

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
2-17-21 Public Minutes
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom
Approved

In attendance:

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

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Financial Manager Michael O'Neill, Student Services Director, Anne Kebler, all via zoom

In person: Principal James Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector and Facilities Director Joe Williams.

Mr. Ouellette called the meeting to order at 5:02. Those present joined in the flag salute.

Mr. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg to enter non public at 5:05 under 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

The Board returned to public session at 6:10.

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to seal the non public minutes for 6 months. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Consent Agenda Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 2-1)

Minutes

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the public minutes of 1-19-21 with any amendments offered. Typos will be fixed on the approved minutes. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the public minutes of 1-21-21 with any amendments offered. Typos will be fixed on the approved minutes. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the public minutes of 2-3-21 with any amendments offered. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the non public minutes of 2-3-21 with any amendments offered. The typo will be fixed on the approved minutes. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Reports

Students Services Report

Mrs. Kebler told the Board that in order to comply with the Governor's executive order requiring schools to offer face to face instruction for special education students, we offered in school programming for any of our students with disabilities. Approximately one third of our population took advantage of these services, with the rest receiving their special education services remotely. We continue to be short staffed with our paraprofessional staff which has been quite challenging for special ed staff to provide services and support to our students while in the classroom. I want to thank our special education staff for the work they put in to scheduling the face to face services and providing the support necessary for our students to be successful in the classroom.

Below you will find our breakdown of current numbers. Since the last student service report, we have increased our out of district students by two, one of which was anticipated in the FY 20-21 operating budget. We remain at about 20% of our population of students identified as students with disabilities.

While our special education bottom line remains in the positive, we are in the deficit in contracted services and out of district costs.

Wakefield special ed numbers PreK to grade 12 is 127 Total numbers of students with 504 plans is 27.

Mrs. Kebler met with Mrs. Collins who is on the Policy Committee and shared with her the

Special Ed Policy and Procedure Manual she just completed. She will send the document to all board members and hard copies will be available at the SAU. Portions of the document will be discussed at future meetings.

Mrs. Robbins asked if the face to face was for full day. Mrs. Kebler said for some students. Mrs. Robbins asked if Mrs. Kebler has a plan if there needs to be another remote session? Mrs. Kebler said they developed a plan at the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Robbins asked how many paras are we short right now? Mrs. Kebler said six total have resigned but doesn't believe all six positions need to be filled. Mrs. Robbins asked how many new hires have there been since January? Mrs. Kebler said we have hired one regular ed para. Mrs. Robbins asked how many ABA Tutors do we have in the school? Mrs. Kebler responded there were seven and we've just hired three more. Mrs. Robbins asked how many paras and ABA Tutors are in the building. Mrs. Kebler will get back to her with the number.

There are nine students and one in process in the Partner Program. The three new positions are for new students. Mrs. Robbins is trying to figure out why it took precedence to add students and position to the Partner Program when we are in need to paras for IEP's. Mrs. Kebler said these are our most intensive students. Four students at a minimum would be out of district placements without this program. Many of the students in the Program are in the classroom 80-90% of the time. Mrs. Robbins asked if the services are being provided for the students in mainstream with IEP's? Mrs. Kebler said the special ed teachers are making up for the lack of paraprofessionals.

Right now, she can see a need for three paras not the six that are budgeted for. Mrs. Robbins asked who is doing the billing for Medicaid and do we bill 504 students? Mrs. Kebler said we have a service. MSB does the billing for us and 504 services will be billed for this year.

Financial Managers Report

Mr. O'Neill went through the information in their packets which included the Capital Reserve Report: Enclosed is the December 2020 Town of Wakefield Capital Reserve School portion listing of the Trust Fund Report.

Monthly Financial Report: The enclosed February 11, 2021 financial report includes the following supplemental reports:

1. Dental Benefit. 2. Health Benefit. 3. Retirement; and 4. Salary.

The salary, retirement, health, and dental benefit reports capture increases or (decreases) for all functions.

Mr. O'Neill sent out the RFP for the Tech services to the Board.

New Business

Kingswood Continuation Approval

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the seven Kingswood students to continue their education at Kingswood. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Public Comment

None

Nominations. Resignations

There were two FYI sheets for ABA Tutors in the Board packets. There is also a resignation from paraprofessional Clayton Cyr and custodian James Schirmir.

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins to accept the two resignations with regret. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Robbins said at the last meeting we had a discussion about masks and we said we'd revisit it at this meeting.

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, that masks be recommended but not required for grade K-2 when three to six feet of social distancing is possible starting Monday March 15th.

It was stated this would happen at their desks when they aren't talking. Mrs. Robbins said we are in the region of the blue zone on the reentry plan. She is not suggesting that we lift all restrictions. Numbers are declining and cases in town are 1-4 cases. She said she is advocating the MOA and the reentry plan. Mr. Gregoire talked with the director of the contracted service company who had said they wouldn't enter the building unless everyone was wearing a mask. The director said they are taking this on a case by case basis. He said Dr. Chan is now recommending everyone wear masks even outside at recess when we can't do six foot distancing. Mr. Fogg read a paragraph from an email from a parent of a first grader who talks about the difficulty her child is having with his mask. Mr. Lampron said he hears from parents on either side of the spectrum about mask wearing. His fear is if a student gets Covid and goes

home to an older high risk relative and something happens to that person, he doesn't want that on his conscience and is sure the Board doesn't either, Mr. Lampron said there are no scheduled mask breaks. If they go out to recess and lunch are mask break times. At a minimum they would be off at lunch for thirty minutes. Mr. Fogg had questions about temperature readings. Mr. Gregoire said he has not had any complaints about a fever alone. Mrs. Robbins read part of the NHDOE Back to School Guide about the handling of masks by young children and when they should be wearing masks, entering and exiting the building in the hallways, entering and leaving a classroom, on the bus, and group activities closer than six feet. Mr. Lampron isn't sure if the DOE has updated their recommendations.

Mrs. Robbins also read something from the American Academy of Pediatrics that says young children do not spread Covid like the flu and are less likely to get infected. She doesn't feel this will put anyone at risk. Mr. Lampron said he believes the latest recommendation from the CDC is everyone over the age of two should be wearing a mask. He would also want the motion to be more specific, at your desk when you aren't taking but just doing your work. Mr. Ouellette questioned how this could be done with K-2. Mr. Gregoire said he has heard from teachers and that keeping masks on hasn't been an issue.

Roll call: Ouellette nay, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye. (Vote 3-1)

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08

Roll call: Ouellette nay, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay. (Vote 3-1)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary