

Wakefield School Board
11-2-20 Public Minutes
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

Board: Bob Ouellette, Relf Fogg, Mary Collins, Lino Avellani and Sandy Johnson via Zoom

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Student Services Director Anne Kebler, Principal James Lampron
Facilities Manager Joe Williams

Public: Kenneth Day, Norma Joy, Jessica LaBav, Amanda Lyle, Heidi Smith, X and parents and community members via Zoom, Chris Faro, and Jim Miller from ClearView TV.

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.

Public Hearing

Postponed. The SAU hasn't heard back from DRA

Chris Faro, Café Services

Mr. Faro explained how the seven-day breakfast and lunch for the Seamless Summer option works and the cost for anyone under the age of 18. He supplied printed information for the Board. The seven-day expense would be \$261,258 with a total revenue of \$262,263, The five days would be \$257,938 with a revenue of \$256,568 which makes it about \$40,000 over the original budget and the revenues are about \$43,000 more than your original budget. So, the additional costs would be \$40,000 but your revenues would be about \$43,000. Reimbursement is officially in place until the end of the school year. The reimbursement rate for free lunch is for every child now. Wakefield can serve a meal to any child under 18. Feeding Spaulding students will raise the school's revenue.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Collins asked about the invoice for Bernard Williams for \$90,80 that says Business Lunch. She said I didn't think we paid for business lunches. Mr. Gregoire explained this was a yearly meal for the custodians. This year they went to the Pub.

Roll call: Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Mr. Avellani aye, Fogg nay (4-1)

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the public and non-public minutes of October 20th with any amendments offered. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Superintendents Report

Covid-19 Planning for the next quarter

we have several students who have indicated that they will be returning to face to-face learning. This will be taxing to some grade levels that are already facing challenges in maintaining social distancing between desks and at times students.

The Holiday Learning Plan that was presented at the last meeting and was voted on Thursday night and the Rochester School Board voted to begin remote learning after Thanksgiving until Jan 19. Since then there has been a decision to go directly to remote learning this Thursday. Should we decide to use remote instruction during the time between Thanksgiving and January 19th as proposed, it will be the expectation that teachers and staff will be documented to be working to be paid. I expect that we will still be providing meals through Cafe Services, for students who may continue to need meals, as well as we could expect that more meals may be necessary. Cafe Services would still be handing meals out at the school, if more meals are being distributed, we may need to increase our personnel to meet that need.

We continue to see a shortage of substitutes and paraprofessionals, while we have hired new substitutes, the building administrators continue to have difficulty covering the building when there are a higher number of staff absences. There were nine staff out last week. Some took a personal day. There is a good possibility that they will have to close the school at some period in the future

Capital improvement Committee Meeting

Mr. Fogg, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. D'Agostino and the Superintendent attended the CIP meeting. The CIP was presented and discussed and modified based on the discussion with the committee. The updated CIP is enclosed in the packet.

Budget

The first discussion for the budget will occur on Tuesday November 10th at 6pm in the Paul School gymnasium. The first meeting with the budget committee will be on November 16th at 6:30 pm.

Holiday Plan

Mr. Gregoire feels the Board should talk about the Holiday Plan. At the last meeting Mr. Avellani thought we should follow Rochester. He said I'm not proposing that we should blindly follow Rochester with what they're doing right now. Mr. Fogg did an informal survey over the

last few days. He told the Board that Saturday the Budget Committee met with outside agencies and many talked about the influx of clients and the importance of children being in school.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to not follow Rochester and keep the kids in school and continue with a remote option.

Mr. Fogg said with Rochester closing we no longer need to rent a bus. Mrs. Johnson said that the number of cases in Wakefield, over the last three weeks has gone from five cases of Covid in town to eleven. The state is averaging 120 cases a day, she is strongly for following Rochester after Thanksgiving through Martin Luther King Day. Mr. Fogg said the Covid Crisis Center at Huggins Hospital has been removed. Mrs. Johnson said she cannot support not following Rochester. Mrs. Collins heard from a lot of parents who want their children in school along with children who want to be there as well. The students are safe and she believes they can continue to be safe.

Mr. Ouellette believes that they should stick to their plan to revisit this at the end of the first quarter. Mr. Lampron said there are fourteen students planning to go from remote to in-school in the next quarter and one will go from to in-school remote. This is The information he received prior to Spaulding's decision. Mr. Fogg is concerned with the parents who have to work to make a living and the difficulties they would incur with not having their children in school. Mr. Ouellette's main concern is to keep the kids and staff safe . Mr. Gregoire feels they need to keep the kids in school as long as possible. He said when a decision to closed school because of Covid in the school that will have to be made in the moment and the parents will not be able to plan.

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

Old Business

Mr. Gregoire said five responses for the request for Legal Services are included in the Board Packet. Mr. Avellani asked if the Board opened up the bids and Mr. Gregoire said the open them up at the SAU.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to table this discussion until the next meeting. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

CIP

Mr. Fogg asked about the three-bay building and the structure removal replacement. Mr. Williams gave Mr. Fogg his thoughts and reasons on placement of the building. The ballfield would be switched from Little League field to a baseball field. Mrs. Collins is concerned about having a half basketball court that students asked for four years ago. The problem is where to put it. Mr. Gregoire said it might be able to be located it behind the eighth grade. Mr. Williams will look into this.

Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Gregoire said he sent out the correct evaluation tool to board members. Mr. Avellani did not get that email. Mr. Ouellette asked the Board members to fill out the evaluations, the Board will discuss them and have a meeting with the Superintendent, last year he did it with Jerry. (CIP Mr. Avellani asked how we could get bids on a bus in for \$93,000 when we're paying \$100,000? Mrs. D'Agostino explained that there was money still in the Trust Fund so we don't need the whole \$100,000.) Mr. Ouellette said let him know when you're ready to go and they could have a non-public to discuss the evaluation. Mr. Ouellette said put them in an envelope with his name on it and he'll pick them up there.

Ionization

Mr. Williams reported that the cost of the electrical work had come in higher than expected at \$9,760. Mrs. Johnson wants a copy sent to her. The total of the project would be \$34,970 for ionization plus the \$9,760 for the electrical. The money will come from the Cares Act. If the electrical goes out to bid it will extend this project. Mrs. Johnson said we need it now. We didn't bid it out for the ionization and Mr. Williams is happy with the electrician. She can't see putting this off. Mr. Ouellette asked if the school is Insafe and Mr. Williams answered no. He also said if he orders the items tomorrow, he's still looking for a four to six-week lead time.

Mr. Avellani asked how long it would take for Mr. Williams to put an RFP together? Mr. Williams said tomorrow

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to allow the Chairman to approve the RFP as presented by Mr. Williams, when it's ready, on behalf of the Board. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Food Service

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to continue the Seamless Summer Option to include the weekend (7 days a week) until June 30, 2021. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins nay, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

SAU Trust Fund Withdrawal Status

Mr. Gregoire said they are waiting for the State to respond to their email on whether they can withdraw the funds from the SAU Trust Fund. Mr. Gregoire said the question asked was is the SAU Trust Fund still applicable to the SAU since there is a feeling that the SAU is part of the school and can we withdraw funds from a Trust Fund that we continue to put funds into.

New Business

Superintend Services

Mr. Gregoire presented the letter he plans to send out, with Board approval. This is a letter asking if another district would be willing to take on SAU 101 as a customer. Mr. Gregoire will send this out to school districts within fifty miles.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the letter Mr. Gregoire presented to the Board. Mrs. Johnson asked for a ruling as it seemed strange to her that you

could utilize another superintendent and still keep you SAU status. Something about that rubs her the wrong way. Mr. Fogg said this has been utilized in Wilmington. This is not a new practice.

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

Mr. Gregoire will submit a list to the Board of all the districts he sends the letter to.

Judith Nason Memorial Fund

Mr. Gregoire explained that the fund was set up specifically for the Judith Nason Memorial Footbridge from the parking lot to the SAU. Mr. Ouellette said Mrs. Blackwood reached out to him and he told her this would be purely informational. Mr. Gregoire read the intent of the Trust Fund and said, clearly the footbridge comes before anything else. Mr. Fogg said there is a way to circumvent the \$14,000 architect design. There is an alternative to the bridge and we can still have a pathway to the SAU from the parking lot. We could utilize an oblong culvert like they used to go under Pine River Pond Road. It would be a dry culvert and he suggested making it eight feet wide. He talked with Robbie Nason today and he doesn't want anything but this Trust to be honored. Mr. Fogg will get a price and keep Mr. Williams in the loop. Mr. Ouellette said there is \$10,235 in the Fund presently and anyone can still donate to this memorial Fund.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Mr. Fogg exercising his expertise in researching this culvert. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson abstain, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-0-1)

Policies

Mrs. Collins said there was no policy meeting held prior to these policies going to the Board.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to table these policies until the next meeting. Mr. Avellani asked to make sure the names of the Board members are corrected.

Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson abstain, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-0-1)

Other Business

Mrs. D'Agostino told the Board that the tax rate decreased by nine cents and is now \$12.38.

Non-Public

Mr. Gregoire asked to have the Negotiation one first in order to get the staff out and home.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to go into non-public at 8:31 under RSA 91-A 3:11 (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 tax or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant and RSA 91-A 3:11 (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by

or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

The Board exited non-public at 10:10 While in non-public the Board discussed negotiations and the parent concerns.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 10:11. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting.

Priscilla Colbath
Secretary Pro Temp