

**AREA Joint Board Meeting  
Spaulding High School Library**

April 29, 2019

6 p.m.

Approved Minutes

**Wakefield School Board Members Present:** Chair Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair Tracey Kolb, Members Jen McCawley and Sandy Johnson;

**SAU 101 Administration Present:** Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Student Services Director Anne Kebler, Administrative Assistant Larissa Mulkern

**Rochester School Board Members Present:** Chair Paul Lynch, Matthew Pappas, Robert Watson, Matthew Beaulieu, Anne Grassie

**Also present:** Rochester School Department Superintendent Michael Hopkins, Assistant Supt. Kyle Repucci, SHS Principal Justin Roy; SHS Asst. Principal Jason Bushway; Christiane Allison, Student Services Director; Lori Gay, Special Education Coordinator; Kevin Hebert, Athletic Director; Jenna Kotsosis; Michelle Halligan-Foley, CTE Director; Cherie Mann, Admin. Asst./Superintendent's Office

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Introductions of board members and staff followed.

**Special Education Calculation**

Mr. Hopkins reviewed Special Education rates for Wakefield students; a handout was provided. A synopsis: Special education students are charged regular rate tuition plus costs for whatever services they receive. Those costs are added to the bills that come out three times a year. Anyone discharged is only billed for the time they receive services. Bills are based on staff hourly rates, including FICA and retirement. Costs vary depending on type of services, frequency, and length of session. There is not a set amount for each student. Case Management is billed at \$550 per year, \$183.33 per billing cycle; Spaulding Special Ed Secretary is billed at 2.5 hours per week based on her hourly rate. An example of an invoice was provided. The paraprofessional rate is divided by the number of students.

**Enrollment Percent Calculation**

Mrs. McCawley said she wasn't happy with the enrollment percentage calculation as it results in a low number for students who would like to attend high school other than at Spaulding. Eleven students asked to be in the lottery for only two open slots at Kingswood Regional High School this year. She said Spaulding High School is a big school and not all kids fit here. Mr. Hopkins said years ago, when the original request came from the Wakefield board, the situation was that they had a few kids living on the border of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District; that was the reason for the percentage. Our board agreed, and a committee came up with 10 percent. There was a request from one Wakefield Board member to offer unlimited, and that would be impossible for the Rochester School Department to plan its cashflow. Mr. Hopkins added from there, it took about three years for the AREA agreement to go through the state NH DOE and back to voters in Wakefield. He said the Rochester board needs consistency. Mrs. McCawley said the number of Wakefield students at SNS isn't that big and that there should be some way to negotiate that. Mr. Hopkins said the AREA agreement is what the department must follow; Mr. Pappas said he understands Mrs. McCawley's

concerns; people who move to Wakefield should understand their children will go to Spaulding High School. Mr. Hopkins added that if at some time there is support from the board to go above 10 percent, an amended agreement would have to go to the Commissioner and the Board of Education, then back to the voters, then back to the Department of Education. Discussion ensued regarding this year's lottery, the waiting list, and small number of slots. Mrs. Kolb asked about mutually agreeing to create a committee to look at the AREA agreement again. Mr. Hopkins noted that a few years back there weren't as many seniors, so you had a higher percentage of freshmen, now all those students must have stayed; now its back to where there are fewer spots left – or, as kids left as sophomores and juniors, does Wakefield want to move students up from the waiting list? Mr. Lynch said the board would be willing to sit and talk about it. It is a very slow-moving ship, but we can have that conversation. Mrs. Kebler noted that in the past two years, it seems the waiting list is problematic in terms of making the numbers smaller and smaller. This may be something to think about.

### **Other topics**

**Data:** Mrs. Kolb asked about getting data on the Wakefield students at Spaulding High School.

Mr. Hopkins said data can be pulled from Infinite Campus. They also get an end of year survey from the National Clearing House that tracks students for four years. They can pull last year's information for Wakefield students.

Attendees discussed tracking methods of Wakefield students who may move from one school district to another.

### **Two percent fee**

Mrs. Kolb inquired about the two percent school rental fee that is charged to Wakefield; she noted RSA 194:21 which passed after the districts entered into the AREA agreement, eliminated the two percent fee. It was agreed to have attorneys from both districts talk to one another.

Mrs. Kebler said last year they talked about learning more about the alternative programs at the Rochester School Department, and how students can access different alternative programs. Discussion ensued regarding information sharing and outreach. Attendees also discussed existing tours for students coming into Spaulding, various information sessions and the potential of hosting some sessions in Wakefield. Links to information on the Spaulding website can be installed on the SAU 101 site.

Discussion wrapped up at approximately 6:35 p.m., at which time members were invited to a tour of the Creteau Technology Center addition.