

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FINAL Minutes

April 7, 2016

PRESENT: David Briand, Carla Halpern, Melissa Burke, Johanna Bartlett, John Fitzgerald and Jack Radner, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent of Schools, Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance and Operations.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. The following warrants were distributed and signed by the committee:
 - a. Bill #'s 4044, 4045, 4046, 4048, 4049, 4053 and 8014.
 - b. Payroll #'s 419, 420, 421, 818, 819, 4047, 4190, 4200, 4201, 4202, 4210, 8180 and 8190.
3. The New Salem/Wendell FY17 budget was presented by Aaron Osborne and discussed. Carla asked for a discussion in the future about why Special Education numbers are so high.
4. Academic Calendar 2016/2017 was discussed. Jack Radner stated that the start date seems too early. Kelley stated the date is aligned with the teachers contract. When will the science fair be asked Carla? Kelley stated it will be in November. The 2016/2017 Academic Calendar was approved. AIF.
5. The following policies were reviewed and voted on:
 - a. Final vote on: JKAA (Physical Restraint of Students) was approved.
 - b. Final Vote on DI-A (Food Service Accounts) was approved.
 - c. JFABA (Tuitioned-In Student Policy) was discussed. Melissa Burke asked if this is school choice? Kelley stated this would be a tuitioned-type program.
 - d. Discussion on JLF (Protocol and Procedures on Detecting and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect) to be moved to the Second Reading rather than First Read as on the agenda.
 - e. First Reading: GCCA (Sick Leave Policy) aligns with the teacher contract.
 - f. GCCAB (Personal Leave Policy) aligns with the teacher contract.
 - g. GCCAG (Funeral Leave Policy) aligns with the teacher contract.
 - h. GCCBD (Leave of Absence Without Pay Policy) aligns with the teacher contract.
 - i. Policies to delete: JFABAE (Policy Regarding Students of Families Intending to Move into New Salem or Wendell) The committee voted to delete. AIF.
6. The Minutes of February 4, 2016 were discussed. There was discussion about what read we were on for policies.
7. Minutes of March 10, 2016 were discussed. Please add Melissa Burke in attendance. AIF.
8. Notes of March 3, 2016 were discussed. Please add Melissa Burke in attendance.
9. April Items for discussion.

- a. Update on Opt-Out Activities – Discussion of Opt-Out Declaration Melissa has questions about whether or not the school committee has encouraged parents to opt-out. Passed.
10. Student/Teacher Presentation – Mandy Higgins discussed student interventions and behavioral interventions. Karen Nelson discussed lunch bunches every day. K-6 evaluations and meeting with parents. Children are resilient considering the challenges they face. Carla stated they truly appreciate the teachers and staff.
11. Superintendent’s Report – Jen stated that Swift River is a special place. There are opportunities for growth in the cafeteria, more collaboration, physical ed, science fair, student readiness, more technology. Students do well on testing and because of the relationships that are built here, Core values, accountability, and adaptability.
 - a. Rural School Network – meeting on Monday at Frontier and on the 12th of April they are forming an advocacy group.
 - b. Presentation by the state police next week about bomb threats.
 - c. The Leadership Team has crafted a new vision statement
12. Director of Finance and Operations Report – Aaron stated there is a negative balance of \$18,000 in food service. Reducing inventory. The Kitchen has spent \$4,000 in equipment. However the March Federal reimbursement has not been received. Expect a deficit of \$13,000. BIC Program \$12,500 applied for for next year. Refrigerators in the classroom carts, convection oven. Fuel up 360 is a \$500 grant for further equipment.
13. Principal’s Report – See attached. Opt-Out Discussion.
14. Collaborative for Education Services – Melissa stated the executive director evaluation was extensive. Internal politics. Communicating with other collaboratives in other districts. School Choice and Charter School discussions were both very big topics. We pay \$18,000 to Charter Schools. Terrible burden on our budgets. The system as a whole is backwards for us.
15. The Joint Supervisory Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at Shutesbury Elementary School with Dorothy Presser of the MASC.
16. Regionalization discussion – Leverett and Shutesbury finances. Leverett town resistance to school funding. Shutesbury – cheaper to stay in Union #28. Using school as a resource for the whole community. Looking to regionalize their fire and police. Erving has been asked to regionalize with feeder schools. Superintendent and Director of Finance actually enjoy their jobs, have been very innovative; really, really impressed stated by Carla.
17. Mahar Report – Carla stated the history department prefers primary sources instead of textbooks. Positive body image presentations. Budget concerns – lower student population. Middle school 3 houses instead of 4. Reduce from 5-3 bus routes in Petersham. Dam completed by July 1st. Meeting in April was cancelled due to snow. Second year of foreign language required. Can computer coding be taught instead of foreign language requirement. Foreign language should be taught in grammar school. April 28th is the next meeting.
18. Identification of School Choice Seats – no definite numbers. No room in grades 4-6. Still unclear in K-2.
19. Revisioning Union #28 was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Sullivan

Principal