

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 5, 2017 Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Johanna Bartlett, Carla Halpern, Amy Palmer, Melissa Burke, David Briand, Carl Seppala, Jack Radner, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Kelley Sullivan, Jennifer Haggerty, Bruce Turner, Karyn Briand,  
Staff: Chris Wings, Diane Adams

Public: Gillian Budine

A. Public Hearings:

- a. Gillian Budine – Community Network for Children Presentation
  - Overview of what the program is and who it reaches (children 8 and under, most not of school age).
  - Targeted outreach for resources
  - Helping families and children to be ready for school
  - Budget cuts by over 18%, families more in need

Confirmation of members of B&P (October 24<sup>th</sup>) – Wendell: Jack and Amy, New Salem: unknown

B. Warrants

- a. Bills - 2804, 2805, 2806, 4008, 4009, 4010, 4011, 4012, 4013
- b. Payroll – 406, 407, 806, 8003, 8060, 8061, 8070, 8100

C. Superintendent's Report

- a. Curriculum coordinator, Annie Foley-Ruiz, has been meeting with all 4 schools – will facilitate Professional Development Day on Oct. 20. Topic Universal Design for Learning
- b. Received grant from Department of Education for early literacy
- c. Thanks to Susannah Whipps Lee
- d. Update on UDL in U28- example of Erving art teacher's studio for artistic behavior
- e. Leadership team data
- f. Weekly walk through of the schools to see how students are access learning

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- a. REEP grant received
- b. Title 1 approval (\$100,000 for 4 schools)
- c. Sub-caller will use track phone for entire union
- d. Reviewed emergency plan for school over summer
- e. Goal- pay attention to after school and food programs, budget properly in recognition of subsidizing
- f. Met with Rep. Whipps, Sen Rosenberg, Rep. Kulick- feels lines of communication are open and solid
- g. Learned about the rural caucus, met with Berkshire rep.

E. Principal's Report (submitted)

- a. Enjoyed the walk through, visited pre-school (apples) and fifth grade (SAT vocabulary)
- b. Kindergarten field trip to Red Apple farm-
- c. Update on faulty sensor on fire alarm

F. Report from Mahar Representatives (moved to end of meeting)

- a. Breakfast in classroom going well
- b. Student council sponsoring anti-bullying
- c. Dress code discussion – head ware was raised
- d. Good PD – tech developments, MAPLE (ed. tech consortium)
- e. Donating supplies to sister school in Houston
- f. Changes in budget
- g. Signed superintendent contract

- h. Blizzard bags – looking into paring down from 8 hours
- i. Paras paid? Other supportive staff- how are they paid for Blizzard Bags- teachers are paid for being on call
- j. Students without Internet access?

#### G. October Items

##### 1. Municipal Health Insurance – M.G.L. c 32B, §§21-23 – discussion and possible vote (no vote taken)

- HCGIT- manages the Blue Cross accounts for U28
- Trying to change co-pays and deductible -
- MGL32B- the can bargain mitigation money without consultation of policy holders
- We would like administrator to attend a school committee meeting
  - Changes are not terribly significant this time
  - Avenues are available to offset the costs
- Concerns- lack of details as to what changes will come about with approval of MGL c.32B- increased in co-pay examples
  - 15-20 visit
  - 15-60 specialist
  - 75-100 emergency
  - 0- 500 admittance
- Need to gather more information – what will happen if we do not vote on this?
- Request to hear from the teachers union and have teacher union rep present if administrator attends meeting
- HCGIT has voted to make changes in their policies, would like pass expenses on to policy holders
- Insurance rate increases (9%) are negating cost of living increases for employees
- Currently no HSBC for U28

##### 2. School Improvement Plan – motion to approve Strategic Initiative (Carla), second (Jack) – passes unanimously

- Strategic plan distributed – combined initiatives for school and U28
- School wide expectations
- Second Step (anti-bullying) is not working out well
- 100-mile club (2 or 3 mornings?)

##### 3. Family Handbook

- p. 41 on have not yet been updated
- More easy to read and understand for families- all content kept
- Be ready to make adjustments by next meeting (email Ariel before 11.2)

##### 4. Sodium in Water Forum – Discussion

- Sept. 7 56 mil. per liter, will be retested in November
- 11/2017 (60 mil. per liter- meets state requirements)
- Cleaning well would have been \$2,000 per town – money not in the budget
- New Salem road crew has traditionally been responsible for plowing road by Swift River – request that Wendell plows and sands?
- School is continuing to use bottled water due to popular request and for those with increased blood pressure. Using approximately 2 bottles a week
- Calcium chloride is \$1,000 per application and requires a specialized spreader
- Ask town to follow through with cleaning catch basin
- Board of Health member from New Salem and Wendell and reps from select boards to attend meeting
- Request reduced salt on roads near school

- Who will pay for new pump if it is damaged due to well cleaning – budgeted for camera down well

5. Home School – discussion

- Home school parents are requested to submit portfolio at the end of the year, but there is no recourse for the school to monitor this
- State law says school committee must sign off on requests and cannot demand proof of education
- Outside agencies have been called after repeated attempts of communication are unfulfilled
- Carla: requests for record: Supports right of parents to educate children as they wish, but will not be a rubber stamp of all submitted home schooling programs. Advises not to call DCF cavalierly

6. Community Sing – in Honor of Dick Baldwin

- Combine with winter concert (December 22, 10 am)
- Invite teachers to speak or write for it
- Connect with marigolds
- Kelley will organize
- Ask Joy for Dick’s favorite winter songs for the students to prepare

7. Policy Update and Review: Final Vote on: moved Jack, seconded Anna – passes unanimously

- JJH – Student Late Night or Overnight Travel
- Final Vote to Delete: moved to delete all: Jack, second Anna – passes unanimously  
(Carla notes dislike of bulk votes)
- BDAA – Erving School Union #28 School Committee By-Laws
- EEAB – Private Road Transportation Policy
- GBCB – Teachers’ Request for Summer Pay

G. Committee Reports Collaborative for Educational Services

- OT and CCAT centers are losing money –looking for ways of new funding
- Gateway will be rejoining CES
- CES Working with Charter school PD discussion – passed
- 

H. Budget and Personnel – no report

Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, November 13, 2017 7:00 p.m. Erving

I. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – November 2, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – November 2, 2017, 2016 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of the Minutes of September 7, 2017\*

- Carla moved, Melissa seconded
- Unanimously approved- no corrections

K. Adjournment Anna moved, Carla seconded 8:50