

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (7:00 P.M.) 1/3/19

Present: Karyn Briand, David Briand, Amy Palmer, Carl Seppala, Jack Radner, Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Carla Halpern, Barbara Doyle, Jennifer Haggerty, Bruce Turner, Kelley Sullivan
Public: Lori DiDonato,

Teachers: Tina Newman, Jill Putala, Shelly Sylvester

Call Meeting to Order – 7 pm

A. Public Hearings - none

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

- Voucher 8100, 4022, 4024, 4025, 4026, 8110, 8111, 8013, 4027, 4028, 8120, 8131, 8014, 8130, 4029, 8300, 4031, 4030, 2809
- Batch: 410, 810, 411, 811, 812, 413, 813,

C. Superintendent's Report

- Met with Massachusetts Rural School Coalition
 - Wrote advocacy letter Rurality to key legislature members Peysers, Peisch, Baker, Riley, Chang-Diaz
 - Student enrolment decline, operating costs risen, per-pupil cost higher than the state average
 - Introduce rurality factor that is more systemic
 - Request for copy and to be shared with Mahar School Committee
 - There is no definitive rural definition other than neither urban nor suburban
 - Email to Susannah Whips
 - Rural school day – February 7th
 - Shared services pilot (food services, etc. to have economies of scale). Checking with FRCOG and GCC to consolidate efforts and shared services
- Alternative Structured learning day programs (blizzard bags)
 - Letter of intent sent – being discussed at the leadership team
 - Have the support of Swift River Education Association
 - Need to be mindful of students with lack of access to e-learning. Needs to be accessible to all students.
 - Pilot 2 days upon approval
 - E-learning is not a requirement but an option, one of many
 - Offer time to make up work
 - Rigorous work, meeting the standards of classwork in the school (not busy work)
 - A first snow day would be held as a snow day; second anticipated snow day will be Alternative Structured Learning Day
 - Elementary students guidance is not equivalent to that of middle and high school (need for more structure and supervision)
- How will activities be assessed?
 - Communicate with parents, students, staff after the pilot to see how effective this method is
 - The window of time to complete assignments up to five days
 - The work would be that of what would be expected of work in June when a snow day would otherwise be made up
 - Students will need to feel engaged with the assignment (reading, math,). Different activities and meeting both level of interest and the students' individual abilities
 - The activities would be completed in an anticipated 90 minutes- 2 hours
 - Examples given by Tina, 4th-grade teacher, measure snow in centimeters and make a chart of three different locations
 - Value of class time brought up. Time in school with teachers cannot be replaced
 - Engagement of students at the end of the year is vastly different.
 - Cost savings – not having students in school in June? Not paying custodians overtime, still pay staff at the same level.

- Hourly staff would be allowed to continue their own learning (professional development) and compensated for time spent preparing ‘blizzard bags’ and completing work assigned by cooperative teachers or school principal. Office staff allowed to make up time in the summer
- Request for approval of pilot of two days from the committee to gain local approval of waiver application
 - Beth moves for a vote on Alternative Structure Learning Days pilot, Karyn 2nd. Passes with eight yes, one no

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- MSBA project underway. \$15000 (max) TKSP Studio (architect) \$37000 to get to next point. Original amount requested from towns \$60k (under budget at this point by 3k)
- Bus bid – bidders conference tomorrow
- U28, Greenfield, Gill Montague, Tech. Bid opening January 18 at Franklin Tech
- U28 budget finalized mid-December
- • FY20 Draft Budget handed out to members
- U28 share is down 27.4%
- Line 4 increase 2k – approved commitment of work with the auditor (end of year report)
- Line 40 – increased and moved position from salary line
- COA and longevity increases in teacher salaries
- Retirement savings
- 53 – para to support IEP
- 57 – new item
- 86 – fuel increase, could become a decrease
- 87 – based on historical usage
- 103 – nonteacher retirement
- 105-09 – estimate 5% increase. Numbers going to change
- Adjustments for retirees and central office due to classification
- Lack of support for the budget from other sources (inclusive IPLE grant has phased out)
- Circuit breaker funds – nearly dried up at this point
- School choice budgeting 160k to be used as offset some of the budget
- A shift in population: Wendell is bearing the increase

E. Principal’s Report

- Enrollment increased by 1 in November, steady in December. One student is currently homeless
- Holiday concert phenomenal. Recommend attending performance May 23 (evening concert)
- New chickens in the coop, goats arriving soon
- Grade 4-6 have had an opportunity to meet with the curriculum director. Pre-K-3 will meet in winter
- Benchmark assessments in January. Report cards in February
- Google docs from 6th grade. Stories of choice between president and astronaut
- No snow days yet

F. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Talk from the principal on the trip to Colorado on tweaking on high school approaches: changing student/teacher relationships, have a more collaborative relationship. More engineering and technology opportunities
 - Budget and rural school aide (183K in school aide)
 - Saving money with energy efficiencies, bussing changes
 - School walkthrough and met with Tari Thomas
 - Rethinking on how public school function- have -students want to come and not want to leave.
 - 12 students have enrolled in virtual high school
- • Collaborative for Education Services

- no report
- Budget and Personnel and Joint Supervisory
 - • Met twice to come up with U28 budget – Two budgets offered, approved ones with cuts
 - Care about schools and towns that house the schools and should not be pitted against each other
 - Cut made to not increase Director of Learning Design to .8 but keep at .6
 - Not to add data specialist
 - No B&P meeting January 14th, just Joint Supervisory
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, January 14, 2019, @ 7:00 pm at the Shutesbury Elementary School

G. January Items

- Gun Control Letter
 - The draft presented at last meeting – lead to a discussion but no conclusion
 - How do we keep our children safe?
 - What is the evidence to see what has worked – very few studies on the effectiveness on methods to prevent gun violence
 - A thorough report on current research and studies on gun violence targeted at schools
 - Resource Officer and police officer roles in schools and long-term effects on students
 - Expense aspect of police or resource officers
- Plans in place for lockdown, shelter in place, active engagement, and emergency response
- Receive training from State Police – practice at different times and situations
- To be added to the agenda in future by request
- New Salem Capital Planning Committee representative – discussion
- Moved to February meeting
- Rural School Aid: Regional Efficiencies Plan
 - Request for feedback via email by January 17th
 - Summarize current challenges
 - Specific goals
 - Feedback to successes and challenges
 - Increasing collaboration, consolidation, improved efficiencies

H. Future Business

- 2019 Community Action Award Recipient nominees
- Other items – email to Pamela Rogers
- Next Meeting Date – February 7, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – February 7, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes • September 6, 2018 – Beth moves, Jack 2nd - unanimous

II. November 1, 2018 – Beth moves, Karyn 2nd

- Amend to one opposed to Johanna, not 2
- Vote to approve minutes with amendment: with amendment

J. Adjournment Karyn moves, Beth 2nd 8:37