

New Salem/Wendell School Committee

Final Minutes

June 1, 2017 7:10 pm

In attendance: Carla Halpern, Karyn Briand, David Briand, Carl Seppala, Jack Radner, Johanna Bartlett, Anna Wetherby (minutes) Melissa Burke, Stephen Cass (DOF), Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent of Schools.

Teachers/Public: Jennylou Powers, Mandy Higgins, Mike Cortina, Baldwin (Union Rep)

Non-agenda items

1. Reorganization of Joint Committee
 - a. Chair- Carla nominated Johanna, seconded AIF
 - b. Secretary – Johanna nominated Anna, seconded, AIF
2. Recognition and moment of silence for Dick Baldwin

Agenda

- A. Public Hearings
 - a. Jennylou Powers Mandy Higgins (SPED), Paul D’Marco (Union rep), Mike Cortina requesting School Committee does not adopt changes 21 and 22 of Health Care Mandate
(Jennylou will provide attachment for minutes)
 - b. Mandy’s students attended special Olympics at Northampton High School- Mandy shared pictures
 - c. Mike shared pictures and video of current developments in the music department
- B. Superintendent report – very brief
 - a. Trudy and Jennifer working to unify data
- C. Finance Report
 - a. Things are going well 5,000 under budget
 - i. 40,000 in circuit breaker; 25,000 for unexpected audit adjustment
 - ii. Health insurance up 16,000
 - iii. Retirees made for new employees at lower salary
 - iv. Saving 6,000 of school choice money
 - v. 51,000 for school choice out- hoping for 20,000 under this
 - vi. The 26,000 can be applied for future budget
 - b. Jennifer acknowledges this is Steven’s final school committee meeting for Wendell/New Salem
 - c. FY18 budget
 - i. Bottom line is not changing (much)- fuel is steady, insurance is up 4,000- fuel saving applied to insurance
 - ii. School choice fund – approx. 277,000
 1. Need to be more careful with this fund. Currently budgeted 40,000 over what is being brought in
 - iii. Sparsity aid from the state - perhaps in fall to coordinate a town plea to the statehouse to recognize the need for this in rural populations
- D. Principal’s Report (submitted)

- a. Enrollment steady in the past month
 - b. School choice – 5 graduate, no room in Kindergarten, little room in 2nd
 - c. Jess Burnham is leaving SRS for Eaglebrook – she will be greatly missed, decision for new teacher Monday
 - d. Art teacher- 5 candidates, decision in a week
 - e. Trudy Smith retiring in September
 - f. Donations in honor of Dick to SRS – set up a foundation trust in his name
 - g. Motion to establish foundation 501(c)(3) in Dick’s name/honor (Jack moves, Melissa seconded)
 - h. Dedicate an All School sing to him – in the fall– invite his musician friends to join. Johanna will coordinate the Wendell side, publicize the event and look for newspaper coverage.
 - i. Capital improvement plan (submitted)
 - i. School committee to support capital improvement (Carla moves, Anna seconded) – 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions
 - ii. Discussions before vote
 - 1. Concern of grit level on blacktops/basketball court for student safety
 - 2. Concern of oil and stone for play spaces – discussion as to pros and cons of asphalt and oil and stone
 - a. Proposal for creating better drainage system of the parking lot (situation improved since drains cleaned)
 - 3. Enlarge parking lot- add a few spaces in main lot, remove telephone pole and dumpster and add a few more spots in lower lot
 - 4. Question as to replacing the toilets – are they needing to be replaced (and for an ecological reason – actual per toilet cost \$813)
- E. Municipal Health Insurance and M.G.L. c.32B, §§21-23 – vote* (moved forward in agenda)
- a. Suggestion to get more information before adopting the law, perhaps offer teachers compensations
 - b. Two points of information needed:
 - i. What is behind this law?
 - ii. How can we not implement this law? (We can vote on implementing the process of the change in the insurance. We can make our own contract with the teachers but will cost us more)
 - c. Request for meeting in late June for insurance only – clarity of changes in law – prepare to vote but not necessary
 - i. Johanna will meet with Danika for information gathering, Johanna will contact BettyLou to arrange meeting to revisit insurance issues only (need to wait until after New Salem town meeting)
- F. Committee Reports
- a. No Collaborative report
 - b. Budget and Personnel

- i. Approved Bruce
 - ii. Need to contact Jennifer about renewing contract by December
- G. Mahar report- Petersham is looking to join with Orange as elementary union (formalizing central office, who evaluates Tari Thomas)
- H. Community Action award (non-agenda item)
 - a. Award to someone who has gone above and beyond for the school
- I. June Items
 - a. Sodium in water forum – proposed for October/November (after report submitted to state but not to conflict with science fair dates)
 - b. Warrant Signing Over the Summer:
 - i. Johanna and Anna (W)
 - ii. Karen and David (NS)
 - c. Policy Update and Review:
 - i. Final vote on:
 - 1. IHAMA- (moved by Carla, seconded Melissa)
 - a. AIF (Amended to remove “issues” after human sexuality)
 - 2. IJOA (Jack moved, Karen seconded) AIF
 - 3. JJA (Jack moved, Melissa seconded) AIF 1st vote
 - 4. Final vote to delete IHAMB (Melissa moved, Karen seconded) AIF
 - 5. Delete bylaws
 - a. BDAA (Carla moves, Melissa seconds) AIF
 - b. EEAB & GBCB (Jack moves, Anna seconds) AIF
- J. Approve minutes (Carla moves, Melissa seconds) AIF
 - a. With corrections
 - i. Dick capitalized
 - ii. Karen in attendance, not David
- K. New Salem Town Meeting June 5, not 6th
- L. Adjourned (Carla moves, Anna seconds) 8:55

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wetherby