

Wakefield School Board
12-1-20 Public Minutes
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

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

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino,
Principal James Lampron all via Zoom
Facilities Manager Joe Williams

Public: Sandra Taliaferro, Norma Joy, parents and community members via Zoom and Jim Miller
ClearView TV

Call to Order

Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:05 and led those present in person and on zoom in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda.
Roll call: Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Mr. Avellani aye, Fogg nay (4-1)**

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of November 10th with any amendments offered. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Avellani, to approve the minutes of November 17th with any amendments offered. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Reports

School Administration Report

Mr. Lampron informed the Board that Parent/teacher conferences took place on November 19th and 20th, These were held via Zoom or over the phone and provided opportunities for both parties to discuss successes and challenges. Mr. Kearns organized a clothing drive fundraiser to benefit the 8th grade. the fundraiser was met with so much success, that they exceeded their goal of 2,500 lbs. worth of donations. They scheduled a second donation in January and raised the

weight goal to 5,000 lbs. Nice job Mr. Kearns, the 8th grade class and everyone who participated.

Quarter I Report cards were mailed home Tuesday, 11/24. Administration visited each middle school classroom to share behavior data and review expectations, we then sent a letter to middle school parents asking them to work collaboratively with us to support our mission to make the Paul School experience a positive one for all. Administration continues to meet bi-weekly, with their respective mentors. I meet with the Superintendent from SAU 72 and Jenn meets with a former principal from SAU 9.

We hosted a remote community day. A student performed the national anthem. We recognized outstanding students for the month of November. There was a special presentation recognizing Cassily Gould. We reviewed the current positive behavior reinforcer. We brought students on a tour of the obscure parts of the building. Classroom teachers watched the video with their students or posted it for them to watch at their leisure. It's also posted on our Facebook Page. Theresa Drum was nominated by her peers as the Outstanding Staff Member for the month of November. Upcoming Dates: Friday December 18 Halfway through Quarter 2.

Thursday 12/24/20 - Friday 1/1/21 Christmas Break.

Mr. Avellani asked if the question asked by a parent has been sent out to the Board yet. He replied that he had it printed out and is ready to hand it out anytime.

Mrs. Spector gave the Behavior Report to the Board. Mrs. Johnson asked how they are handling the biggest problem, defiance. Mrs. Spector explained that we are a PBIS school and follow that protocol. She gave some examples.

Old Business

Bid for RFP- Hardware Electrical for Ionization

Mr. Williams said they only received one bid and he had reached out to a couple other companies. Northern Electric is the company that gave the original estimate of \$9,760. They're short people and can't do the job. CDS came in with a bid of \$9,657.72. Mr. Williams said they come highly recommended. Mrs. Johnson asked about the number of bids that came in.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg to accept CDS bid for \$9,657.72 for electrical for ionization units. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Legal Services Bid Response

The companies who responded to the RFP's are: Drummond & Woodsum; Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward and Loughman; Sulloway & Hollis; Upton & Hatfield; and Wadleigh, Star & Peters. Mrs. Johnson said three of them had no figures for Special Education. She said her preference is to stay with who we have now.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to stay with Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward and Loughman for our legal services. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins nay, Johnson aye, Fogg nay, Avellani nay (Vote 2-3)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to accept Drummond & Woodsum for our new legal services provider.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mrs. Collins why she chose that firm and if she can't give her a good reason, she can't support it. Mrs. Collins replied that they are very experienced and reading the profiles they are very accomplished. Mr. Ouellette said they are more expensive than Soule, Leslie and Kidder. Mr. Collins said that was her motion and she chose the company that she thought would work best for the school. She asked to move the motion.

Roll call: Ouellette nay, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 3-2)

Mr. Ouellette asked Mr. Gregoire to get a fee cost for Special Education, Court Time and Paralegals.

Superintendent Services

Mr. Gregoire told the Board that he had some response from a number of school districts and most have declined because with the current circumstances they have enough on their plate. A couple in the area are seeking clarification as to what you are looking for, superintendent services overseeing the current business office or a superintendent taking on other duties as well. Mr. Fogg asked that the questions these districts are asking be sent to the Board members so they can provide accurate answers. He will scan and send tomorrow. This will be on the next agenda.

Budget

Mr. Fogg said last night's Budget Committee meeting went fairly well with some Budget Committee members feeling that funds were being removed from the operating budget and added to warrant articles as one-time expenditures. Mr. Fogg asked about Mr. Williams special projects line. Mr. Williams responded that all the quotes are ready and will have them ready for discussion at the next Board meeting and ready for the Budget Committee on the 21st. Mr. Avellani would like to have a budget meeting prior to the 21st. The Board decided to meet on December 8th as a regular meeting/ workshop and non-public if needed.

New Business

WSB Scholarship

There was some discussion about the scholarship question. The scholarship is made out to the student and given out at the eighth-grade graduation. Mr. Gregoire said he would check to see if there are any rules that go along with this scholarship.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to get suggestions from the teachers for the question. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Gregoire said he would go back to the middle school teachers for questions that the Board could choose from.

Feasibility Committee

Mrs. Taliaferro asked the Board where they would like this committee to go from here. She asked if the Board wanted to go back to the original Withdrawal Plan and see what the surrounding towns are doing to make a parttime superintendent position work? They sent out a questionnaire to sixteen schools and have received responses from six. Mrs. Joy said we were

charged with seeing if a parttime superintendent was feasible but through budget cuts, you've made that decision. Would you like us to look into the different positions? We have reached out to a number of surrounding towns and we have some great information how their running their SAU's very efficiently. Would the Board like us to continue on this path or disband? Mrs. Collins would like more information on how the other SAU's use their positions. Mrs. Joy said Alton is partnering with two other districts and their superintendent is looking to go parttime. Mr. Gregoire said Dover has declined supplying services and Pam Stiles, Alton's superintendent will be retiring but Somersworth may possibly be interested. Mrs. Taliaferro said we stuck with schools comparable to ours. Mr. Fogg said this information is extremely helpful and he'd like to see this committee continue. Mr. Gregoire asked that their information be sent to him and Mrs. Taliaferro said she would ask the same, the schools contacted and questions asked from the districts he sent letters to. The Board was in favor of the committee continuing to gather information about positions and whether they are parttime or full time, until they feel they have completed their task. And provide recommendations to the Board with the facts you have gathered. Mr. Ouellette said that this committee was set up to see if going to a parttime superintendent was feasible and nothing else. He said the warrant article that didn't pass was to look at the rest of the SAU office did not pass so that's where we stand today. Mrs. Collins said and now we are asking for more information. Mr. Ouellette said that's going against the warrant article that was voted down. Mrs. Joy said we came here to ask if the Board wanted us to continue and change the direction of our committee to bring recommendations forth now that the superintendent will be parttime. There was some discussion about all Board members not receiving information in a timely fashion from the Superintendent.

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Collins, to ask the subcommittee to carry on with their mission until they believe it's accomplished. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Policies

Second Reading

Policy JH: Recommend adopting. #5 added

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mr. Avellani to adopt Policy JH. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Policy JI: Recommend reaffirming. No changes.

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mr. Avellani to reaffirm Policy JI. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Policy JFABD: Recommend adopting policy from NHSBA. No changes

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mr. Avellani to adopt Policy JFABD. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins would like to thank Michelle Lambert as she will be the one who will get these policies ready for our policy books.

Other Business

Pioneer Valley Books is a resource for our K-2 grade students. This is a supplement for Fountas and Pinnell. The cost is \$14,197.50. Mr. Avellani said we should have this information in our packets. This will come out of the Curriculum/Text Books budget line. This will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Fogg asked Mr. Gregoire if it was possible to reach out to Jamie Vollmer who started The Community Engagement Project. The WEA shared information with the community last year.

Public Comment

Mrs. Nicole Dollaher expressed her dissatisfaction with some Board choices. Mr. Fogg and Mrs. Collins explained the reason for the cuts and that no person has been cut. Faith Merrill asked Mr. Fogg if he felt the cuts would make the school better or worse. Mr. Fogg said he believes that the school will be better. Mr. Paul Johnson was unhappy the way his wife was treated when the Chair reminded her it was Public Comment. He said during Public Comment the Board is not supposed to respond and she was trying to tell him that. Stacey ?, driver of the purple bus asked how the Board expects to run the buses without a boss? Mrs. Joy said other SAU's are running efficiently with parttime staff. Emily Bushman said she agreed with Stacey.

Correspondence

Water Department Request

Mr. Fogg said last night one of the Sanbornville Water Precinct Commissioners approached him with a Site Action Agreement seeking Board approval to allow the Precinct to do a few test drills on the South/South East portion of the property to seek water sources. They would like it in writing. Mr. Avellani expects the precinct to issue a bond or insurance indemnifying them and be responsible for any damage caused to the property. Mr. Ouellette is willing to sign it and bring it to the SAU tomorrow if it's the Board will.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to give the Chairman permission to sign this as long as long as the insurance binders are included. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Resignations/Nominations

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to accept the resignation of Bailey Tasker with regret. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Non-Public

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to go into non-public at 8:02 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 under 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 nay, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-1)

Mrs. Johnson chose not to enter non-public.

The Board reentered public session at 9:48.

During non-public the Board discussed negotiations, employee compensation and not renewing a contract.

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Collins, to seal the minutes of the nonpublic portion until negotiations are complete. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-0)

Adjournment

Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye (Vote 4-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting.

Priscilla Colbath

Secretary Pro Temp