

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE THURSDAY, February 1, 2018
Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

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

Community: Michael Cortina

Call Meeting to Order: Johanna, moves, Carla 2nd 7:01

A. Public Hearings: none

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

- Batch 115
- Batch 815
- Voucher 8150
- Voucher 8151
- Voucher 8007

C. Superintendent's Report:

- FY19 Governor's budget expected to reduce Chapter 70 funding
- ELL as part of strategic plan (Annie Foley-Ruiz)
- Professional Growth and Personal Goal: joined superintendent group
- Center for Responsive School: Author Chip Wood asked Jennifer to write an endorsement for his new book *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14*
- Massachusetts Rural Schools Collation: Collation Leader and Sen. Rosenberg will work to establish rural school aid (Swift River could see estimate extra 50k in funding as result of this research)
- Call to Susannah Whipps to acknowledge RSAC

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report *

- Chapter 70 est. down 8-9k (638k)
- Draft NS/W FY19 Budget
- Very little change in increase – kept as small as possible- 2 retirements, not reflected in budget changes to keep buffer
- Contract negotiation year- takes into account health care expense changes
- Increased curriculum coordinator (.56 to .6- relative to ELL and to remain current with the law)
- Line 66- 0 funded currently. Needs to be reconsidered and seen as a necessary position as data needs to be analyzed and processed

E. Principal's Report

- Enrollment same as October
- Voluntary testing for lead and copper in the water (likely a Saturday morning in March)
- Mike hosted online Community Sing during the Friday snow day in January. 680 individual views, over 1000 views overall on Facebook.
- Students from SWS are very well prepared and sticking with band at Mahar

F. Report from Mahar Representatives

- Sock Drives
- Post-it note positive campaign
- Tech department: hiring students to work with them, many student applicants
- Petersham School- exciting living history of Petersham in the town
- Mahar is having budget shortages. Looking to cut over 900K (out of 13mil). Changes in school choice, rising health insurance, SPED out of district placements
- Chapter 70, circuit breaker and transportation reimbursements not enough
- Carla communicating with Tari Thomas to organize fundraiser for Mahar

- Carl is trying to convince Athol to look at out of district requirements and create something to meet those needs in one of the abandoned elementary school- a potential collaboration with Orange/Mahar. Carla with talk with Tari about this
- TSAR (The School for Applied Research) – something Mahar has been approached and is thinking about participating

G. February Items

1. Vote for Negotiation Representatives- Carla nominates Carl and Johanna as negotiation reps, Jack seconds- passes
2. NS/W Treasurer (Jill Berry), Assistant Treasurer (Bruce Turner) – Vote required for assignment of duties.
 - Bank has asked to add Bruce as signatory on the account *memo from Bruce
 - Approve motion 1 - Carla moves Carl seconds – passes
 - Approve motion 2 – Jack moves, Karyn seconds – passes

3. Policy Update and Review:

Second and Final Vote to Delete: Motion to delete – Karyn moves to delete all three in one vote, Carl 2nd – passes

GDB – Non-Professional Hourly Benefit *

GDBA – Part-Time Teachers’ Step Increase Policy *

GDK – Part-Time Teachers Leave Benefits*

H. Committee Reports

- Collaborative for Educational Services
 - Presentation from SPIFFY Collation - huge rise in vaping culture in youth and marijuana use
 - Recommend school nurse educate community on this subject
 - Additional reports are concurrent with things noted in the budget
- Budget and Personnel – Next meeting- Monday, March 19, 2018, Shutesbury Elementary School - 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent review forms are not getting good return- Johanna will bring a more highlighted version to consider – department of education elementary and secondary school superintendents review process and forms

- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, March 19, 2018, Shutesbury Elementary School– 7:00 p.m.

I. Future Business:

- Next Meeting Date – March 1, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – March 1, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

J. Approval of the Minutes of December 7, 2017*

- 2nd page E. b. 1st part even if we disagree with the effects of using salt on the roads,
- moved Carla, seconded Carl – passes

K. Adjournment- Jack moves, Anna 2nd 8:05