

Wakefield School Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2019
Approved

Board members present: Vice Chair Tracey Kolb, and Members Jen McCawley, Relf Fogg and Sandy Johnson [Mrs. McCawley joining the meeting in progress at 6:37 p.m.];

Board members absent: Chair Bob Ouellette

Administration, staff: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Student Services Director Anne Kebler, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Paul School Principal James Lampron; others in attendance included WSB Treasurer Carlene Stewart, Mindy Blanner, Steve Brown, and Donna Martin of Clearview TV

Call to Order: Vice Chair Kolb called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance flag salute.

Public Hearing

Expenditure of funds from the Special Education Trust Fund. The public hearing opened to discuss the expenditure of \$107,000 out of \$107,250.90 in the 2010 Educating Educationally Disabled Children trust fund account. Mrs. Kolb made a motion to move the item for discussion, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Discussion ensued, with queries related to savings projections; how much this would offset the SPED deficit, source of deficits, various budget lines, salary and benefits, out-of-district service costs and placements. **Vote on Motion:** Mrs. Kolb made a motion to expend \$107,000 out of the \$107,250.90 in the 2010 Educating Educationally Disabled Children trust fund account, leaving \$250.90 to keep the fund open, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Members voted 4-0 all in favor, Kolb, aye, Johnson, aye, McCawley, aye, Fogg, aye.

Mrs. Kolb addressed Wakefield School District policies BEDD (Board meeting – Rules of Procedure & Order) and BEDH (Public Participation at Board Meetings). She read the policies. She said public comment is on the agenda and will be limited to three minutes. Mr. Fogg said the board has violated this policy; there had been some discussion at a prior meeting, and he had suggested the nonpublic session be moved to the end of the agenda. Holding the public comment session before the nonpublic session is contrary to the policy. He asked the Acting Chair to consider moving 'nonpublic session', if necessary to tonight's meeting, to the end of the meeting. Mrs. Kolb agreed with the request and added that there is no nonpublic session needed at this meeting.

Mr. Fogg noted that the Vice Chair skipped over the first public comment session. Mrs. Kolb apologized and invited the public to comment; there was no comment.

After a brief discussion of the policies BEDD and BEDH, it was agreed that the WSB Policy Committee would review these two policies.

Consent Agenda, Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda (Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests); member voted 3-1, Kolb, aye, McCawley, aye, Johnson, aye, Fogg, nay.

Meeting Minutes, Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the public and nonpublic minutes with any amendments offered, seconded by Mrs. McCawley. In the May 7 minutes, Mrs. Johnson noted that there was no vote indicated regarding approving the Consent Agenda. **Motion:** Mrs. Kolb made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 7 meeting; Mr. Fogg seconded the motion; members voted 3-1, Kolb, aye, McCawley, aye, Johnson, aye, Fogg, nay.

The minutes of the Goals Workshop held May 14 were inadvertently left out of the board packet and will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Mrs. Kebler noted the district may see some unanticipated revenues via Medicaid reimbursements. Mr. Gregoire continues to pursue funds due to the district via E-rate reimbursement.

Reports:

Business Administrator: Mrs. D'Agostino reviewed the monthly Finance Report for May 2019 including highlights of the Food Service report and Capital Reserve Report and Fund 100 Expense Report.

Principal's Report: Mr. Lampron reviewed highlights of his April 2019 Principal's Report. Activities included visits to other schools to observe and discuss student support center, and to view the physical layout of another school's Partner Program. Kindergarten registration was held on May 3, with 40 students registered plus another three anticipated to come in on May 22. The Tigers (Theater Integrating Guidance, Education and Responsibility) came from Plymouth State and performed to students in grades K-4. At Community Day, 7th grade made teacher Jessica Cormier was awarded Employee of the Month. He and School Resource Officer Landry visited each class in grades 5-8 to address comments regarding guns, and the recent school shootings in Colorado. Standardized testing starts on Tuesday, May 21 through Wednesday, June 5.

A discussion ensued regarding discipline, alternatives to school suspensions, the need for mindfulness to be taught in schools, and the need for clear parameters with regards to consequences to bad behavior needs to be established.

Motion: Mrs. McCawley made a motion seconded by Mr. Fogg to permit the Paul School kindergarten class to travel to Maine for a field trip to York's Wild Kingdom. Members voted all in favor, 4-0.

Transportation Report

Mrs. Peaslee reviewed her report. She attended NH School Transportation Association training in Nashua during April break and found it very beneficial. She passed her state certification training. She attended Kindergarten registration.

Transportation Committee Update

Requests for Quotes had been sent out to five companies for a 77-passenger school bus and a 13 plus 1 passenger (wheelchair) school bus. Only one bid was submitted, from W.C. Cressey & Son. The recommendation from the committee is to follow up with W.C. Cressey & Son, with the bid price of \$61,570 for the 13- plus 1-passenger wheelchair school bus, and \$89,913 for a 77-passenger school bus. A price quote for a mini-van from Tri-City Dodge \$28,066 plus service manual and warranty, good for 20 days from May 16, was also received. No other bids were received for the mini-van.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to accept the Transportation Committee recommendation to accept the bid from W.C. Cressey & Son, seconded by Mrs. McCawley. Members voted 4-0 in favor. It was noted that the expenditure is included in next year's budget. Mrs. Peaslee has learned of a New Hampshire bid website where vehicles are listed. She will check after July 1 to see if any minivans are available, prior to reaching out to dealerships.

Old Business

Mr. Gregoire acknowledged he had made a mistake by calling for a nonpublic session May 7th regarding the appointment of a school board deputy treasurer. He has learned that appointments should be done in public session. He asked to revisit the motion to appoint Priscilla Colbath as deputy treasurer. Mr. Fogg made a motion to nominate Mrs. Colbath as deputy treasurer; the motion failed with no second.

Mr. Gregoire added that he has received another recommendation for deputy treasurer, Howie Knight, who has served on many public boards.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion seconded by Mr. Fogg to nominate Mr. Knight as deputy treasurer. The motion passed 4-0 all in favor.

National History Day & Washington, D.C. trip for eighth grade

Mr. Gregoire reported successful fund raising for the eighth grade Washington, D.C. trip, with well over \$1,500 donated. The students will meet with U.S. Congresswomen Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan. Regarding the National History Day trip with five students traveling to the national competition in Washington, D.C. in June, Mrs. Kolb noted a fundraising event at Cindy's Place restaurant in East Wakefield on May 28; flyers were distributed. All food and labor will be donated, and all proceeds go to the student's travel expenses. Carleen Stewart added they need to raise about \$7,500 for the five students headed to Washington, D.C.

Wakefield School Board Scholarship

Members read and chose the winning essay for this year's scholarship and chose the essay numbered anonymously as "1". The scholarship will be announced at the Spaulding High School Awards night.

New Business

Climate & Culture

Mr. Fogg said the board and staff are looked upon as leaders and that our behaviors should recognize that. Climate and culture can be improved. Children observe parents and others getting away with less than honorable actions, he added, and they pick up on negative behavior. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gregoire added that a climate and culture survey has been conducted at the Paul School and the results are being tabulated. He said we're in a culture of incivility and kids do what we do. We should call each other out when we're being uncivil and lead the school. He will share the survey results when they are available. Mrs. Johnson said we're here to serve the public and a good first step was to push the board meeting start time to 6 p.m. Mrs. Kebler praised the board for having this discussion.

Curriculum Goals: Discussion continued regarding the differences in educating children now and 50 years ago.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to continue the meeting beyond 8 p.m. Members voted 4-0 in favor.

Purpose of Nonpublic session: Mr. Fogg had previously distributed a DVD of a workshop on the Right to Know law, from 2009. He had a problem with the nonpublic

session at last meeting. Mrs. Johnson said Mr. Gregoire had already admitted the mistake and learned the lesson.

Other Business:

Water District grant request: Mrs. Kolb said she received information about the water district having applied for an emergency grant – they cannot apply on their own, but via the Town of Wakefield. The funds would be used to create a loop to get water to the school, residences and town businesses. The grants are highly needed. It would be in the best interest of the town, school and homes to get this grant. The Water District has requested a letter of support. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to authorize the Superintendent to send a letter of support for the Water District’s application for the grant. Members voted all in favor, 4-0, Fogg, aye, McCawley, aye, Kolb, aye, Johnson, aye.

Correspondence:

Members discussed a letter from a parent whose child was interested in attending Kingswood Regional High School for her freshman year.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to discuss the letter. Mrs. McCawley discussed the lottery system whereby only a percentage of slots are available. Those slots are filled. Mr. Gregoire added that lottery entrants submit their names/intent by December 1 and the lottery is usually drawn the first school board meeting in January. Out of 11 students, only two got in for next year.

Consensus: Board members reached a consensus to honor the existing waiting list and no further action was taken on this request.

Mr. Gregoire responded to a community member’s list of queries.

Further discussion ensued regarding whether to continue to allow two public comment periods during a school board meeting, whether the comment period should be at the beginning or end of the meeting. The practice has been to hold two sessions, one at the beginning and another at the end of the meeting. Mr. Fogg favored keeping two public comment periods; policies can’t be changed on a whim. Mrs. Kolb said policy BEDH [Public Participation at Board Meetings] states that time will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting and prior to starting nonpublic session] meaning one public comment session. Mrs. Johnson suggested that the policy should be reviewed by the Policy Committee, who will then report back to the board with any changes.

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion seconded by Mrs. McCawley to allow Steve Brown to speak for three minutes. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Mr. Brown said when he was on the board the nonpublic session was held at the end of a meeting; Climate and Culture has been discussed for years and a lot of the problems started with the administrators. This board is the problem.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. was made by Mrs. Kolb and seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Members voted 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Mulkern
Administrative Assistant