

Wakefield School Board
January 22, 2020, 6 p.m.
Paul School Library
Public Minutes – Approved

Present: Chair Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair Tracey Kolb, Sandy Johnson and Relf Fogg; Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D’Agostino, Administrative Assistant Larissa Mulkern; Principal James Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector, Trustee of the Trust Funds Howie Knight, Jim Miller of Clearview TV

Call to Order: Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Chair Ouellette changed the order of the meeting on the agenda, and allowed Mr. Howie Knight, a Trustee of the Trust Funds, to speak regarding releasing of expendable trust funds hearing requirements. Mr. Knight said he spoke with Tom Donovan, Director, Charitable Trusts Unit, NH DOJ, regarding the process. Mr. Donovan stressed the importance of holding a public hearing prior to releasing funds from the capital reserve or expendable trust fund. Mr. Knight said if the trustees had released the funds prior to speaking with Mr. Donovan, they would have been in violation of state law; Mr. Donovan said the trustees could release the funds on the condition the school board understands that a public hearing is required if the funds come from the expendable trust. Mr. Knight noted there could be emergencies, i.e. if the boiler blew on a Saturday morning, that would be an exception and they would contact the Attorney General’s office. But otherwise a public hearing is required.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion for the board to study up and understand all the RSAs they need to function properly as a public board, seconded by Mr. Ouellette; members voted 3-1 with Mrs. Johnson opposed.

Mr. Fogg asked why a portion of a list of statutory reasons cited as foundation for the nonpublic sessions included a sentence in bold typeface as it was not part of the law, and who amended the RSA list. Mr. Gregoire said he thinks it was included as an informational item and would look into it.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Johnson made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to approve the consent agenda (AP and Payroll manifests). Members voted in favor 3-1 with Mr. Fogg opposed.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of Jan. 7, with amendments offered. A correction was made to page 2 of minutes. Members voted all in favor to approve the public Jan. 7 meeting minutes, 4-0. Members made a correction to the nonpublic minutes. Members voted all in favor to approve the nonpublic minutes of Jan. 7, 4-0-1 with Mrs. Johnson abstaining.

Reports:

Student Services: Mrs. Kebler reviewed the highlights of her reports; she reported three paraprofessional candidates have been hired and should be on board in a few weeks. She also reported positive progress with a young child in the Partner Program; she also thanked Mr. Williams for helping her find curriculum books. Mrs. Kebler reported the total number of special education students has decreased by seven since December.

School Administration Report: Mr. Lampron reviewed the highlights of his report, which included an overview of professional development with Cynthia Merrill and how the teachers are learning to use the benchmark assessment kits. Deb Wilson was named Staff Member of the Month. Students competed in the spelling bee, with the winner representing the Paul School at the statewide spelling bee at Plymouth State University in March. Eighth graders toured Spaulding High School on Jan. 15. The Kindergarten Team held its third annual Alphabet Fashion Show on Jan. 17. Administrators also reviewed and answered questions regarding the December discipline data.

Transportation Report: Mrs. Peaslee reviewed the highlights of her report, updating the board on warranted repairs to buses, as well as providing an overview of how other, local school district transportation departments function and their fleet and budget numbers.

Business Administrator/Monthly Finance Report: Mrs. D'Agostino reviewed the highlights of the January 2020 Financial Report, which included Food Service Report, Capital Reserve Report, and supplemental reports on health, dental, and retirement benefits and salary. Mrs. D'Agostino said the final budget reports are due to the NH Department of Revenue Administration by Monday and asked board members to sign the documents including the default budget. Also, board members need to finalize the warrant. One more petition article came in after the last meeting, Article 19. A vote on the article is not required. Mr. Fogg asked if it was proper to make a motion to recommend that article. The motion failed for lack of a second.

CO2 Detectors: Mr. Williams discussed CO2 detectors and the possibility of getting them hard-wired into the system; the fire panel board is also getting older and it might be a good time to replace them at the same time. This is a topic he will bring up at the facilities committee meeting, then bring it back to the board's attention. Mr. Fogg asked Mr. Williams to investigate the wireless technology, unless the hardwires are already there, and come back to the board with a recommendation. Mr. Williams said they were already hardwired, and that he would look into wireless.

Warrant Article assignments at Deliberative Session

Board members made the following assignments regarding who will speak to which articles:

- Article 1 – Moderator
- Article 2 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 3 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 4 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 5 – Mr. Fogg
- Article 6 – Mrs. Johnson
- Article 7 – Mr. Ouellette
- Article 8 – Mrs. McCawley
- Article 9 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 10 – Mrs. McCawley
- Article 11 – Mrs. McCawley
- Article 12 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 13 – Mrs. Kolb
- Article 14 – Mr. Ouellette
- Article 15 – Mr. Fogg
- Article 16 – Mrs. Johnson
- Article 17 & 18 – Mr. Fogg & Mrs. Kolb

Article 19: no comment

Old Business:

NH School Boards Association Delegate Assembly: Mrs. Johnson asked how the board felt about the resolutions to be discussed at the upcoming delegates meeting. After board discussion, members concurred that they were confident with Mrs. Johnson's decisions at the meeting.

Miscellaneous Expenditures: The board approved, via separate motions, the following expenditures:

Motion moved by Mrs. Kolb seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve expenditure of a total \$676.16 for two separate legal notices. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mrs. Kolb seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve expenditure of \$917 for repairs to phones and speakers in classrooms. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Fogg seconded by Mrs. Kolb, to approve expenditure of \$438 for repairs to the interior front door (locksmith). Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Fogg seconded by Mrs. Kolb, to approve expenditure of \$600 for the printing of School District Annual Reports. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mrs. Kolb seconded by Mr. Fogg to approve expenditure of \$165.53 for office supplies. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Fogg seconded by Mrs. Johnson, to approve expenditure of \$229.62 for six cases of headphones. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Fogg seconded by Mrs. Johnson, to approve expenditure of \$264.51 for supplies for the Solar Spring Program. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

School Report Covers: Board members reviewed entries for the annual report cover art and selected a drawing by Piper Van Dine.

Public Comment: None

Non Public Session: Mrs. Kolb made a motion at approximately 7:29 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Johnson, to enter nonpublic session under the following provisions: 91-A:3, II (a): The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. 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 this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include 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. 91-A:3, II, (e): Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Roll call vote, 4-0, Ouellette, aye, Kolb, aye, Fogg, aye, Johnson, aye.

Upon reentering public session, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted:
Larissa Mulkern
Administrative Assistant