

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
2-3-21 Public Minutes
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

Board: Relf Fogg, Mary Collins, Bob Ouellette and Sheena Robbins. Lino Avellani via zoom

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Student Services Director, Anne Kebler, Principal James Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector. Financial Manager Michael O'Neill
Facilities Director Joe Williams.

Public: Parents and community members via Zoom

Call to Order

Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:00 and led those present in person and on zoom in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of new operating budget number

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the operating budget in the amount of \$11,335,512.

\$52,943 was added to Article 4 at Deliberative Session.

Roll call: Fogg nay, Ouellette aye, Collins nay, Robbins aye, Avellani nay (Vote 2-3) Motion failed.

Public Comment

Mr. Kearns said at Deliberative Session the voters that were there wanted the assistant principal added back. He said the Board is inconsistent listening to the voters.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the consent agenda.

Mrs. Collins asked about a check to Lovell Lake Food Center for \$203.62. The invoice said candy.

Roll call: Fogg nay, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the non-public minutes of 1-19-21 with any amendments offered. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the public and non-public minutes of 1-27-21 with any amendments offered.

Mrs. Robbins recalled Mr. Gregoire talking about all students wearing masks not Board members. She would like that part fixed. Service providers have complained about all students not wearing masks. Right now, all students are wearing masks. The Board had differing opinions

on mask wearing. Mr. Lampron said that there haven't been any complaints that have reached his level. **Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)**

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to recess the meeting for five minutes at 6:25 while the Budget Committee votes on the operating budget. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg and Mrs. Colbath returned to the meeting at 6:48.

Mr. Fogg announced the vote of the Budget Committee on Article 4, Operating Budget. The Budget Committee voted 1-6 on that article. Motion failed.

Mr. Ouellette resumed the discussion about masks. While in recess Mr. Gregoire looked up the latest information from DHHS. He said as of January 27th DHHS recommended students wear masks and don't differentiate any grade levels. Mr. Gregoire will speak with the outside agencies to see if they would still be willing to come into the school if masks for grades K-2 are recommended but not required. Mr. Fogg suggested that parents call the school with comments and concerns about this issue. Mr. Gregoire said it is also nice to hear the praise for what the school has been doing.

Mrs. Robbins asked for a deadline when this would be discussed again as weeks and weeks go by without addressing issues. Mr. Ouellette said our next meeting. Students from K-2 will continue to wear masks until that time. **Mrs. Robbins asked Mr. Gregoire if he had any data for Paul School that substantiates that grade K-2 students are spreading the disease. Mr. Gregoire responded there have been students that have tested positive but not specific to any grade level. He said it's the adults that have been impacted.** Mrs. Robbins said the Board had a discussion, came to a consensus and then it's left in the hands of a service provider to make the decision. Mr. Fogg said, for the record, it would not be his recommendation to have masks required for all age groups Mrs. Robbins would be open to them wearing them but having them off during recess and at their desks. Mr. Lampron said bringing students back into the building we make ourselves more vulnerable for clusters.

Reports

Superintendents Report

Mr. Gregoire said when he wrote his report the high school transportation wasn't decided. Right now, we are able to provide high school transportation for those students that need transportation to Spaulding. There will be 45 students per bus. We currently have four bus drivers. At the end of last week, we were able to hire two drivers, one who started yesterday and one who will start on February 15th and one of the drivers are obligated to jury duty on the 16th. We will be able to transport grades 5-8 starting on Monday to the Paul School for those who have informed the school that they need transportation. There will be 45 students per bus and one will have 47. Our current drivers and Mr. Lampron and Mrs. Spector. have been exceptionally helpful and demonstrated wonderful flexibility as we change bus routes and times.

I would like to extend a deep thank you and gratitude to Stephanie Stewart, who without her commitment, hard work and putting in many hours beyond her contract we would not have been able to do what we have done. Mr. Lampron, Mrs. Spector, himself and the bus drivers have been working hard to get all the meals out to the kids. He has been working with Spaulding High School principal Justin Roy. Some students had issues with buses as they weren't the same as in the past but this has been ironed out. Mrs. Robbins said she is feeling frustrated because we've gone a couple of weeks with half the students in and half out of school. She asked why they couldn't have bumped the busing up to 45 students instead of the 22 two weeks ago? Mr. Gregoire said two weeks ago there was no decision to bump the seating to 45 students. It wasn't until the meeting of January 27th that the discussion took place about bumping them up to 45 per bus. She said that meeting was over a week ago and why didn't it happen, why was it another week? Families are desperate to get their kids back in school. Mrs. Robbins asked why kids can't go back tomorrow? Mr. Gregoire said we base this on transportation. That meeting was just a week ago and we have been working on this. Monday is a clean start. Mr. Lampron said teachers are in the process of making preparations to return to face to face. If they found out tonight at 7:00 there wouldn't be much time to prepare parents or staff.

Mr. Lampron respectfully said, he is highly disappointed in the lack of support for funding the assistant position. We are grossly underappreciating the work that is done by that position. He hopes voters will recognize the need for that position and vote the budget forward as is.

Principals Report

Students in Pre-K-4 made a smooth transition to in person learning on Monday January 25 and it's been great having them back in the building. We received 319 responses to our Transportation Parent Survey. For those who we didn't get a response from, the front office secretaries made direct calls.

These are the numbers of students in need of transportation (128) based on the survey results: Grade PK – 5, Grade K-15, Grade 1-19, Grade 2-14, Grade 3-14, Grade 4-21, Grade 5-10, Grade 6-11, Grade 7-12, Grade 8-13. Currently rostered on buses (K-4), Bus #1 -25, Bus #2-25, Bus #3 – 33. One of the challenges of organizing bus stops has been students showing up at bus stops without communication. Each bus is currently holding up to one student per seat with siblings sitting together.

We had 10 students shift from remote learning back to in-person. K-0, 1-1, 4-1, 5-2, 7-3, 8-3. We had 4 students shift to remote, 4-2, 6-1, 7 -1. We are currently able to maintain 3 feet of social distancing while students are at their desks but there are classrooms that are at capacity. IA staff members have volunteered to deliver meals to our families in need while we're short on bus drivers. We hosted a remote community day. The February break will still happen. They are working on the fact that students that have been on remote have had less hours of instruction. Mrs. Robbins wanted to show her appreciation to the IA's and the entire staff for stepping up during the time.

Impala follow up

Mr. Gregoire included the name of the person that bid for the Impala.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to award the bid for the Impala to Robert Moore. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-0)

New Business

No Starch Press Foundation – Donation NSPF Grant 2020 – 17 3D Printed Wind Turbine

Mr. Gregoire explained that the School has received a check for \$4,737 to the attention of Mr. Kearns, for the purchase of a 3D printed wind turbine for STEM activities and sustainable energy activities.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to accept the check for \$4,737 for the wind turbine. This money will go into the Student Activities account under Science Club. Mr. Kearns said the students will be making three wind turbines to see which design is best. **Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)**

Facilities - Radios

Mr. Williams gave some background on the bus radios. He said what he'd like to do is have both the town and school under the same umbrella. This will require an \$1,800 fee to get two-way repeaters to talk with our repeater. The town being on the A side and the school would like to utilize the B side. This will enable much better coverage. He has ten radios that are ready to be programed but is waiting to see if this plan gets approved before programing and have to reprogram them for another fee. With the new repeater the town now has, we'd have better communication. Right now, we can't communicate with the town.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve \$1,800 for what Mr. Williams has presented to the Board. Mr. Williams said the two companies, Town Administrator, Superintendent, DPW and himself all sat down at a televised meeting to discuss all this. **Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)**

Student Activities Report

Mr. Gregoire was asked to provide the most recent Studies Account report. It in the packet. Mrs. Robbins asked what discretionary meant. Mrs. D'Agostino said the district used to have vending machine and the profits were not designated for any one thing. The money was used to help students that would not be able to participate in a trip because of lack of funds or if administration wants to honor students for something. The rest of the funds are for specific purposes. The class of 2020 still need to determine how that unspent money will be used as there wasn't a Washington trip. The money in this fund can not be comingled. Mrs. Robbins asked what is miscellaneous? There was a fund called Sunshine Fund but it was not a fund for students now this account is only for students so the money is labeled miscellaneous.

Under **Consent Agenda** Mrs. Collins had asked about a check to Lovell Lake Food Market. Mrs. D'Agostino said that was a grant and used for Special Education.

Policies – Reaffirming only

JICK

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to reaffirm policy JICK as presented. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-0)

JICL

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve reaffirming policy JICL as presented. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-0)

JKAA

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to reaffirm policy JKAA as presented. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-0)

Mr. Fogg requested that the Policy Committee review policy IHAK.

Public Comment

Mr. Williams has been here for eleven years and there has been an assistant principle. It's more than discipline. He said the current salary is almost that of a part time position. Parents are in favor of it. Mary Soares will be mounting a campaign to educate the taxpayers that reducing that position was not a good choice. And they do not pay attention to the Boards or Budget Committee vote. Mrs. Colbath said she believed this was Mrs. D'Agostino's last meeting and she's done a wonderful job for the district and deserves a round of applause. Mr. Gregoire informed us that Mrs. D'Agostino had already stepped off the meeting but reiterated his thanks for doing a great job. Mr. Gregoire introduced the new financial manager Michael O'Neill. Dawn Alie said she is shocked that you're increased numbers on the bus. As a school nurse she spoke about the need for masks and social distancing.

Non-Public

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non-public session at 7:46 under RSA 91-A-3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

The Board returned to public session at 8:05. During non-public the Board discussed an employee.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46. Roll call: Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary