



Wakefield School Board Minutes

October 5, 2021

Held in the Paul School Library

Approved

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Bob Ouellette, Chair	✓	Pam Stiles, Superintendent	✓
Relf Fogg, Vice Chair	✓	Michael O’Neill, Financial Manager	✓
Mary Collins	✓	Anne Kebler, Special Ed/Coordinator	
Sheena Robbins	✓	Kristen White, Principal	✓
Caitlin Gelinis	✓	Tracy Bemis, Assistant Principal	

Audience: Sandra Taliaferro and Mary Soares with Clearview TV.

Chairman Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:00. Those present joined in the flag salute.

Public Comment

Mrs. Collins announced that the PTA will have a fundraiser at the Poor People’s Pub on Wednesday October 13th from 5:00 to 8:30. If you do not have a flyer let the waitress know this code 1013. All proceeds will benefit the PTA.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Gelinis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the consent Agenda. (Vote 4-1)

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Gelinis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the non public minutes of 9-28-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Mrs. Stiles asked to add, under number 5 Reports a. iii DOE 25; under 6 add a c. for Covid Update; d. Judy Nason Update; add a d. for Transportation and a brief non public under 91-A 3: ll (a)

Superintendents Report

Budget preparations for the 2022-2023 school year have begun. Mrs. Stiles is working with administration on an initial draft to present to the board later this month. The response to intervention program, which we are calling ASPIRE (Advancing Student Progress Institution Research-based Education), will be rolled out on October 8. She has had a pre-meeting with Mrs. White. interventionists to discuss how best to move forward in this environment of short staffing

and heightened anxiety. We are focused on what can be done and how to maximize our time with students.

On October 8, she will be taking some time to talk with the staff about how best to manage coverage in the building. Right now, we are reassigning staff during the day because there are not enough substitutes for coverage. There will be a discussion about how we might be able to provide some stipends for additional work being done when in-house staff go above and beyond (using grant funds). A major benefit to this approach is including the staff in shared decision-making and having them be part of the process.

The curriculum subcommittee writing the English Language Arts standards have begun the work. She said we have a target date of the beginning of November to complete K-4. We will then take the rest of that month to complete grades 5 through 8. Once completed, we will make a presentation to the board. The two offices have been restructured to maximize efficiency and cut down on unnecessary redundancy. The conversations have been very productive and are already helping to make the two offices run more smoothly.

The meeting with the CIP committee went well; five projects were brought forward. Thank you to Joe for his leadership and attention to detail. That information will be used as we craft the upcoming budget. Transportation continues to be a challenge. I want to thank the drivers for their flexibility and their communication. While not ideal, we have been able to provide transportation to students in grades K through 12 during shortages. I also want to thank the parents who have provided information in a very timely manner which helps us to determine routes when we are down drivers.

School Administration Report

Mrs. White said are excited to have Tracy Bemis join our Paul School Administrative team as our new Assistant Principal/Curriculum Liaison. Tracy has been a proud member of the Paul School community for the last seventeen years as our art teacher, facilitator for both our PBIS and Target Teams. In the first six weeks in the Paul School Library Media Center, we had 1,380 books checked out to students/teachers, 460 devices, labeled and deployed to students who have completed their technology contracts as well as staff, there have been 210 library lessons taught and we had 120 independent daily visitors to the library.

We will celebrate our first socially distant Community Day outside on the softball field on Thursday September 30th. Our seventh and eighth grade students have been working with our PBIS team, Mrs. McNevech and Mrs. Soares to create a skit around expectations of being safe at recess to present during this event. We celebrated our outstanding students, most improved students and our Outstanding Staff member, Sharon Bonnevie for the month of September.

Our Kindergarten students went on a field trip to McKenzie's Farm where they learned about the apple orchards and the life cycle of apples and pumpkins. We have conducted our first school wide fire drill; everyone was out of the building and accounted for in 5 minutes 40 seconds. The week of October 25th through October 29th we will have Nature's Classroom coming to our school for a Nature's Classroom on Wheels Program. We will be using our outdoor classroom and our beautiful outdoor facilities to provide hands-on learning experiences.

Our soccer team had their first game and we saw a lot of great team work and skills on the field. Since the beginning of school, we have had 26 cases of Covid -19. So far, the following grade levels have been

affected: 1,2,3,5, 6 and 7. Grades 2 and 3 have had the most cases. Commonalities in these cases have not been found and all have been reported to the state. Teachers are working collaboratively with parents, students and administration to assure continued learning occurs. Our Binx PCR test kits have arrived! Within the first twenty four hours of receiving them, the nurse has already distributed seven of them. These testing kits are independent from the school and results are not known until the results are shared by the parents. Flu vaccination clinic was completed on September 17, 2021. The flu vaccination clinic for students is scheduled for October 29, 2021

DOE 25

Mr. O'Neill said the most important number is the Undesignated Fund Balance amount of \$635,007 that will be returned to the town. Mr. Fogg asked how there could be a \$20,000 difference in the first number that was given. Mr. O'Neill explained that \$30,000 in encumbrances (mostly payroll) were closed out and about \$10,000 more in expenses came in. He said the cost per student is \$15,565.99 with an average daily attendance of 469 students. Last year the cost per student was \$15,591.54.

Old Business

Staff and the Student Handbook Approval

Mrs. Collins said in page 9 of the Student Handbook under excused absences she'd like to change the words 'have an obligation to avoid' to 'should avoid'. On page 16 of the Staff Handbook the Volunteer Policy IJOC references Policy ABA which is not on the website. The school now covers the cost for background checks for volunteers. As these handbooks have already been distributed these suggestions will be put into next years handbooks. Mrs. Gelinas asked to have the 'safe word' blocked out of next year's Staff Handbook. By consensus, the Board agreed to the changes

Covid Update

Mrs. Stiles said that DHHS has been in touch with the school regarding the number of positive Covid cases. We have begun to have student to student transmission. They are strongly recommending the fulltime use of masks. Mrs. White said there were 38 students absent today due to confirmed Covid cases or exposure. She said yesterday there was a classroom with just 8 students. Right now, masks are optional. Absences, Covid and unrelated, have reached close to the 20% mark where the day would not count as a school day. They have had days with over 90 children absent and were one away from the 80% in attendance rate. Only two grade levels have not had a positive case. The Board discussed their options. Mr. Ouellette asked the administrators what their recommendation would be. Mrs. Stiles said if masks will help and we can get more children in school she would recommend 10 days. Mrs. White concurred.

Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to reinstate mandatory masks like they did last time (masks not worn outside, at their desks, when socially distanced or while eating) through October 19th. (Vote 3-2)

Mrs. Collins concern is that we are now encompassing children that don't have Covid but may just not feel well.

Judy Nason Update

Mrs. Stiles spoke with Jim Rimes and they only do civil engineering. She called Horizons Engineering They will set up a time within the next two weeks to look at the project.

Transportation

Mrs. Stiles presented the Board with information on bus milage and maintenance. Mr. O'Neill said there is a capital reserve fund of \$80,921.90 for bus replacement. There are two buses that are ten years old; a small bus and a 77 passenger bus both which have high maintenance costs. He suggested #21 and #24 should be replaced. Mr. O'Neill suggested an inspection should be done. We have nine large buses and three small one. He said they are started every day. The last bus cost \$92,000. Mrs. Stiles will see if bus #24 can be traded in toward a large bus and what the cost would be.

New Business

2022-23 Budget Preparation

Policies

GBEBA Staff Dress Code 2nd reading Mrs. Collins said the word 'blue' jeans will stay in the policy.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve policy GBEBA as presented (Vote 4-1)

IJK Supplemental Materials 2nd reading

The Committee is using the NHSBA policy. They changed the verbiage to fit the Paul School in regard to videos and movies. After some discussion the Board decided not to include any R rated movies in the policy.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fogg, to approve policy IJK with the removal of the last paragraph about R rated movies. (Vote 5-0)

IJK-R Supplemental Materials Resource 2nd reading

This Is the Parental Form required for students to watch pg13 movies. R rated moves were eliminated. The mail-in option is no longer available.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve policy IJK-R. (Vote 5-0)

Other Business

Public Comment Mrs. Taliaferro asked about Covid close contact. She asked if absences from previous years and this year have been looked at for comparisons. Mrs. Stiles said a list is kept on children absences, the reasons and return dates. She asked about the lifetime of a bus. Mrs. Soares read comments from Facebook. Mrs. Soars feels masks should be worn through flu season. She said that Sam uses an R rated movie in his curriculum.

Correspondence

Non Public Session

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to enter non public session at 7:24

under RSA 91-A 3:ll (a) Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to leave non public session at 7:47. Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to seal the non public minutes until 10-5-22. Roll Call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay, Gelinas aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-1)

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49. (Vote 5-0)

The non meeting ended at 8:00

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary