

Wakefield School Board Meeting  
Tuesday August 18, 2020 6 p.m.  
Meeting held in the gym and remotely via Zoom  
Minutes-DRAFT

**Present:** In person - Bob Ouellette, Chair, Relf Fogg, Vice Chair, members- Mary Collins; Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Principal Jim Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector, Facilities Manager Joe Williams, Transportation Manager Brennan Peaslee, Clearview TV, and others.

Via Zoom- members Tracey Kolb, Sandy Johnson, and others.

**Call to Order:** Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. followed by the pledge of Allegiance.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **Motion:** Mrs. Johnson made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Collins seconded it. Roll call, 4-1; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay.

### **Presentations**

### **Public Comment**

- Nichole Dolaher-parent
  - What happened from last week to this week?
    - Ms. Collins and Mr. Fogg have always wanted the school open five days a week. Mr. Ouellette explained that he heard from a lot of parents concerned about hybrid and who wanted in person learning so he changed his decision. Mrs. Kolb preferred full time and masks but felt the hybrid would have solved the transportation problem. Mrs. Johnson preferred a hybrid but supports masks.
  - When is the cleaning day?
    - Full custodial staff who will be continuously cleaning doorknobs, bathrooms,
    - Nighttime regular cleaning with Friday evening as a deep clean
- Dave Silcocks-parent
  - Concerns about mandated masks
  - Haven't heard anything about a child with positive antibodies wear a mask
    - Students who are confirmed to have COVID shouldn't have to wear a mask
  - We don't want to instill fear

- Wants full time school, okay with mandatory masks for students unless proven to have already had COVID
- Hasn't received survey or any information
- Gavin Kearns-staff
  - Appreciated masks, makes teachers feel a lot better
  - If masks are not mandated for PK-2, they also won't be socially distanced with most students coming back now
  - Concerns about the number of students in class now will make teaching challenging
  - Science around COVID says lots of things and we don't know enough yet
- Sandra Taliaferro-parent
  - Thank you for reconsidering this, I know you can't make everyone happy. I appreciate the re-vote and going back to school full-time.
  - Will school still start at 9:00
    - Yes, buses still need to be cleaned after high school run.
  - Will we know how much COVID money we got and how it's being spent?
  - Will anything be done with the school ventilation?
    - Air quality test will be done tomorrow. Air handlers in different parts of the building. New windows will aid in ventilation. MERV 14 or HEPA, we can't do that with our system; our motors will burn out quickly and be very costly. We are looking at installing HEPA filters in some places. There will be more information brought to the next board meeting.
- Randie Fox-parent
  - Struggling with the process of how the board got to the new decision. Wasn't aware this was even going to come up.
  - How are we making this decision if we haven't figured out the MOA from the union?
  - Does it need to be adopted? Is it a vote?
    - There's a lot in there that is contradictory to what was voted on and seems unrealistic and needs to be looked at
  - Have we hired more staff for cleaning?
- Lisa Wunderlich-staff
  - DHHS and School Nurse's Association best practices are for everyone to wear masks. The best way to protect students and everyone in school is with mask wearing and social distancing.
  - Current temp is 100.0 but if that changes, it will be communicated to administration
- Keri Palmer Dow-parent

- Daughter going into 2nd grade; temperature has been taken, and students need to wash hands immediately upon entering. Daughter will wear a mask on the bus, in the halls.
- Concerns about not busing students from the children center. We pay taxes and the child care center does as well. They need to be bused.
- Mary Collins
  - Can the bus go back around and pick up the daycare?
    - There needs to be 20-25 minutes for the disinfectant to work

**Motion:** Mrs. Johnson made a motion to extend the meeting past 8:00, Mr. Fogg seconded. Roll call, all in favor 5-0; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

- Rachel LaPierre- parent
  - Parents need to decide new information now
  - Can you ensure that my child will be 3-6 feet at all times?
    - In the classroom (desks) and hallways students will be 3-6 feet apart
  - Mask breaks, need more clarity
    - Will be provided on a regular basis and we'll definitely need to get created
  - Plexiglass at desks?
    - Not at each individual desk but looking for small group dividers; can't be plexiglass
  - Could EZ ups be provided for outdoor space in inclement weather

### Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the minutes from August 4th and August 11 with any amendments offered. Ms. Collins seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 5-0; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

### Reports

- **COVID-19 Update**
  - **Motion:** Mr. Oullette made a motion to reopen the school full time with full time masks with a remote option. Mr. Fogg seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Clarifying full time mask mandate for the start of the school. Board members asked about separating out school re-entry and masks into two different motions. Mr. Fogg is looking to propose that they mandate a form to be signed by parents/guardians that dictates if they want their child to wear a mask. Mr. Ouellette discussed parent emails and calls asking for masks. This is a difficult situation and we won't please everyone but this is a good first step to open the school. It could change in a few weeks. Mr. Fogg withdraws his second on the motion. Mrs. Kolb

seconded the motion. Mrs. Kolb and Ms. Collins appreciated the school days increasing to full time but Ms. Collins is not in favor of mandating full time masks. Mr. Fogg is concerned about students who have real health issues being singled out or made fun of and wants to compromise on the mandated masks portion of the motion. Roll call, 3-2; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins nay, Fogg nay.

- Mr. Fogg wants parents to be able to give parents the control to dictate whether their child will wear a mask or not. Mr. Ouellette stated that the motion does not support that. Ms. Collins asked that students not be sent home if they aren't wearing a mask. There are plans to provide lots of mask breaks. Mr. Fogg is concerned that students who end up getting disciplined will be an unnecessary hardship on the parents.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to recess for a few minutes at 6: 40 to address audio issues. Roll call, 5-0; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Meeting resumed at 6:45.

- Mr. Fogg recapped the board's decisions from the first part of the meeting. A question came up about masks being required for K-2 students. Masks are recommended but not required for students in PK-2.
- Another question came up about busing. WC Cressy's will rent us a bus until the bus is finished which should be ready in January for \$2,000 a month plus insurance. With this bus, we can transport within the 1-2 mile radius with the exception of the childcare center and the rec. One student per seat other than family. There is an available driver as well. Masks on the bus and anytime social distancing can't be done. Mr. Fogg asked about putting more students in each seat and not social distancing since everyone would be required to wear a mask. Ms. Collins is concerned about the students walking from daycares without proper sidewalks. Students who live within a mile have always been required to walk. Historically, only the childcare center and rec students have been picked up. Mrs. Johnson is wondering if we can reach out to the rec to see if someone could walk the students to and from school. Mr. Gregoire will contact them and find out. Mr. Ouellette stated that we can use our own spare bus until we decide we don't need it or the other bus becomes ready. If something happened to a bus, it would take 2-3 weeks to get the rental bus. Mrs. Johnson and her husband are willing to donate \$2,000 for the purpose of renting a bus. Mr. Fogg stated that surrounding school districts have spare buses and we could connect with their transportation directors to borrow buses. The spare bus is 10 years old and has approximately 153, 000 miles on it. Brennan will contact Tim to find out if he has a spare bus.

**Motion:** Mrs. Johnson made a motion to rent a bus for one month, and Mrs. Kolb seconded. Roll call, 4-1; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay.

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to allow the superintendent to accept the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. Ms. Collins seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 5-0; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

- **Financial Report** - End of the year report
  - Mr. Gregoire reviewed the end of the year report including unanticipated revenues, overages and savings in each line. Money will be returned to the taxpayers this year due to COVID.

### **Old Business**

- School Board Secretary
  - 3 applications: Mary Soares, Ann Gehring, Priscilla Colbath
  - The board would like the applicants to come to the next meeting and interview with the board.

### **New Business**

- Hiring

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to allow administration to hire as they find necessary, eliminating the need to bring nominations to the board right now. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call, 3-2; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins nay, Fogg nay.

- Change LNA position to full time
  - Ms. Collins asked if the person could be hired as a contracted service. Contracted services are usually at a higher rate and are hard to come by. Mrs. Johnson stated that this person is needed to assist the nurse anyway, COVID or not.

**Motion:** Mrs. Johnson made a motion to move the LNA position to full time, Mrs. Kolb seconded. Roll call, 4-1; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay.

### **Policies**

- a. Second reading: IKF - High School Graduation
- b. Second reading: IKFA -Early Graduation
- c. Second reading: ILBAA -High School Graduation Competencies
- d. Second reading: IMBC - Alternative Credit Options

**Motion:** Kolb made a motion to adopt policies IKF, IKFA, ILBAA, and IMBC; Ms. Collins seconded. Roll call, 4-0; Kolb aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye. Mr. Fogg had left the room during the motion and therefore abstained.

## **Other Business**

- Teacher and Paraprofessional MOA

**Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to reject in its entirety the teacher and para MOA and with this rejection and hold school district employees to ever part of their current contracts. Ms. Collins seconded it. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Johnson questioned if this conversation should happen in nonpublic under the unfair labor practice. Mr. Fogg stated that the MOA should have been presented prior to contracts being issued and signed. Mr. Gregoire stated that there aren't any laws or rules that state this has to be done in nonpublic. Mr. Fogg stated that this process wasn't done properly and without school board knowledge. Ms. Collins asked if an MOA is typical. Mrs. Johnson feels that there should be more discussion. Mrs. Kolb would like to respect the teachers and discuss this further as she is not ready to reject or sign. Mr. Fogg stated that signing the document would be a binding document that hasn't gone through the budget process or any other process. Mr. Ouellette asked if it could be put on hold to discuss with the union. Ms. Collins' is concerned that this is a list of demands and does not like the fact that we have to negotiate now, so close to the beginning of school. Mr. Fogg is concerned about tax payer money already being spent on this issue that the school board didn't know about. Roll call, 3-2; Kolb nay, Ouellette aye, Johnson nay, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

## **Nominations/Resignations**

### **Correspondence**

- Letter from WEA

### **Public Comment**

- Gavin Kearns- teacher
  - Unfortunate that Mr. Fogg didn't bring his concerns to the union, feels the union is being misrepresented by Mr. Fogg comments. There are mandatory subjects of bargaining: working conditions,
  - The staff want to work but want masks. 93% of staff want masks in some way. 55% of staff were willing to work without masks being required.
  - Is the board refusing to negotiate working conditions for re-opening the school under COVID conditions?
- David Silcocks
  - The board should hear what the teachers are looking for
  - The numbers are needed; who's using transportation, who's coming back in person etc.
- Mindy Blanner
  - CDC recommends that masks should be worn by children older than two. Does not feel that the children are being kept safe
  - How will dismissal work for bus loading?

- Where is the plan? Parents should have the plan in order to make a decision.
- Sheena/Kyle Robbins
  - Frustrated and thankful about how tonight's meeting went; keep going back and forth between the board making a decision and parents giving input
  - What does remote learning like?
  - Is the initial plan what is in effect? When will we see it?
    - It will be emailed to the parent group, posted to the school's Facebook page and on the SAU website.
  - How is the three week decision happening?
    - It will be discussed at a board meeting and with DHHS based on what it looks like in the area.
  - Fully support Tracey's comments about respecting the teachers and working with them
- **Motion:** Mr. Fogg made a motion to go into non-public under 91-A: 3, II (k). Ms. Collins seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 5-0; Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Johnson aye, Kolb aye.

### **Non-public**

- Discussion ensued around an 8th grade parent who wants their child to attend RMS having recently moved to Wakefield. There will be a manifestation hardship appeal meeting with the DOE on August 28th.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 10:30. Roll call, 3-0; Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Spector  
Assistant Principal