

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, March 1, 2018 Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

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

Teachers: Paige Smith (3rd grade teacher), Patty Savage (1st grade teacher)

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order Johanna moves, Carla 2nd 7:02

A. Public Hearings

a. None

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

Bill: 2812, 4033, 4034

Payroll: 8017, 8170

C. Superintendent's Report

- Weather a concern for Friday morning
- March 12, 6pm – at Mohawk Trail; Public Forum on Fiscal Conditions Challenging Rural School Districts with Senator Hines and members of DESE
- March 12 – Susannah Whipps visiting central office at 11. All committee members are welcome to stop by and visit with her

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Draft NS/W FY19 Budget – Review
- Additional employee taking health insurance effecting budget by \$18,000
- Preschool enrolment decreased for next year and will result in one classroom for preschool only (approx. \$40,000 budget reduction)
- 1.7% increase (net increase 4.3% after considering revenue loss from the state [grants and reduced circuit breaker])
- Wendell up \$86,693 (11.33%), New Salem up \$10,919 (1.26%)
- Voting on budget will happen in April
- Submitted MSBA grant to fix the windows with Jen and Johanna

E. Principal's Report

- Hired interventionist, Shelley Sylvester (reading interventionist and special education). Joining full time in April
- Lead water testing Friday March 2
- Replacing lights
- Furnace cleaned, shifted to using Whitter. Better value
- Shannon Brown used DonorsChoose crowdfunding. Within 24 hours, met goal for 10 chromebooks for 4th/5th to share.
- Mike Cortina's select choir (22 students) invited to perform at Longmeadow concert contest on March 17.

F. March Items

1. Preschool Tuition Discussion

- Swift River is the lowest in the Union (15-16K), comparable to what families would pay per month in other areas
- Move to principal creates proposal for preschool tuition increase for next meeting (Carla moves, Melissa 2nd – passes unanimously)

2. Superintendent Evaluation Tool

- Examples given and explained how to use the rubric

3. Meeting Schedule Calendar (2018-19)

- Proposed September, November, January, February, March/April, May, June (brief)
- Joint Supervisory – meet quarterly
- Budget and personnel – meet as necessary
- Proposal favourable, concern of winter weather and acknowledgement of needing make-up
- Schedule to be made available at April meeting for discussion and possible vote

4. Policy Update and Review

- First Reading on:
 - o BDA – By-Laws of the New Salem/Wendell Union School Committee
 - Article 3, section 1: school committee shall hold regularly scheduled meetings (not monthly)
 - o GBED – Tobacco Free School Policy
 - o LBC – New Salem/Wendell Relations with Nonpublic Schools*
 - Are home schooling students to be considered private schools as well?
 - What does our approval (or disapproval) mean to the institution
 - Further discussion and research needed
- First vote to delete:
 - o JLCG - Head Lice Policy (Jack moves, Anna 2nd – passes unanimously)

G. Committee Reports

• Report from Mahar Representatives

- New Salem has approved fundraiser race in November for Mahar
- How to reduce budget: Proposed 4 day a week school, 1 day e-learning would save only \$100,000
- Keep middle school sports intermural (non-traveling) or fees for athletics

Committee Ideas

- Rent the space
- Shift the school year
- Collaborative for Educational Services – no meeting
- Budget and Personnel – Next meeting- Monday, March 19, 2018 Shutesbury Elementary School - 6:00 p.m.
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, March 19, 2018 Shutesbury Elementary School– 7:00 p.m.

H. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – April 5, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – April 5, 2018 6:30 p.m.
- Town of Wendell Meeting – June 5, 2018 (New Salem not scheduled yet)

I. Approval of the Minutes of February 1, 2018* Carla moves, Melissa 2nd (passes unanimously)

C. Coalition (spelling)

J. Executive Session – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and that we not return to general meeting (Carla moves, Melissa 2nd, roll called of committee members; Bruce invited to stay for executive session)

Regular Session adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Anna Wetherby
 Wendell School Committee member