

Wakefield School Board  
9-15-20 Public Minutes  
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom  
Approved

In attendance:

Board: Bob Ouellette, Relf Fogg, Mary Collins and Sandy Johnson via Zoom

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Student Services Director Anne Kebler via Zoom, Principal James Lampron and Vice Principal Jenn Spector.

Facilities Manager Joe Williams

Public: Rob Grillo, Roland Grillo and Andrea Milroy and teachers, parents and community members via Zoom

**Call to Order**

Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:00 and led those present in person and on zoom in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing**

**Cares Act Fund**

Mr. Ouellette opened the Public Hearing at 6:01

Mr. Gregoire said because this is unanticipated revenue a Public Hearing is required to have the authority to expend the funds. The total amount is \$147,356.41 broken down as follows: \$50,000 for facilities, \$44,000 for technology and software, \$10,000 for remote learning resources, \$40,000 for hiring, \$3,356.47 for Professional Development. Mr. Gregoire will send this list to all Board members. Mr. Ouellette closed the Public Hearing at 6:02.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the funding from the Cares Act Fund in the manner that the superintendent described previously. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Fogg aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye (Vote 4-0)**

**Public Comments**

None

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 ll(c) and (k) at 6:07. Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Fogg aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye (Vote 4-0)**

The Board returned to public session at 7:05

During non-public the Board discussed a Manifest Educational Hardship with Parents.

**Consent Agenda**

**Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye Fogg nay (Vote 3-1)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the minutes of August 18th.  
Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye (Vote 4-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the minutes of September 1st. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye (Vote 4-0)**

## **Reports**

### **Student Services Report**

The special education department has been busy with IEP meetings held because of the Governors Executive order # 48. These meetings have been productive in that we have been able to discuss what went well for our students with disabilities and what was not as successful' Alt special ed students that are receiving remote learning have been offered to have their services face to face in the school. There are only a handful of students making the decision to receive services in the school building. In general, what we are hearing in these meetings is that for the most part our parents of students with disabilities were pleased with their child's needs.

Our preschool program is starting off with small numbers, but we anticipate several referrals this fall. As a result of social distancing we have had to change our programming somewhat' our preschool program will run Monday through Friday from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. This time change was made to accommodate transportation for our identified students. our 4-year-old program will run Monday - Wednesday, and our 3- year old program will run Thursday and Friday. This will allow for cleaning between our cohorts. Due to social distancing and potential special education referrals we have had to close enrollment for new non identified students. We hope that this will be a temporary situation.

We have 2 new out of district placements this year. one of these was anticipated and put into our Fy20-21 operating budget, the other placement is because of a student that moved into the Wakefield School District last spring.

As a result of an NH Department of Education action plan we were given this spring, we have a yearlong special education professional development planned for all staff, including our administrative staff. our administrative staff will meet with the consultant on September 29th and we will outline the yearlong PD. I will provide an outline of the yearlong PD in my student service report for October. The consultant we will be using is Carol Kosinsky, a well-known New Hampshire native national speaker and author of many areas of special education'

We anticipate a productive school year in 2020 despite the barriers of the pandemic we are all faced with. Thank you for your continued support.

Wakefield School District Special Education Numbers: (June 2020 numbers except for our out of district numbers)

Little Paws (PreK): 4 identified students and 3 non identified. Paul School: (K-8): 88, Spaulding High School: (9-12): 23, Kingswood: (9-12):1, Out of District Placements: 4 Total number of students with disabilities: 120

Mrs. Johnson asked how are we paying the consultant? Mrs. Kebler said that has not been determined. It is a mandate from the DOE. If she can take it out of a grant she will. Mrs. Johnson

also asked if the numbers of students with disabilities was up. Mrs. Kebler said it's consistent with the last few years. She said in order to reduce the numbers we need to put a multi-tiered system in place. She believes we have everything we need now to put that in place.

### Facilities Report

Items 1. And 2. are things Mr. Williams is looking at to protect the school even more than it is now. He will send some literature and a video to all Board members.

1. Aegis Quote and Literature: I have asked my managers association about this product with little to no response. Estimated cost \$15,250.00:

Mr. Williams told the Board that this was a spray that protects and kills viruses on all surfaces for 365 days. He feels this is a high price for a one-year protection.

2. GPS Ionization of the air in schools: Literature is enclosed discussed with Jack McCormick. Will be looking at pricing. Working on Estimated Cost.

Mr. Williams said this is something that goes into the HVAC system. This has a virus kill rate of 94-99%. This is FDA approved and what they are using now on airplanes. There are eight classrooms with no ventilation. There is a portable unit that kills viruses and good be used later too. The estimate for the eight rooms is \$11,500. The overall HVAC is \$34,000. Both companies are willing to meet with the Board.

3. Window Project 2020 is complete.

4. Air Quality Testing Scott Lawson Group has performed this and we are waiting on results, Results will be posted to the website. It was tested for mold and radon.

5. Water Test Lead/Copper Four places tested all negative per EPA Standards

6. HVAC All filters have been changed; we are running a Merv 8 filter

7. Playground Update One piece of the slide came in damaged new one is here waiting for installation. This is at no extra cost. This is complete. The playground is not used during school hours because it cannot be adequately cleaned between recesses.

8. Water Fill Stations Looking at putting two of these units in. One in the kindergarten area, and one at fifth grade. The town inspector year was in hopes of us moving forward in changing them out, Estimated cost \$3,649.00. This has not yet been done.

9. Shades for Window Project 2020 Shades: looking at an installation date of Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

10. Parking Lot Sealcoating and stripping completed. Mr. Williams will grab a couple of buckets of material to fill in the potholes on Taylor Way.

11. Dividers for Tables and Desks Literature Estimated cost \$0000000.

Mr. Lampron said they have tables set up in each room for small groups, a teacher and three students. They would like these dividers to add a level of protection. The quote will give each

classroom and each case manager to work with small groups of students. The quote for 48 tables and 20 desk dividers is \$20,504. The second quote for 50 4-way dividers is \$14,616 and that does not include shipping. Mrs. Johnson asked if this were something they could pay for with Cares Act money. Mr. Lampron replied yes. Mr. Gregoire agreed.

12. SAU, Fourth Grade, Ramp Quotes attached. Can we use SAU Warrant Article monies? Estimated cost \$10,700.00. This will be moved ahead until after winter. Mr. Williams said this is to stain the ramp and add handrails. The handrails are \$5,830 for a metal galvanized handrail and the staining is \$4,900. Mrs. Johnson asked if this is something he is bringing to our attention for next years budget. He said yes.

### **Old Business**

#### **Teachers and Paraprofessionals Memorandum of Agreement**

Mr. Gregoire said the Board met in a Special Meeting on the Teacher and Para MOU last week and they need to make this a public decision. Mr. Fogg said they spent a lot of hours meeting. He said it became clear to him in the last discussion that this agreement favored one group without regard to the students. Mr. Gregoire said he needed a vote that you accept the MOU that you TA'ed. You are ratifying that decision.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to ratify the MOA as presented to the Board. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins nay, Fogg nay (Vote 2-2)**

Mr. Gregoire said everyone agreed to TA at the last meeting and questions why there is a 2-2 tie. Mr. Fogg said he couldn't support the document when one Board member said this was to address the needs of staff over the needs of the students. He believes the students should be the priority. He was concerned to hear a Board member say this isn't about the students this is about what the Union needs. He said he stated in that meeting that his support was waning. Mr. Gregoire said that's the opinion of one Board member. Mr. Fogg said the agreement had his support for a great deal of it. He was concerned about the priorities not being in the right place. Mrs. Johnson said she was basing her decision on what she knows about contracts. Contracts are about working conditions, period. Mr. Fogg said it should be about the students first.

Mr. Gregoire questioned Mr. Fogg about having negotiated and now being swayed by one Board member. Mr. Fogg said it's also in some regard about the necessity of all this. And the agreement that would be binding which it comes from a boilerplate document. Close to nine hours was spent hammering this out and he thought there was an agreement. He can't support something that isn't in the best interest of the students. Mr. Gregoire said this is not the message from the teachers. Mr. Fogg questions if all of this is necessary. There are items he questions like no need for a clearance if a teacher is out and comes back in seventy-two hours. Mrs. Collins said one thing that bothers her, and she asked for a clarification at the Special Meeting, is the part where a teacher goes home with symptoms and has to be free of the symptoms for 72 hours before she returns, but she could also decide to remote teach if they felt up to it. We would end up paying the teacher and a substitute. She questions where the money will come from. Mr. Ouellette said if they are home, they would be using their sick leave. He believes the teachers want to get back into the classroom as much as the kids do. The motion failed.

**Recording Secretary**

Mr. Ouellette said that one person stepped up to be recording secretary. He referred to a letter that Mrs. D'Agostino has. He asked her to explain the letter. Mrs. D'Agostino said she first contacted the Director at the Department of Revenue and he said to contact the district's attorney and look at RSA 32 which give details on how you can allocate expenditures. She said the MS27 that the voters approve is based on the Function Code. She said as long as there is money in the MS27 appropriated for that function, (2310 School Board) we can add as many lines that are necessary to cover salary and benefits for school board secretary because it's a bottom-line budget. As long as there is a dollar amount in any function code in our budget the district can add multiple lines to it. Mr. Ouellette asked, even though we zeroed the secretary line out last year we can add a line to that function? Mrs. D'Agostino said yes. Mr. Fogg said having served on the Budget Committee he repeatedly heard, leave a dollar in that line or else it's not a line that can be used in that function. Mr. Ouellette and Mrs. Collins agree with Relf and that is what they have also heard, leave a dollar in the line. Mr. Ouellette said he is now hearing that if a line is not there or was never there you can just add a line. Mr. Fogg said he wants the School Board to add that line back into the budget during budget season. Mr. Ouellette thanked Mrs. Colbath for stepping up and offering to record the minutes of a couple of meetings for free until it was figured out how she would be paid and Mrs. D'Agostino came up with this solution.

Mrs. Colbath asked to speak. She asked who wrote the opinion? She said she had seen Barbara Loughman's work before. During budget season she disagreed with the Town Attorney and a very clear law. Mrs. Colbath has not read Mrs. Loughman's opinion but said the law is clear, you can't just arbitrarily add lines or the Town and School would be doing it all the time. She said in RSA 32:8, if there is no appropriation in that line then no appropriation has been made. You can't take money from another line and add it to a line that doesn't exist. You can't hire a school board secretary. She hasn't read what Mrs. Loughman has written but from what Mrs. D'Agostino has said she's not buying that for a half a second. Mrs. Colbath asked if Mrs. D'Agostino had added lines and she said that she has but does not remember what line she has added. It would take some research. Mrs. Colbath said she would like to know what lines have been added as a Budget Committee member she doesn't recall ever seeing any added lines. Mrs. D'Agostino said, this is legal documentation along with the MS27 and she just provided the information that she was asked to provide. Mrs. Johnson said she would like Mrs. Colbath to forward the information she has to the Board. This has been tabled and will be on the next agenda.

**Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to extend the meeting past 8:00. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye (Vote 4-0)**

### **New Business**

#### **SAU Planning 2021-2022**

Mr. Ouellette said last March the voters voted to follow the Withdrawal Plan or change to a part-time superintendent. He would like to form a committee to see if it is feasible monetarily and to run the SAU office. Mr. Fogg suggested looking back at the former process. He also felt that an RFP be sent out for Superintendent Services. Mr. Ouellette would like to see a couple of Budget Committee members, a couple of School Board members and community members and parents numbering seven members. Letters of intent should be sent to the School Board Chair through

the SAU. Mrs. Johnson would like to have a teacher too on the committee. The deadline for the letters of intent will be October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fogg asked that an RFP be put out for legal services as it's been a while and this would follow policy. The majority of the Board agreed.

#### Student Handbook 2020/2001

Mr. Lampron said the changes to the handbook were highlighted in blue. The school day start and end times will be updated to reflect the accurate times. Core values, which they have been working on for a year and a half, have been added. Input came from parents, students and teachers. A bullying piece has been added. A bullying report form will be available outside the Assistant Principals office for students to fill out to make it easier to report a concern and if the student is not certain whether or not to report, just report. A report equals a letter and a phone call to both sides. The conclusion of the report will be in a letter and both sides will also receive a phone call. There is also a report that teachers can fill out if they believe they witness bullying. Mrs. Johnson suggested leaving the times as is for a normal school day and put in parenthesis, during Covid the times will be...Mrs. Spector said this could be done.

**Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the 2020/2021 Student and Family Handbook. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg nay (Vote 3-1)**

#### Other Business

##### Continuation of Zoom meetings

Mr. Ouellette asked if the Board wished to continue Zoom meetings. Mr. Fogg feels that the Zoom meetings have been beneficial to the district especially for public comment. Mrs. Collins feels that if the option is there for administrators that can't come in person it should be available for community members as well. Mrs. Johnson said she agrees with Mr. Fogg. Mr. Lampron asked if masks are required for people who come to the meeting as they are during the school day? Mr. Gregoire said when the school is being used for a public meeting the rules no longer apply. To restrict someone coming into a public meeting, he believes, would be a violation. Zoom meetings will continue.

##### Bus Down

Mr. Ouellette said they had a Transportation Committee meeting. Bus #16 is down. It's under full warranty, the company has the bus and is trying to repair it. He said the rented bus started yesterday. They hope the bus is back this or next week. The 2006 Impala needs a lot of rust work. It has seventy thousand miles and the Blue Book was \$500 last year. Mr. Fogg said to put it out to bid. Lamberts is giving \$300 for any vehicle. It will go out to competitive bid with a \$300 minimum bid.

##### School Calendar

Mr. Gregoire said when they put the calendar together last spring, they didn't put the election on it. It will be changed to no school November 3<sup>rd</sup>, put on the website and sent to parents. The Board will discuss whether to reschedule the School Board meeting scheduled for that night.

##### New School Board member

Mr. Ouellette said that at the last meeting they asked anyone that was interested in filling the position left vacant by Tracey Kolb to respond by noon today. Mr. Lino Avellani was the only one to apply.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to appoint Lino Avellani to fill the vacant seat on the School Board until the March elections. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Johnson nay (Vote 3-1)**

New Administrative Assistant

Mr. Gregoire informed the Board that he hired a new Administrative Assistant. Michelle Lambert has filled the position.

**Public Comment**

None

**Non Public**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non-public at 8:33 under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Security. Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye (Vote 4-0)**

During non-public the Board discussed a tuition request. The Board exited non-public at 8:48.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49. Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Johnson aye, Fogg aye (Vote 4-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next board meeting.

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary Pro Temp