

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FINAL Minutes  
May 5, 2016

Present: Carla Halpern, Dick Baldwin, Jack Radner, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, Melissa Burke, Jessalyn Zaykoski, John Fitzgerald, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Aaron Osborne, U28 Director of Finance and Operations; Carolyn Croteau and Beth Haggerty, teachers.

**Student/Teacher Presentation:** Jody Bird spoke about Destination Imagination, an after school group that solves open-ended challenges at tournaments. There are 3 student teams from Swift River with a total of 21 students, compared with only 11 students last year. Grants fund at least 50% of the program. It is a big success.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Carla called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Warrants:**

- a. Bill – 4054, 4055, 4056, 8015.
- b. Payroll – 422, 423, 820, 821, 4220, 4221, 4222, 4230, 8210, 8200.

**Policy:**

JLF: Jack moved to approve policy JLF, Melissa seconded and the committee approved AIF.  
GCCA: Jack moved to approve policy GCCA, Melissa seconded, the committee approved AIF.  
GCCAB: Jack moved to approve GCCAB as amended (without the second “of”), Melissa seconded and the committee approved AIF.  
GCCAG: Melissa moved to approve GCCAG, Jack seconded, committee AIF.  
GCCBD: Melissa moved to approve GCCBD, Jack seconded, committee AIF.

**School Choice:** Kelley would like to open 1 seat for school choice. Jessalyn moved to approve. John F. seconded. AIF.

**Minutes:** Jack moved to approve the minutes from April 7, 2016, John F. seconded. Committee approved 5-2-0. Alyssa and Dick abstained.

**Mahar:** Carla reported that the spirit week this year had the theme of “Everyone is Beautiful” both inside and out. There was a public hearing on the budget, which is tight. The school was level funded, but has higher SPED costs, increased unfunded mandates, dam repairs, and an increase in contracts. Carla noted the school is still not charging for sports and in 2016 Mahar was the state champion in archery. Lastly, the dam is FINALLY due for completion by the end of June.

**Superintendent Report:** Jennifer reported that there was a U28 Professional Collaboration Day at Shutesbury Elementary School. She also noted the Leadership Development Team was planning meetings as well. DESI launched a testing feedback plan and the commissioner announced schools would be held harmless for PARCC scores unless there were reasons of participation. Carla noted she was upset about this because the commissioner announced this stipulation after testing was completed. Other participation demerits are: <95% participation and the school drops from Level 1, <90% participation and the school drops to Level 3.

**Director of Finance:** Aaron noted that school choice was under budgeted so 2017 will have a more accurate number. He reminded the committee that the out of district costs are very high for 2017. Lastly Aaron announced that he had received more than expected from CEP and the food budget is at least level with before if not better.

**Principal:** Kelly said the enrollment for May was 167. She spoke about the new alert system going into effect in June which will text, email and robocall families. She added that over April vacation the music room was painted and some ground work was completed. Next week there will be a lockdown practice. There is a wonderful new compost station in the cafeteria for children to clear their trays. The Spring Spectacular is Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>. It is a pot luck, auction and concert.

Jack moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Melissa seconded. The committee approved AIF.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski  
Committee Secretary