

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
4-6-21 Public Minutes
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

Board: Relf Fogg, Mary Collins, Bob Ouellette, Sheena Robbins. Caitlin Gelinis via Zoom

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Financial Manager Michael O'Neill, Student Services Director, Anne Kebler, Principal James Lampron, and Facilities Director Joe Williams Assistant Principal Jenn Spector via Zoom.

Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 5:09. Those present joined in the flag salute.

Non Public

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinis aye (Vote 5-0)

The Board returned to public session at 6:16. While in non public the Board discussed tuition paid to a private school.

Public Hearings

Mr. O'Neill said that in order to return the money to the Town we need authority from the school Board in order to take the money out of the Trust Fund. According to RSA 198:20-c the School Board are the agents to expend. He said this is no different than when we took the money out for the windows. We were authorized after the Public Hearing to take money out of the Trust Fund. Mr. Ouellette asked if a Public Hearing had been held on this already and Mr. O'Neill said no.

Mr. Ouellette opened the Public Hearing at 6:26.

Acceptance of Cares Act Grant

This grant is up to \$729,368.07. Mr. Gregoire said the grant is a little different than the previous grants where the money was deposited into an account. This is a reimbursable grant. The money has to be spent from our operating budget and then it is reimbursed after the fact. No public comment

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to accept the Cares Act Grant monies totaling \$729,368.07 with approval from the Boards for all items this money is spent toward. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinis aye (Vote 5-0)

Official Ballot Results Expendable Trust

No public comment

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to follow the vote of the Wakefield School District and discontinue the Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$19,434.58 in

Article 14 on the March 9, 2021 School District Ballot. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to follow the vote of the Wakefield School District and discontinue the Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$21,566.43 in Article 15 on the March 9, 2021 School District Ballot. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to follow the vote of the Wakefield School District and discontinue the Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$987.34 in Article 16 on the March 9, 2021 School District Ballot. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Ouellette closed the Public Hearing at 6:33

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda removing that AP manifest from the Consent Agenda to be discussed in non public. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the non public minutes of 3-23-21. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public workshop minutes of 3-10-21. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 3-16-21. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 3-23-21. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Facilities

Mr. Williams said the Facilities Committee is recommending moving forward on warrant article #6, the lighting project. He is asking for a Public Hearing so they can move forward this summer with this project.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to publicly notice a Public Hearing regarding Article #6 and any other business needing a Public Hearing to be noticed as well

for the next meeting. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Old Business

Judith Nason Memorial Bridge

Mr. Ouellette said that a Facilities meeting was held today at 4:30 and they discussed the Judith Nason Memorial Bridge that is to go from the parking lot to the building that houses the SAU. Mr. Fogg has information on this to share with the Board. He got some prices for galvanized steel culverts much like the one on Pine River Pond Road. He will forward the numbers to the Board members and asked that this be placed on the next agenda. \$10,901.31 is currently in the Trust Fund.

AREA Meeting

The Board will meet with Rochester on April 19th at 6:00. Rochester is looking for agenda items from the Board. Mr. Gregoire suggested they further the discussion about allowing a larger percentage of Wakefield students to attend a high school other than Spaulding. He said if that is something you'd like to do he said he can reach out to Mike Elwell or wait and start that process with the new law firm. Mrs. Robbins wondered where that was coming from. Mr. Gregoire said that is a question brought up at every area meeting for at least the past nine years if not longer. He said it would take a rewrite of the AREA agreement that has been in affect since 1970. Mrs. Robbins asked if it was 90/10 presently. Mr. Gregoire said yes, 10 percent overall. She asked who was asking for a shift in that number. Mr. Gregoire said the discussion has come up with Rochester and he expects it to happen again. Mr. Fogg said about six years ago Wakefield asked about twenty percent and it was shot down immediately because this is money added to Rochester's operating budget. He suggested asking for 13-15 percent. Mr. Gregoire said in the past few years there have been more students that have applied then there were slots. He believes one year six students were affected. All agenda items should be sent to Mr. Gregoire.

New Business

School Calendar 2021/2022

Mr. Gregoire said teachers would return on August 25th and school would start on August 31st. According to the CBA there is no school the Friday before Labor Day. They will attend school for 178 days, working off the 990 required hours. He said next year all students will have a computer so if they know a storm is coming students can take their computers home and they can have remote learning instead of a snow day. School starting time will not likely go back to normal until next year. Mrs. Gelinas said the struggle is the afternoon, having to pick up the high school students, clean the buses, then pick up the Paul School students.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve the 2021/2022 School Calendar. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins nay, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 4-1)

Kindergarten Screening

Mr. Lampron asked that the Board to approve having the current kindergarten class stay home on May 7th so they can conduct the Kindergarten Screening that day. They will be making the day Covid friendly. He will be making a video and getting the word out in many various ways including an online enrollment process.

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the current kindergarten class staying home on May 7th so they can have Kindergarten Screening for the incoming kindergarten students on that day. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Lampron asked that the students be allowed to use the new play structure. He talked to other districts and they are allowing their students to use their structures with no new cleaning protocols.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve allowing the students to use the new play structure. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Milton Question

Superintendent Sussman sent a letter to surrounding schools asking if any are willing to absorb their Middle School and High School students into their schools. Mr. Gregoire said this is not feasible for us. Mr. Gregoire will contact Mr. Sussman.

Policies (First Reading and Second Reading)

IHAK Character & Citizenship Education: second reading. Mr. Fogg asked again to have these words, The Declaration of Independence and part 1 and part 2 of our State Constitution added to this policy.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to add the words The Declaration of Independence and the New Hampshire State Constitution parts 1 and 2 to policy IHAK. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas nay (Vote 4-1)

JLCF The Wellness Policy: first reading. Mrs. Collins said they are adopting the expanded NHSBA policy. 11, H Nutrition: Nutrition Eating, second bullet: all words after cafeteria will be stricken. They are going to leave the distribution of information up to the Wellness Committee. IV, A. Classroom Physical Activity Breaks: recommends will be changed to allows. Mrs. Gelinas asked if the Wellness Committee can look into a sensory path? Mr. Gregoire said there is one in place near the music room. IV, V Other Activities to Promote Student Wellness: The last line has been stricken. The Wellness Committee will identify an activity. Mrs. Robbins asked if the Superintendent had designated a Building Wellness Coordinator? Mr. Gregoire said we normally do but that might has slipped this year. Mrs. Robbins wondered if a school level assessment and a school health index had been completed by the deadline of September 30th. Mr. Gregoire would have to check with the Wellness Committee. He said he doesn't believe it's been done in the past. He will look into this and have an answer at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Lampron said there were three parts of the policy that concerned him; Fundraising Celebrations and Rewards.

(F. Fundraising Activities: To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school sponsored fundraising activities (direct school affiliation) will not involve food or will use only foods that meet the above nutrition and portion size standards for foods and beverages sold individually. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. The school district will make available a list of ideas for acceptable fundraising activities.

G. Rewards: Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

J. Celebrations: Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers. Celebrations will take place in homeroom or advisory. Subject area lessons involving food preparation should follow nutritional guidelines as part of the instruction of the lesson. School staff involved in homeroom, field trips and advisory food related events will communicate with school food services managers to assist with cafeteria planning and reducing food waste. Where possible, staff will order foods through food services managers.)

He said they used to do a school wide magazine fundraiser. Last year a chocolate candy bar fundraiser for their PBIS program was requested because they made so much more money with this fundraiser. He said with this policy that would shut that down. Mr. Robbins pointed out that the policy says you may have up to nine fundraisers/bake sales. Rewards states you can't use food as a reward. Mr. Lampron said there have been pizza party incentives and ice cream social incentives he hates to take away from the students. Mr. Fogg asked if Mr. Lampron can put this in writing for the Policy Committee for their next meeting. Mrs. Collins believes this should be left up to the classroom teachers and parents.

JLCJ Concussions and Head Injuries: first reading Number 5. The last sentence will be stricken. Athletic Director will stay in both number 5 and number 6. We have an Athletic Director so they are removing the administrators.

JLCK Special Physical Health Needs of Students: first reading.

GCO Evaluation of Professional Staff: first reading This was brought up at the last meeting and she would like to add; When nominations are brought forward to the Board it also includes the signature sheet and when teachers had their evaluations. Mrs. Gelinas asked Mr. Lampron if this was possible. Mr. Lampron said the signatures were collected at a PD day and as long as there is clarity this can be done. Mr. Gregoire doesn't believe this needs to be a requirement. Mr. Gregoire and Mrs. Gelinas believe the in depth conversation is the most important part of the evaluation. Mrs. Robbins believes there needs to be a balance to make sure that the important quality factor isn't jeopardized. Mr. Fogg will be sharing the grievances from staff with the new Board members so they understand the concern. Mr. Gregoire said since he's been here there have only been four personnel grievances, two teachers and two paras over the course of nine years.

Public Comment

None

Resignations/Nominations

Mr. Gregoire said they have hired a new paraprofessional.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to accept the resignations of Amy Wentworth Godfrey with regret. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to accept the resignations of Gavin Kearns with regret. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0) Mrs. Robbins asked if exit interviews were conducted. Mrs. Spector said the Union conducts exit interviews. Mr. Gregoire said Mr. Kearns had expressed interest in speaking with the Board if they have any questions about his resignation. Mrs. Robbins asked if it was typical for an exit interview to go through the Board rather than the Superintendent? It was decided that Mr. Ouellette would contact Mr. Kearns to have an exit interview with the Board.

Non Public

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to enter nonpublic session at 7:53 under 91-A-3-II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant and 91-A-3-II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Robbins aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

The Board returned to public session at 9:02.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary