

Wakefield School Board Meeting
Tuesday September 1, 2020 6 p.m.
Meeting held in the gym and remotely via Zoom
Minutes-APPROVED

Present: In person - Bob Ouellette, Chair, Relf Fogg, Vice Chair, member- 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- member Sandy Johnson, Director of Student Services Anne Kebler, and others.

Call to Order: Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. followed by the pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to accept Mrs. Kolb's resignation from the school board, Ms. Collins seconded. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. Letters of intent for a school board member to fill the role for the rest of this year need to go to the superintendent by September 14th at noon.

Public Hearing

- To expend funds from the Technology Trust Fund.
- Mr. Gregoire is asking to spend \$6,800 for five staff computers, one for superintendent, and two monitors.
- Discussion ensued. Could school board members acquire technology through this fund?

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to amend tonight's request of \$6,800 to \$14,000 out of the technology trust fund to add five laptops for school board members totaling 11 laptops and two monitors. Ms. Collins seconded. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Johnson aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Non-Public

- School Board Secretary Interviews
 - Moved to the end of the meeting

Public Comment

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Consent Agenda

- AP Manifest
- Payroll Manifest

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Collins seconded. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the minutes with any amendments offered, Ms. Collins seconded. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Johnson pointed out that parts of the minutes are missing.

Mr. Fogg rescinded his motion and requested the vote be tabled until the next meeting when the complete minutes could be viewed.

Reports

- **COVID 19 Update**
- **Principal's Report**
 - Mr. Lampron provided an overview of new staff hirings, teacher orientation, remote and in person student numbers.
 - Asked for clarification on mask mandate:
 - Students in PK-2 are required to wear masks in hallways/transitions, on the bus, and in the bathroom, and encouraged at their desks.
 - In grades 3-8, students are required to wear masks at all times, except when eating lunch socially distanced.
 - Mrs. Wunderlich stated that three feet is not acceptable to take masks off according to CDC and DHHS.
 - PPE that was allocated to us by the state has already been picked up.
 - The district is looking into free meals according to USDA.

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to seek and accept the USDA waiver to provide meals at no cost until December 31st for our students. Mr. Fogg seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Old Business

- Teacher/Para MOA
 - Mrs. Johnson made a statement about Mr. Fogg's actions surrounding the MOA.

New Business

Other Business

- Bus Driver Handbook
 - School board members are concerned about bus drivers being able to take buses home. There are fuel savings and electrical costs savings by having drivers take their buses home. There are currently three drivers who would be eligible to take their buses home. This is a privilege that drivers in other towns enjoy. Mr. Fogg is

concerned about rules and regulations being followed if drivers and buses are at their own houses instead of at the yard.

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to accept Brennan’s proposal. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve the driver’s handbook for the 20-21 school year with the following amendments: updated time 8:45 on pg. 13, adding ‘number of children on board’ on p. 6, and not including the red additions on p. 10 under #1; motion was seconded by Ms. Collins. Roll call, 3-1; Ouellette aye, Johnson nay, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

- The playground and window project will be completed by the start of school. The playground equipment will not be in use because of the inability to sanitize in between recesses. There will be signage letting people who come after hours know the structure isn’t being sanitized.

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to extend the meeting past 8:00. Mr. Fogg seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye.

- Mr. Gregoire is asking permission from the board to spend \$14,000 on individual supplies for students due to COVID.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to approve \$14,800 from the supplies line for what the superintendent has requested. Ms. Collins seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Nominations/Resignations

Correspondence

- Mr. Gregoire provided the board with a letter from a parent. Mr. Fogg read a letter from an unnamed parent. He also read the letter Mr. Gregoire passed out from Mr. Grillo who plans to send their son to Christian Cornerstone Academy due to the mask mandate. The board has asked Mr. Gregoire to contact Mr. Grillo.

Public Comment

- Jill Garnett
 - Have a 4th and 6th grader
 - It takes a village to support and educate our students. Parents are relying on the board and they feel frustrated that subjects are touched upon but then moved away from. Proposing to add two additional members to the school board to bring the board member total from five to seven.
 - Needs to be a warrant article and has to be supported by the school board and the budget committee.

- Wants to hear more from the principal and see strong leadership,
- Teacher salaries need to be brought up but there seems to be too many topics on the agenda. Reduce the number of topics to allow for more in depth discussion.
- Wants the board to acknowledge the parents more and communicate when they're struggling to make a decision.
- Priscilla Colbath
 - Stated she had asked Mr. Gregoire for the MOA and when she didn't receive it, asked Mr. Kearns for it and then posted it on her page.
- Randie Fox
 - Are teachers who are teaching remote also teaching in person?
 - No, they are only teaching remotely.
 - What's happening with the MOA
 - The teams have met and come to some agreements but it hasn't come to the board yet. It will be discussed in non-public.
 - Why was it brought up in public but now discussed in non-public?
 - Once negotiations have been entered, ground rules state the discussion must take place in non-public.
 - What if the MOA wasn't following the re-opening plan?
 - It's been agreed upon in the negotiating meetings
 - Do we know how many teachers or percentage of them are in the union?
 - No.
 - Is there a way to find that out?
 - You could ask the union. It's not a question administration can answer.
 - Felt school administration was able to answer a lot of questions in the past week and wants them to have a bigger role in meetings and hear from parents
- Sheena and Kyle Robbins
 - When will the calendar be updated?
 - As soon as negotiations are finished, the calendar will be updated. Hopefully, asap.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to go into non-public under 91-A:3, II(c) and (k). Ms. Collins seconded

- Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Non-public

- Recording Secretary Interview: Priscilla Colbath
 - The board met with the recording secretary who is willing to take notes at a few meetings to help the school board out until the school board gains more information on the process.
- There was a prehearing conference today with the DOE and Mr. Decolfmacker. The hearing is next Tuesday (9/8) at 10:00 am to hear testimony from both sides. Mr. Decolfmacker is asking for standard state aid. There are three options, take a settlement,

Commented [1]: @jerry.gregoire@sau101.org , can you check spelling please?
Assigned to Jerry Gregoire

take it to the state board or pay for the whole amount (\$14,000). The family hadn't planned on moving until their daughter had graduated but an opportunity had arisen and they decided to move.

- Paraprofessional MOA

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the para MOA. Ms. Collins seconded for discussion. If the school year was shortened, how does that affect paras? Would a new contract affect this? No, it would take effect on July 1. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

- WEA/WPU MOA

- Discussion ensued. Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Collins are concerned about not seeing the tentative agreement until just now. A special meeting can be called to allow the board to vote on this after all members have seen it. Were any of the suggestions made from the superintendent included? Yes. A copy showing the changes will be shared with the board members to review. A special meeting will be held Tuesday at 6 pm. through Zoom.

Motion: Mrs. Johnson made a motion to not put anything else on the agenda for the special meeting, Mr. Fogg seconded the motion. Roll call, 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson, aye, Fogg aye, Collins aye.

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to come out of non-public, Ms. Collins seconded. Roll call, all in favor 4-0; Ouellette aye, Johnson aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Fogg made a motion to adjourn at 9:59. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Spector

Assistant Principal