

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, May 4, 2017

Swift River School

Final Minutes

Call Meeting to Order (7:02pm)

In attendance: Karyn Briand, Melissa Burke, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf Fountain, Amy Palmer, Stephen Cass (DOF), Kelley Sullivan, Jennifer Haggerty
Teachers/Public: Trudy Smith, Carl Seppala, Polly Johnston, Bill Diehl (CES)

A. Public Hearings

- Bill Diehl - Director of Collaborative for Educational Services
 - 36 school committees involved in CES (Bill is visiting all of them). Collaboratives are all over the country - founded in the 1970s to help schools serve students with special needs. Over time collaboratives have also helped small districts (e.g., do things like write grants) and increasingly becoming the voice for small and rural districts. Currently CES is providing PT services and teacher PD for union 28. Kelley requested more trainings in Franklin County around PTSD (Greenfield - possibly Erving). The services from CES are expensive, SRS is not using a lot of them and Bill recognizes this as a problem. CES is open to talking about how to reduce costs (though they are mandated by DESE to prove their cost effectiveness).
- Other Public Hearings
 - Rabbit Run - May 20th 10:00am

B. Warrants - Record in minutes with numbers

Bill: 4531, 4532, 4534, 8517

Payroll: 422, 423, 822, 823, 4220, 4230, 4221, 8220

C. Superintendent's Report

- DESE has presented information on overlapping standards on STEM - old to new frameworks. 2018 tests will align with both sets of frameworks, then transition to only the new frameworks. DESE is holding a week-long standard setting event this summer for the new MCAS. Categories are: Exceeding, Meeting, partially Meeting, not meeting. This year, not reporting PPI, will report on student growth but there's no baseline for comparison - hence the standard setting this summer.
- Senate bill 223 - foundation budget review ; MASC - urging implementation of what commission has recommended.
- U28 - posted position for curriculum coordinator - there will be a review committee - interviews will happen later this month. This is a vital and valuable position for U28.
- Town meeting season - two have occurred, three have still to meet. Thus far, two budgets passed.
- Jen is participating in new superintendent induction program - one more meeting in June. Jen presented on instructional leadership

- Final session with Chip Wood - leading together. Session was about what we bring as leaders

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report *

- Stephen looked at budget - have more actuals now that we're closer to end of the year. He was able to slightly reduce the budget by \$22k without doing educational harm. Committee needs to vote the bottom line again since it has changed. New budget is \$2,355,130.00 11.89% New Salem and 26.32% Wendell
- Wendell's contribution (change in allocation) - has gone up 18% in last three years
- One other thing that could reduce the budget up to \$50k is increasing the use of E&D
- We may need it next year - it's there but if we used it, it would reduce our safety net.
- Motion to accept the revised budget for FY18 at \$2,355,130. Melissa first, Dick second. AIF

E. Principal's Report

- Long report - in writing. Two new students enrolled the week before April vacation - one student moved out - 173 students.
- Ariel had a baby boy.
- 100 mile club is going strong.
- Spring cleaning over vacation.
- SRS is currently in the midst of MCAS testing - it looks just like PARCC - it's very hard. The 6th grade took 3.5 hours for each section of ELA (supposed to take 120 min). Hoping there will be a forum for discussion. The online testing for 4th graders has been interesting - small space for response that gets bigger as students write - confusing for students. 6th graders had to write an essay and a narrative.
- SRS no longer qualifies for CEP (free lunch program) - just found out in March. Need to go into a new type of plan - would like to offer FRPL to families. As long as everyone turns in forms, they'll get free lunch. Those who don't will have to pay.
- Sally-Ali is retiring after 20 years

F. Committee Reports

Collaborative for Educational Services

- CES didn't meet - Melissa is on a subcommittee looking at the OC and assistive devices committee. Not sure how much need there is for assisted devices at SRS - there's a lot available - just wanted SRS to know.

Budget and Personnel - Next meeting- Monday, May 15, 2017 6:00 p.m. Swift River School

Joint Supervisory - Next Meeting - Monday, May 15, 2017 7:00 p.m. Swift River School - B&P and joint supervisory meeting on 5/15 at SRS - contract for new DOF

F. Report from Mahar Representatives

- Mahar has not met since the last meeting. Next meeting is on 6/1

H. May Items

1. School Choice Vote

- SRS needs to let DESE know if we're a school choice school by 6/1. We have no slots available now but still need to declare. Melissa motion to continue to be school choice school for FY 2017-18. Carla second - AIF

2. Discussions on:

- Science Fair *
 - Thoughts about moving science fair. Participation was down this year in which the fair was moved from March to November. Parking was a concern in March as was MCAS testing. Overall Karen reported a good turnout, but lower. It's less competitive now, because there are fewer students, people were more able to engage with them individually. Kelley asked to move the science fair to the fall, teachers feel fall works better, no testing conflict, Friday help days, no concern about snow days in November. Students who really want to do it are the ones who do it. As for management, it's much calmer and easier in November. Coincides with open house and can offer child care - there is a cost savings for child care. There aren't competitions between classes the way there used to be. There is some kind of party for the class that has highest participation. The school committee wants to know what's best for parents and teachers. It sounds like teachers prefer November; committee wants to get input from parents - school council is putting together a questionnaire for parents about their preferences. School committee would like those data. Survey is both online and paper. Total number of students that participated in science fair was approximately 42.
- Sodium in Water *
 - SRS has a problem with sodium in the water. NS select board did a test right before April vacation. SRS and NS select board took samples on the same day - sent to different labs; different results (by ~20 mg/L) 140 vs. 160ish. The school's engineers believe the road salt is causing the fluctuations - select board doesn't agree. SRS would like to watch it for a while to see what happens - they believe the drought is causing some of this.

If we can wait until next year, we'll be able to see what's going on. In October/November, the numbers have come down, right now, numbers are high due to thaw and run-off. School committee would like to have a forum/discussion for both towns, highway depts., boards of health - want to get everyone in the same room to have input, prior to salting season. We would need to hire a hydrologist, which is not in the budget.

- Report Cards
 - SRS is currently using a standards-based report card. SRS sends report cards home three times/year; all other schools send them out 2x/year. Some parents feel parent-teacher conferences are rushed, not enough time. Will look into adding more time. Removing one report card will free up some time to add more parent-teacher conference time. School committee approves.

3. Policy Update and Review:

Second Reading, First Vote on:

- IHAMA - Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education * Melissa moved to approve IHAMA; Dick second. AIF
- IJOA - Field Trips * Melissa made motion to adopt IJOA; dick second. AIF

First Reading on:

- JJH - Student Late Night or Overnight Travel * - questions or suggestions?
None - second reading next month

Vote to Delete:

- IHAMB - Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education * vote to delete old IHAMB - Carla moved to delete the old policy; Melissa second. AIF.

I. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date - June 1, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. (NS 6:30; W 6:45 for reorg)
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee - June 1, 2017, 2016 6:30 p.m.
- New Salem Town Meeting : Tentative Scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2017 with a spillover date of Tuesday, June 7, 2017
- Wendell Town Meeting Saturday June 10, 2017 10am

J. Approval of the Minutes of April 6, 2017* Carla moved to approve; Melissa second; AIF

K. Adjournment - Carla moved to adjourn; Karen second, AIF