



# Wakefield School Board Minutes

November 16, 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 Gelinas by Video	✓	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**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve the public minutes of 12-2-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve the non public minutes of 11-2-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 5-0)**

## **Reports**

### **Student Services Report**

Mrs. Kebler had been out not feeling well. No report

### **Business Administrators Report**

Mrs. Stiles said that Mr. O'Neill is sick at home so has no report tonight.

### **Facilities Managers Report**

The doors have been fully installed. The pump for the furnace in the primary wing has been repaired.

## **Old Business**

### **Covid Update**

Mrs. Stiles told the Board That Covid is back. There are presently 14 cases; eight students and six staff. It started in the Partner Program and they are now in a hybrid model for that program. She said we are still offering the state mandate of five days a week face to face instruction with half of those students coming in the morning and half in the afternoon. We are in mask mandate while traveling about until next Tuesday. Parent Teacher conferences have been changed from in person to remote. Mrs. Gelinas said we are not being proactive. When we had the mask mandate we were seeing if that would bring kids back in the school and it did. We stopped it and she doesn't understand the point. She said half her daughters class wasn't in school on Friday.

Mr. Ouellette asked what Mrs. White was hearing from staff as far as what ideas they may have. She said nothing because they're spread so thin there's no time to discuss it. She's hearing thank you for keeping the school open five days a week, what can I do to help. The numbers are up everywhere. Mr. Ouellette would like to hear from staff as to what their ideas are. Mrs. Stiles will send out a survey in the morning. Mrs. Robbins clarified that when the masks came off there was also a decrease. Mrs. Gelinas doesn't believe that is accurate. Mrs. Stiles said we had about two and a half weeks of no positives. The school has gone through 200 PCR Covid tests and just ordered their second batch. This has been a big benefit to parents.

### **Judy Nason Bridge**

Mrs. Stiles said she met with Mike Hebert of Horizons Engineering. They looked at all the plans and went out and looked at the area. He has done bridges like this in Dover. He will send pictures. He had some concerns about the arch and drainage. He would do an analysis and design, create the package, do a spec book and provide a construction report on an as needed basis and will be putting together an estimate.

**Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to make masks optional at school. (Vote 3-2)**

## **New Business**

### **Bus purchase**

Mrs. Stiles said Cressey has looked at the two buses, a large and a small, and offered \$4,500 for a trade in toward the new bus which is \$97,354, bringing that down to \$92,854. They have purchased some brand new buses and if we would take a bus prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, they would credit \$450 for every month prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> that we took the bus. So, if we take the bus in February that would be an additional \$2,250 savings. The total cost of the bus would be \$90,604. There's \$130,000 in the Trust. That would leave a balance of about \$40,000. \$90,000 would go into the warrant article. This is a 2023, 77 passenger bus. She read the specs to the Board. This would replace bus 24 and bus 21, the two oldest buses. Bus 27 has had more repair costs. Mr. Fogg asked if the bus is undercoated. He asked if perhaps Cressey had an undercoating option. Mr. Ouellette asked why we need to replace a bus. Mrs. Stiles said these are the two oldest buses and this is the rotation schedule. Mr. Ouellette asked how many buses we have sitting every day.

Mrs. Stiles said eight. Mr. Ouellette said if a bus breaks down, we move to another one. Mrs. Stiles said we don't need one this year. Mr. Fogg said we have, in the past, put buses out to competitive bid and find Cressey is the most cost effective. The Board discussed options to use all buses and not have any sitting around. Mr. Ouellette doesn't feel that the district needs a bus this year. Mrs. Robbins said if every district puts off busing buses this year it could make it difficult next year. There was more discussion about buses. It was decided that there would be no bus purchase this year. They will look into bus rotation. Mrs. Robbins suggested putting out a warrant article for half the \$90,000 this year and half next year.

#### New Position

Transportation manager/Overseer job description. This person would make sure, with the lead drivers that everything that needs to be done is done. It is just for this year and the person would be paid hourly. Mrs. Stiles has met with Casey several times and he is well versed in transportation. He has met with the lead drivers and will meet with all the drivers. Expectations will be very clear.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve the Transportation Manager/Overseer job description. (Vote 5-0)**

#### Policies

Policy DK: Payment Procedure; second reading, no changes were made.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to reaffirm Policy DK. (Vote 5-0)**

#### Sub Committee Updates.

##### Facilities Meeting

Mr. Fogg told the Board they had a presentation from ACP Facilities Services which is a chemical treatment of surfaces. This could be covered by the ESSER Funds. Mr. Ouellette stated that he has a chemical background and is concerned as the salesperson said it was good for a year and he'd like to see the data on that. The cost would be \$18,000, \$900 a gallon. He's not a fan of this without the data. Mrs. Stiles cautioned to move slowly. Mr. Fogg would like to give Mr. Williams an opportunity to tell the board why he embraced this.

#### Other Business

##### Public Comment

Mrs. Taliaferro said she agrees with what Mrs. Robbins was saying about masking individual classrooms if there was a case or close contact. She also feels that the Transportation Warrant Article should be brought forward with half the usual funding. She asked why there were two lead drivers. Mr. Ouellette said to share responsibilities and cover if one was out.

Mrs. Soares said she was reminding the Board of what she had said three months ago, the only difference between this year and last year is we're not wearing masks every day. If we tell kids to wear them, they will wear them. Last year we had thirteen cases and this year we've had forty. Put the masks on the kids until Covid goes away. She guarantees there will have an uptick in December. She implored the Board to make a decision to wear masks.

**Nominations /Hires/Resignations**

None

**Correspondence**

None

**Non Public Session**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to enter nonpublic under 91-A 3:11(a) and(c) at 7:00. Roll call Gelinas aye, Robbins aye, Fogg aye, Collins aye, Ouellette aye (Vote 5-0)**

**Para Contract**

**Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to ratify the Paraprofessionals CBA. (Vote 3-2)**

**Adjournment**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary