Wakefield School Board Minutes

A black and white drawing of a person with a beard

Description automatically generated with low confidence December 21, 2021

Held in the Paul School Library

Approved

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| BOARD MEMBERS |  | ADMINISTRATORS |  |
| Bob Ouellette, Chair | A picture containing outdoor  Description automatically generated | 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 |  | Tracy Bemis, Assistant Principal |  |

Audience: Julie Crowley, Tammy Canney, Jackie Jakubec, Kate Kelley and Mary Soares with Clearview TV.

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

**Public Hearing**

To withdraw funds from the Wakefield Transportation Capital Reserve Account for the purposes of a lease/purchase payment of $18,220

Mr. Ouellette opened up the Public Hearing at 6:01. Hearing no public comments, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:02.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to make the payment of $18, 220 to WCC Leasing. (Vote 4-0)**

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Jakubec said she was speaking for herself, with Covid and a shortage of teachers and buses she has found that the last two years has been the most challenging. She said she puts all her energy in teaching the kids and is exhausted at the end of the day. Her goal is to have everyone working together.

**Consent Agenda**  **Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the consent Agenda. (Vote 3-1)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve the public minutes of 12-7-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 4-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public Emergency Meeting minutes of 21-14-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 4-0)**

**Business Administrators Report**

Mr. O’Neill was out today. Mrs. Stiles said you have the monthly expenditure report dated December 17th. She said the budget is looking very good. The district is at $707,000 savings. They have encumbered some of the larger amounts like high school and salaries. They are using grants as much as they can to alleviate the strain on the operating budget.

**Old Business**

Covid Response Update Mrs. Stiles said all schools are required to do a December check on the reentry plan. A survey went out to all staff which the Board saw at the last meeting. Then she sent out a survey to families and staff. There were forty two responses from staff and seventy two from families. She went over the existing Plan with the Board. She gave the definitions of the minimal, moderate and the substantial columns. Teachers would like more distancing in the classroom and mandatory mask wearing. They also want to keep breakfast grab and go. One item that was consistent between staff and families was having students travel to their specials. This is very consistent with the current plan.

Mrs. Collins said we can’t fix the distancing in the classroom and Mrs. Stiles agreed. Administration is looking at eating in the cafeteria. They will start with seventh and eighth grade with eight students to a table rather than twelve. The teachers in the younger grades would like to have students continue to eat in the classroom for a myriad of reasons including that for two years they have never eaten in the cafeteria.

Mrs. Collins asked when volunteers will be allowed back into school. She feels they could help with the shortages of staff. Perhaps they will be allowed in to help with running off papers or something like that soon. Mrs. Stiles said until we get to minimal visitors are restricted. Mrs. Gelinas said sometimes having extra hands isn’t always easier. There was more discussion about this subject. Mrs. Stiles said this isn’t a volunteer issue as much as a covid issue. She said there are many staff that are concerned about their own health. Administration will see if there is a volunteer coordinator and about volunteers helping in a non-contact area. Mrs. Stiles will send a survey to staff to see if they are interested in volunteer help and bring back the results to the next meeting.

Currently the school is in the optional category because of the Boards vote at the last meeting but we are in the substantial according to the numbers which means masks required inside which would require mask wearing in the hallways but not when they’re seated at their desks or when eating or outside at recess. An exemption from mask wearing needs to be for medical or religious reasons. We are currently not following the plan. Mrs. Stiles asked for clarification, what does masks inside mean?

Mrs. Gelinas is frustrated because the Board based their decisions on angry people who came to the Board. She said we make decisions then go against ourselves and it has to stop going back and forth. Mrs. Collins said we did decide when things change we’d change. Things are changing all the time. Mrs. Stiles said there were twenty new active cases in five days. Plus, here were another twenty nine quarantined. Mr. Ouellette said he’d like to stick to the plan. The Board continued the discussion pro and con.

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to change the plan where it says masks required outside to masks required walking through the building, when they can’t social distance more than three feet, and walking around the classroom but they can take them off when they’re eating, sitting at their desks and when outside. (Vote 2-2)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, to strongly recommend masks and maintain the administrations flexibility in the direction they feel comfortable taking. (motion failed for lack of a second)**

Mrs. Stiles said whenever they recommend a change she always emails the Board and tells them the change they have to make. They always know beforehand what will happen. She feels it’s unfair to put this responsibility on administration where fifty percent of the community will disagree. This is not a feeling, they are responding to the numbers. The administration follows the Boards guidance. She said we need to have a plan and follow it so everyone knows what the plan is.

2022-2023 Budget (Operating and Default)

The budget in the Board’s packets shows a $7,000 decrease for support staff in the SAU so the Board needs to vote on the new numbers. Their Budget Committee meeting will be on January 3rd. Next year’s budget is $44,549.52 less than the current years budget. She said money was spent from the grants for math manipulatives and literacy. They are using their grant money for anything they can attach to Covid. She said nothing that the teachers asked for was cut from the operating budget.

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the proposed budget of $10,720,981.38. (Vote 4-0)**

The default budget is higher that the proposed operating budget by $296,531.55.

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve the default budget of $11,017,520,55. (Vote 4-0)**

2022-2023 Warrant Articles

Article 2. will be voted on after non public session as the Board has not yet ratified the teachers contrast. The Teachers ratified the contract today.

Article 3. If the teachers CBA doesn’t pass this allows for a special meeting.

Article 4. Paras CBA.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve article 4 (Vote 4-0)**

Article 5. If the Para’s CBA doesn’t pass this allows for a special meeting.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to** **approve article 5. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 6.Operating Budget.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve article 6. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 7.Add funds to the Special Ed CRF

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 7. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 8.Add funds to the Transportation Fund.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 8. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 9. Add funds to the Multi-Purpose Room Floor Fund.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to** **approve article 9. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 10. Add funds to the Building Renovation Fund

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 10. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 11. Add funds to the Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance Fund.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 11. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 12. Add funds to the Boiler CRF.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 12. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 13.Establish Well Replacement CRF.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 13. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 14.Add funds to the Trust for the Judy Nason Memorial Bridge for the purpose of designing, building and maintaining the memorial bridge.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve article 14. Mrs. Collins rescinded her motion and Mrs. Gelinas rescinded her second.**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to raise and appropriate $10,000 to be added to the previously established Judith Nason Memorial Trust Fund. (Vote 4-0)**

Article 15. To establish a maintenance building capital Reserve Fund. This would not raise and appropriate but will come from surplus.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve article 15. (Vote 4-0)**

Judy Nason Bridge Mrs. Stiles gave the Board a report from the engineer for what they can provide. They can take care of the field survey work, structural analysis, design and bid preparation. The cost for the bid prep is $5,500 plus an estimate on the total construction of $25,000 t0 $30,000. Mr. Fogg thought that the engineer was to look at the plan and determine if it is structurally sound. Mrs. Stiles said it is not. The pillars at the ends are too long and will cut too deeply into the drainage area which would cause it to over flood. Also, the arch is too long for the structure. Mr. Fogg said this plan was designed with a squashed culvert.

Mrs. Stiles met with the engineer twice, he sent his surveyor to take a look at it. Mrs. Stiles said he hasn’t done any work nor have we paid him anything yet. This is just a proposal. Mr. Fogg said he would like to meet with the engineer to see why the design is not structurally sound. Mrs. Gelinas said we should be mindful of others time. She feels perhaps we don’t need to meet with the engineer at this time given we don’t have close to the needed funds. Maybe we should put this aside. She cautioned Mr. Fogg to not make waves. Mr. Fogg and Mr. Ouellette and Mrs. Stiles will meet with the engineer.

**New Business**

**Policies**

EBB Safety Precautions/Safe Schools Committee (Second Reading) Mrs. Collins said some items in this policy are in other policies so they condensed it. A committee will be formed.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve policy EBB (Vote 4-0)**

JICC Student Conduct on the Bus (First Reading)

Mrs. Collins said they added the parental responsibility when a child loses bus privileges.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Policy JICC. (Vote 4-0)**

**Public Comment** Mrs. Kelley said she has been teaching for thirty years. She started her teaching career at Paul School. She said the teachers parents and community care about Paul School and she asked the Board to please make this work.

**Nominations /Hires/Resignations Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to approve new hires Dixie Dodier and Betsy Stipo.** **(Vote 4-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to accept the resignation of C. Carberry with regret.** **(Vote 3-1)**

**Correspondence** None

**Non Public Session Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to enter nonpublic under 91-A 3:11(c) at 8:00. Roll call Gelinas aye, Fogg aye, Collins aye, Ouellette aye (Vote 4-0)**

The Board reentered public session at 10:20.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to ratify the Teachers contract. Roll call: Gelinas aye, Fogg aye, Ouellette aye, Collins aye (Vote 4-0)**

**Adjournment** **Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25. (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

School Board Secretary