

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
1-21-21 Public Minutes from the recessed meeting of 1-19-21
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

Board: Relf Fogg, Lino Avellani, Mary Collins, Bob Ouellette and Sheena Robbins

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Student Services Director, Anne Kebler, Principal James Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector all via zoom
Facilities Director Joe Williams.

Public: 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.

Mr. Avellani called for a Point of Order and asked how the meeting of 1-19 could have been recessed prior to going into non-public. Mr. Ouellette said that was a mistake and apologized.

Mr. Avellani called for another Point of Order and asked where and when the discussion took place for the K-4 plan because it seemed like you came out of non-public and went right into the vote? He asked when the debate took place. Mr. Ouellette said we had a debate for two hours and then went into non-public to talk about that. Mr. Fogg added that when the Board went into non-public, we had the realization we had only one option.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to enter non-public at 6:07 under 91-A-3-II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Avellani asked Mrs. Collins to state the purpose. She replied that she wanted to fill in Mr. Avellani about what was discussed at the last minute. Mr. Avellani asked that a time limit be set. The Board decided on thirty minutes.
The Board reentered public session at 6:45.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the draft for technology services as long as the contact information and dates are updated. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Old Business

Assistant Principals Presentation

Mr. Avellani said this was tabled at the last meeting and asked if there was a motion to take it off the table.

Mrs. Robbins made a motion seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to take the Assistant Principals Presentation off the table. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay, Avellani nay, Robbins aye (Vote 3-2)

Mr. Avellani asked how long the presentation took to put together? Mr. Lampron answered, a fair amount of time. Mr. Avellani asked if the district would be better served working on opening plans? Mr. Lampron said there are short- and long-term benefits and this was done well beyond putting in forty hours a week. Mr. Gregoire said he asked Mr. Lampron to put this together. Mr. Avellani said the Board went in a certain direction and he still objects to this being heard. Mr. Lampron proceeded to talk about the need for the vice principal position. He listed the positions that had been cut. He next talked about the role of an assistant principal. They attend 504 meetings, is in charge of discipline, does walkthroughs and evaluates staff. They also help with technology questions, meets and greets the students in the morning, and attends School Board meetings. He showed a visual of what the assistant principal looks like at full time and at .6, three days a week. He said a cut in this position will have a negative impact on teachers and classroom management. There will also be an impact on student services and school management. Mr. Lampron showed a chart of the amount an assistant principal gets paid and the number of days they work a year in other similar districts.

Mr. Fogg asked why 200 days wouldn't work. Students are in school 185 days and these duties wouldn't be needed if there are no students in the building. Mr. Lampron said this year we created the 38-page reentry plan and that took time. Two years ago, they rewrote the staff handbook, scheduling new programming, new staff orientation. He said it's the busiest time of the year. Mr. Fogg asked if this wasn't the duties of a principal. Mr. Lampron responded that if you lower the number of days there is a disparity in the pay. Mr. Gregoire said every place he worked he had an assistant principal. Planning for a school year happens in the summer. Mr. Lampron said to restore the assistant principal to full time he could off-set the costs by cutting Supplies by \$5,000, Guidance assessment by \$6,000, Library books by \$5,800, Principal tuition by \$3,500, Principal travel by \$1,000 and Curriculum/textbooks by \$7,500. That would leave \$24,143 to find in the budget. Mr. Fogg does not support cutting the supply line. Neither does Mrs. Collins. She said most of these cuts directly affect students. She supports the proposal from the Feasibility Committee. Mr. Lampron said having a parttime assistant principal will affect students and is imperative for the success of Paul School. Mrs. Collins said she is confident that the students will be taken care of with an assistant in the building when the students are there. Mr. Lampron listed the people who were in the school during the summer.

Impala Bid

One bid was received for \$300. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Warrant Articles

After some discussion it was decided that the Chair would move the articles at Deliberative Session and the Vice Chair would second them. They would also speak to the articles.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to have the Chair make the motions and the Vice Chair second them and the Chair or Vice Chair speak to the article. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Superintendent Search Committee

There have been two applicants for the position. This is open until the end of the month. Mr. Ouellette reached out to the Feasibility Committee and three agreed to be on this committee, Norma Joy, Carlene Stewart and Sandra Taliaferro. He said he also got hold of Priscilla Colbath. She asked if the Board would take the recommendation of the Committee. Mr. Avellani said that the Board had already decided that Mr. Ouellette had the permission of the Board to appoint a Budget Committee member. Mr. Ouellette will reach back out to the Budget Committee. Mr. Fogg suggested the name of the committee be changed to Candidate Review Committee. Mr. Avellani suggested two board members. Mr. Lampron asked to be seated on this committee. Mr. Fogg suggested a staff member. Mr. Avellani suggested a superintendent for another district. Mrs. Robbins felt someone from the school should be on the committee. She does not see any conflict. Mr. Fogg and Mrs. Collins, a Budget Committee member, three members of the Feasibility Committee, two staff member and a superintendent for another district will sit on the committee.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to form a Superintendent Candidate Review Committee consisting of nine members with a breakdown of two School Board members, a Budget Committee member, three members of the Feasibility Committee, two staff member and a superintendent from another district. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins nay (Vote 4-1)

The committee will interview the candidates.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, for the Board to choose the superintendent to sit on this committee. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Ouellette said he would get the list and Mr. Gregoire can organize it.

Wakefield School Board Scholarship

Mr. Gregoire included in the Board packets a letter that would be going out to area school districts. The Board discussed the different questions that staff came up with.

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Avellani, to use the question *Thinking about your intended education, how would you use your skills to contribute to society?* Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

The staff member who submitted the chosen question will be recognized and thanked.

Annual Report Cover page

The Board chose a cover page for the annual School District Report from those provided.

Mr. Avellani made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to choose the artwork on page 82 of the Board packet. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Gregoire said that student will come to a Board meeting to be recognized. They will also receive a gift card.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Donation

Mr. Gregoire said this is a grant that is not applied for. It's usually based on free and reduced lunch. We have received this for music in the past. He needs the Board to accept that money.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to accept the \$1,900 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Avellani asked what account this will be put into. Mr. Gregoire said it will go into Student Activities account. Mr. Avellani asked where this would be found in the budget. Mr. Gregoire replied it's not in the budget. Mr. Avellani asked how it's accounted for. Mr. Gregoire will supply the list of activities and the balances to the Board. Mrs. Robbins asked who chooses how this money is spent. Mr. Gregoire said the principal decides. She asked about accountability. Mr. Gregoire said the authority comes from the business office to determine if the request is appropriate. The accountability is in the fund. Mrs. D'Agostino said this account is scrutinized by the auditors each year to assure that there is a procedure and protocol.

Policies: Second Reading

Policy BEA They are adding: All agenda items must be submitted to the Superintendent's office no later than **12:00 noon on the Thursday prior to the meeting.** Mrs. Collins read the rest of the changes to this policy. There was a discussion on whether to have community members contact the Chair or the Superintendent or any Board member to request an item be placed on the agenda. They concluded that the words any member of the board be struck.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to table this policy and put it on the next agenda. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 4-1)

Policy JFABE This a new policy that will be adopted tonight. Policy JFAB will need to be updated.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, adopt Policy JFABE. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Policy JICI Removing the word stiletto.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Policy JICI. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Public Comment

Gavin Kearns said the unwillingness to listen to administration shows how members of the Board are mismanaging the school. He explained that the Board is not following the reentry plan. Numbers are not plateauing but increasing. He read the count of new cases in Carroll County in the last few weeks. Nichole Dolaher wanted to make the Board aware that eighth grade should be

the priority over kindergarten. Mary Soares said she has been in Wakefield for two years and has no child at Paul School. She's an educator. She feels that a full-time assistant principal is needed.

Sandrea Taliaferro. She said looking at the presentation for assistant principal several of the schools the Feasibility Committee contacted were not listed nor the four schools that have no assistant principal at all. She said there was also confusion as the position would be forty hours a week while kids are in school plus ten days prior and ten days after the school year ended. Mr. Lampron's comparison was not apples to apples. She also has a plan to get the buses rolling. Mrs. Robbins expressed some thoughts on this plan, buses and drivers. She directed people to the DHHS website and the tab schools.

The Board then discussed different scenarios for spraying buses. Jenn O'Neill has an eighth grader and she wants her kids back in school. She asked about a staggered start time. Unknown person with a reentry suggestion. Keri Garland said she has a seventh grader and a ninth grader and they are sad they're not on school. Mr. Gregoire said the school has to provide transportation and cannot solicit people other than parents to drive kids to school. Norma Joy said the latest survey didn't apply to her and a question should be asked if the child will continue with full remote.

Nicole Beckwith has a fourth grader who can go back to school and a fifth grader who cannot. She is worried about having to keep changing her schedule all the time. Dawn Alie said she works at a school doing hybrid and a lot of kids aren't doing anything on them on home days at all. All kids are falling behind. She said that the survey does include the remote question. She wants an update on the buses. Mr. Gregoire said we have enough buses to cover grade K-4 and the special ed routes in district and Spaulding.

Chad and Keri Dow. Mr. Dow. said the Board went into a non-public meeting with the bus drivers and he wants to know the reasons some aren't coming back. Mr. Ouellette said we didn't go into non-public with the drivers, Mr. Dow insisted that they did. Mr. Gregoire said there are a variety of reasons why drivers don't want to come back. Nickie Dolaher, Sandra Taliaferro, and a few other people had comments.

Mr. Avellani thanked the Chair for his apology at the beginning of the meeting. He also wants him to know that the chairman's duties are spelled out in the policy manual. Building trust, transparency and fostering a good working relationship with the Board has all be compromised. He wants to make sure that he will be reporting to the rest of the members and on a path of transparency. Mr. Ouellette reiterated that it wasn't done with malice.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23
Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Avellani aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary

