

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, January 5, 2017
Swift River School 6:45 p.m.

Final Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

A. Reorganization of the New Salem/Wendell School Committee *

6:45 - Carla called the meeting to order; reorganization of the New Salem School Committee (In attendance: Carla Halpern, Melissa Burke, Dave Briand, Alyssa Rulf Fountain):

- Rik Rolski resigned due to scheduling conflicts
- New Salem chair - Carla Halpern; Melissa first motion, Alyssa second (AIF)
- Secretary - Alyssa; Carla first motion, Melissa second (AIF)
- Policy committee - Dave; Carla first motion, Melissa second (AIF)
- CES - Melissa; Carla first motion, Dave second (AIF)
- U28 - Carla, Melissa and Alyssa (as necessary until we get a new committee member and reorganize; Carla first motion, Dave second (AIF),
- B&P - Carla, Carla first motion, Alyssa second (AIF)
- Mahar Rep - Carla - Melissa first motion, Dave second (AIF)

Adjourn (6:59); Melissa first motion, Dave second

6:59 - Johanna called to order the New Salem/Wendell School Committee Meeting

Present: Carla Halpern, Melissa Burke, Dave Briand, Alyssa Rulf Fountain, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Amy Palmer, Jack Radner

Members: Jennifer Haggerty, Kelley Sullivan, Steven Cass

Teachers: Tina Newman

B. Public Hearings

The committee observed Tina Newman's alternative seating in 4th grade, which is also happening in Danika's 6th grade classroom and in the 1st grade classroom. Tina provides free choice seating - after direct instruction happens and the independent portion of the day starts. Student have the opportunity to move to a place in the classroom where they feel they would be comfortable working: stability balls, stadium seats (adjustable backs), cushions for 'hibachi' type seating, stand-up desks, bar against the windows with stools, rugs for sitting/laying, independent stools, T-stools, bands on desks so kids can wiggle their feet as they sit in regular chairs. Kids are given independence requiring responsibility and respect. Alternative seating conforms to Universal Design.

C. Warrants

- Bills: 4520, 4521, 4522, 4523, 8513
- Payroll: 413, 414, 813, 814, 4140, 8004, 8014, 8130, 8140

D. Superintendent's Report

A draft of the superintendent's plan has been created with a vision statement, theory of action, strategic objectives. The vision is the same for all schools, with individual strategic objectives that align with Universal Design and there are strategic priorities for each of the strategic objectives. Once completed, this will be the plan for the next five years with the goal of all thriving, learning at the highest level, voices will be heard, and teaching will continuously improve.

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report *

- NS/W FY18 Budget
- DOF looked at prior two years with regard to expenditures. He is very comfortable where things stand right now.
 - In the last three years, enrollment has steadily increased
 - Teacher salaries, previously paid for by grants, were moved into the budget to show a true cost of running SRS. There is a \$189k difference between the budget and what it costs to run the school. Between school choice and circuit breaker funds, the difference was brought down to \$173k.
 - Overall we're at about an 8% increase. We need to buffer the difference, if we keep spending school choice at this rate, in three years it will be gone. To compound the issue, there are fewer and fewer school choice slots.
 - Increases: currently 8% (without out of district placement); if we had an out of district placement, it would be another 4% (12%) - it's the equivalent of a teacher salary.
- The major increases -
 - OT increase from 3 to 5 days/week - mandated by IEPs
 - Asking for another Title1 and SPED services position due to need - full time
 - Add two one-on-one aides
 - Increased music from 1.5 to 3 days/week based on feedback from Mahar that our students aren't coming in prepared for music
 - State average SPED is 17%; based on a school our size, we should only have one child on the autism spectrum... we have five
 - Fixed charges are estimated high - hoping they come in at 2/3 what was budgeted

E. Principal's Report -

- Enrollment is at 171 - there were no new students in December.
- New report cards were sent out in December (standards-based) with an accountability envelope requiring parent signature that they received the report card (there were complaints parents weren't getting report cards).
- Winter concert was a great success - standing room only - every parent attended, PCTA sold coffee, bake sale raised over \$200 for nature's classroom.
- Christine Heard has been volunteering every Wednesday in preschool (reading, cooking).
- Shelf unit was built over break in Tina's room.
- Larry and Walter built benches in back of the cafeteria as well as cubbies for sleeping mats in the pre-k classroom.
- The new tractor arrived with attachments for snow removal.

G. Committee Reports

Collaborative for Educational Services - no meeting

Budget and Personnel - Next meeting- 1/18/17

Joint Supervisory - Next Meeting - 1/18/17

H. Report from Mahar Representatives

- Trying to create a supervisory union (consolidation of administrative expenses) - a document was presented and voted upon - all voted in favor (except Johanna who thought the document was written too loosely). There will be a supervisory meeting that Johanna will attend. Governance is a large part of NS/W not joining the region and remaining in U28. Carla noted that had she been at the meeting to represent NS, she also would not have voted for it.
- Blizzard bags - did not go over well (according to Tina Newman and Carla Halpern). Too much work and difficulties due to inconsistent internet access. Carla suggests we continue to give feedback to Mahar. Carla and Johanna are going to ask Tari about consistent data collection if they're going to call this a pilot test. Anyone with concerns should email Johanna and Carla.

I. January Items

- Policy Update and Review:
 - Vote to Delete (2nd Vote): Motion to delete by Carla, Jack second (AIF)
 - IHBG-RA - Mid-year Home Schooling Policy *
 - BDDA - Emergency Appointment of Acting Superintendent *
2. First Vote on:
- IHAMB - Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs * - required by the DESE; Motion by Melissa (move to approve as written), Dave second. Discussion - Melissa - vote is that it IHAMB happens, when it starts, how content is covered, etc is left to discretion of each principal. (AIF)

J. Future Business

1. Next Meeting Date - February 2, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
2. New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee - February 2, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.

K. Approval of the Minutes of December 1, 2016 *

Carla moved to approve minutes as amended (Johanna provided edits), Dick second (AIF).

L. Adjournment

Carla made motion to adjourn, Melissa second.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Rulf Fountain

New Salem Wendell School Committee Secretary