

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FINAL Minutes  
January 7, 2016

**PRESENT:** Johanna Bartlett, chair; Dick Baldwin, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Jack Radner, David Briand, John Fitzgerald, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, John Dewitt, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Aaron Osborne, U28 Director of Finance; Beth Haggerty, Jill Putala, teachers at Swift River. There were also many Swift River teachers present for the student/teacher presentation.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Johanna called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Public Hearings:** none

**Warrants:**

- a. Bill- 4028, 4029, 4031, 4032, 4034, 8009,.
- b. Payroll – 413, 414, 812, 813, 4033, 4130, 4140, 4141, 4142, 8120, 8130.

**Student/teacher Presentation:** The Swift River teachers came to speak with the school committee about their ideas or concerns regarding the standardized testing forum being conducted on January 14<sup>th</sup> at Swift River School. Tina passed out questions that Danika had answered for the Athol Daily News regarding testing. Teachers shared many concerns they had and the school committee encouraged the teachers to use the forum to voice these concerns. The committee also decided to invite local and state representatives to the forum.

**Superintendent's Report:** Jennifer first remarked that she, Aaron and Kelley had been working hard on the budget. She noted that she is still participating in the Superintendents Introductory Program and working closely with her mentor Kevin Courtney. She told the committee that she planned to present her goals to the U28 committee next week.

**Director of Finance and Operations Report:** Aaron presented the prospective budget for FY17. He explained the main drivers as well as the reasons for the appropriations to each town. He constructed graphs to accompany the report. The committee discussed the budget and agreed to speak to the towns and start a discussion.

**Principals Report:** Kelley first announced that the Winter Concert was a huge success! She spoke about the pantry in the kitchen and how it has been revamped and noted the plumbing in the school seemed to be all right for now (after some concern). She spoke about her intention to replace the toilets in the building, one by one, considering they are from the 70's and use twice the amount of water of a new toilet. Lastly, Kelley thanked Jill for all her work during January collecting data for mid-year assessments.

**Mahar:** Carla reported that Mahar was getting ready for salary negotiations. She noted that the PARCC results were in, although many students chose to opt-out of the PARCC test. The results indicated that gaps between Mahar's scores vs. the average scores were reduced as the grades went up and Mahar did better in math than the state average. Carla said the "sock drive" was successful. She also told the committee that there is a Mahar Concert January 12<sup>th</sup>, a Spring Concert coming up, and Music in the Schools starts March 28<sup>th</sup>. There are some new courses at Mahar including 2 statistics courses, one at the AP level, a pilot attempt at teaching Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and ASL as a second language. She noted a SPED

update, which indicated that student's brains are impacted by chronic stress. She noted lower enrollment at Mahar as well as a walkthrough of the middle school on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Policy Update and Review:** Carla moved to accept the revised policy on Complaint Procedure, John D seconded and the committee approved AIF. John noted he would like to rename the Food Service Collection Policy the Food Service Accounts Policy. Aaron gave a description of this new policy noting each student will be able to spend up to \$20 on credit for snacks, etc.

**Minutes:** Johanna moved to approve the November and December minutes with the amendments to the December minutes. Jack seconded and the committee approved AIF.

Carla moved to adjourn at 8:20. Alyssa seconded and the committee approved AIF.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski  
Committee Secretary