

**Wakefield School Board Meeting**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 16, 2019**  
**Approved**

**Present, Board Members & Staff:** Chair Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair Tracey Kolb, Board Member Sandy Johnson, Board Member Relf Fogg, Facilities Manager Joe Williams, Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Manager Joe Williams, Transportation Manager Brennan Peaslee, Principal James Lampron, Music Teacher Trevor Frost, Administrative Assistant Larissa Mulkern, Facilities; **Board member absent:** Jen McCawley

**Public:** Donna Martin, Clearview TV, Dave Lee, Doug Soares, Mary Wing Soares, Beth Hanley

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

**Public Comments:** Mr. Lee discussed his concerns with the Public Comment sessions not allowing for commentary during any point in the meeting. Members responded.

**Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolb, to approve the consent agenda [AP & Payroll manifests]. Members voted 3-1, Ouellette, aye, Johnson, aye, Kolb, aye, Fogg, nay.

Mr. Fogg asked members if there is enough concern to currently freeze the budget. Mrs. Johnson said it was too early to freeze the budget and the miscalculations that occurred previously that resulted in problems have been corrected. Most of the budget overage was in Special Education; other function areas are fine. The board receives and reviews monthly financial reports. Mrs. Kolb said regular education would be negatively affected if having to face yet a third year of budget freeze. Mrs. Kebler noted that from a Special Ed perspective, some lines in the budget are nonnegotiable and others are negotiable.

**Meeting Minutes:** Mrs. Kolb abstained from voting on the July 9 nonpublic meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the public and nonpublic meeting minutes of June 18 and July 9; the motion was amended to separate the dates. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the minutes of the June 18 meeting. Members voted all in favor 4-0;

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the minutes of the July 9 meeting; members vote in favor 3-0-1 with Mrs. Kolb abstaining.

### **Principal's Report:**

Mr. Lampron reviewed the highlights of his June 2019 Principal's Report, which included: overview of graduations and step-up day activities; attendance at an administrator's retreat; and update on the NH State Assessment System scores; interviews for open positions, and a list of upcoming dates. One event is a Social Emotional Learning conference July 25-26 that includes 14 educators from the Paul School; Mrs. Kebler noted this Professional Development is funded through a grant.

### **Transportation Report**

Mrs. Peaslee reviewed the bids she received from four dealerships for a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan, with pricing good until July 30, 2019. She noted that the vehicle from Bonneville & Son, with a quote for \$24,585, was preferred since it was not equipped with Bluetooth; this is better for legality as drivers using Bluetooth while driving would lose [school bus] certification if they are caught. Mr. Fogg noted this vehicle would take away that temptation. However, Mrs. Kolb asked if this was worth the additional \$1000. Berlin Auto Group quoted \$23,433; Poulin Dodge, \$24,225 (delivered); and Crest Auto, \$26,732. Mrs. Kolb said she thinks we should go with the less expensive van. Mr. Gregoire noted the travel involved if the choice was Berlin City Auto Group. Members discussed whether Bluetooth could be disabled in the other vehicles, and whether dealers could deliver. Mrs. Johnson noted that all the prices are still lower than what was approved in the warrant article for the new van.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to accept the bid from Bonneville & Son for \$24,585 for the sole reason it eliminates the Bluetooth issue; Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. Member voted 3-1, with Mr. Ouellette, Mr. Fogg and Mrs. Johnson voting in favor and Mrs. Kolb opposed to the motion.

### **Facilities Manager Report:**

Mr. Williams updated the board on summer cleaning, learning centers' construction progress, and school beautification – there's a new black and white paint scheme for the Paul School to coincide with The Panthers school theme. The walls will be painted

white with a 21-inch horizontal black stripe throughout, upon which children's palm prints can be imprinted. Mr. Lampron said this will give the school a fresh new look and instill the theme that "we're all Panthers."

**Sound System Bids:**

Music Teacher Trevor Frost discussed the bids for sound equipment for the gymnasium and stage areas. Eight companies were contacted and invited to bid; two companies responded to the Request for Quote: Sound Resort of Gilford, NH, [with a quote of \$10,755.62] and Technical Sound and Video Service Company, South Berwick, Maine, who presented two quotes, one at \$8,191.42, and one at \$10,336.33, which included a CD recorder that would allow the music class to record and share music, concerts, etc., with the parents and community.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to accept the bid from Technical Sound and Video Service for \$10,336.33. Members voted all in favor, 4-0. Ouellette, aye, Fogg, aye, Johnson, aye, Kolb, aye. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

Mr. Fogg said he put this on the agenda to make sure the school district understands it has a responsibility to be public and transparent; he added we're moving in the right direction. He thanked Mr. Gregoire for providing information pursuant to his 91-A requests. Discussion ensued regarding access to sealed nonpublic minutes and the depiction of meetings regarding health care plans and benefits with staff and company representatives as nonmeetings.

Mrs. Kolb asked Mr. Gregoire how much time has gone into responding to 91-a (Right to Know law) requests. He responded about 46 hours since he started tracking in June, and that he hasn't calculated legal fees.

Mrs. Johnson added that a couple weeks ago she asked when negotiations between labor unions and negotiators can be made public; Mr. Gregoire had sought out information from both the NH School Board Association and the School's counsel, and that the information could be released after negotiations are ratified. Health care discussions are an extension of negotiations, he said, and read the attorney's advice from an email.

**Policies:**

**Second Reading**

JICD: Student Discipline and Due Process

Motion: Mrs. Kolb made a motion to accept the updated JICD Policy, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

GBEC & ABD: Drug Free Workplace and Drug Free Schools (identical policies, both required by law at this time.

**Motion:** Mrs. Kolb made a motion to adopt policies GBEC and ABD. Mrs. Johnson seconded. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

**Correspondence:**

Mrs. Kolb shared a message from Beth Fox of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District regarding disappointment with the Governor's veto of the proposed budget that sought property tax relief, an action disappointing to schools and taxpayers, she said.

**Resignations/Nominations:**

Mr. Gregoire shared a letter of resignation from pre-school teacher Kerri Hughes who is leaving to take a new position.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to accept with regret Ms. Hughes' resignation, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

**Teacher Nominations:**

Mr. Gregoire shared two Intent to Hire sheets, one for Kristin Penley, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher replacement for Jenn Kuehl, at a salary of \$47,490, and Cathy Olson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher. Mr. Lampron noted that both applicants really nailed the in-class interviews. While uncertain at this time as to what benefits will cost, Mr. Gregoire noted the district will still save money over the prior salaries.

**Motion:** Mrs. Kolb made a motion to approve the Intent to Hire of Ms. Penley; seconded by Mr. Fogg. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the Intent to Hire of Ms. Olson, seconded by Mrs. Kolb. Members voted all in favor 4-0.

Mr. Gregoire added that since the board is not meeting again for three weeks, he is seeking authority to hire to fill vacancies prior to bringing the paperwork to the board. One open position is library media specialist and there may be other vacancies in the event internal candidates are selected. It takes a while to get background checks completed, which must be done for every candidate, for each school district to which they apply.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to give Mr. Gregoire the authority to hire prior to board approval for the remainder of the summer, as long as it doesn't impact the bottom line of the budget. Mrs. Kolb seconded. Members voted all in favor, 4-0.

**Motion:** Mrs. Kolb made a motion at 7:44 p.m. to enter nonpublic session and cited the following RSA: RSA 91-A:3 II, (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. Mr. Fogg seconded the motion. Roll call vote 4-0, Ouellette, aye, Fogg, aye, Johnson, aye, Kolb, aye.

Returning to public session at 7:59 p.m., Mr. Fogg made the motion seconded by Mrs. Kolb to approve the security quote from One Source Security for \$35,945. Members voted all in favor, 4-0, Ouellette, aye, Kolb, aye, Johnson, aye, Fogg aye.

Adjournment: Mrs. Kolb made a motion seconded by Mrs. Johnson to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. members voted 3-0-1, Ouellette, aye, Johnson, aye, Kolb, aye, Fogg, abstaining.

Respectfully submitted:  
Larissa Mulkern  
Administrative Assistant