FY21 Budget* – Vote
 - Passed earlier in the meeting
- Policy Update and Review:
 - Beth moves to vote on policies as a group, Carla 2nd, passes unanimously
 - Second Reading, First Vote on:
 - JICFA-E – Hazing
 - JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
 - JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
 - JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - Final Vote on:
 - JICFA – Prohibition of Hazing
 - Carla moves, Beth 2nd – passes unanimously
 - JICFB – Bullying Prevention
 - Beth moves, Carla 2nds – passes unanimously
- Rabbit Run is cancelled
- Community Action Award – vote deemed important by chair
 - Carla puts forth nomination for recipient, Beth 2nds (enthusiastically) – passes unanimously
 - “Nominee has been on the go and fixing all our issues the minute we began remote learning! She is awesome!”

I. Future Business

- Monday, April 14th: Meeting for calendar change 6-6:30
- Next Meeting Date – June 4, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – June 4, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

J. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2020

- Carla moves to approve, Barbra 2nds
- Correct spelling of Carl’s last name – passes
- Motion to adjourn at 7:58- Beth moves, Carla 2nd – passes unanimously