

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL BOARD  
4-20-21 Public Minutes  
Held in the Multi-Purpose Room and via Zoom  
Approved

In attendance:

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

Administration: Superintendent Jerry Gregoire, Financial Manager Michael O'Neill, Principal James Lampron, Assistant Principal Jenn Spector.

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

**Presentations**

Statement from the Board

Mr. Fogg read the following statement: The Board and the Union have come to an agreement and realize that there was a breakdown in communication and in the future, we will include the union in discussions involving agreements. He acknowledged that this should have been read at the last meeting. Mr. Fogg said there is a change in the mask mandate. He wondered if this should be discussed with staff or perhaps a public forum. Mrs. Robbins said we have an MOA in place. Mr. Gregoire said he would contact the unions tomorrow.

**Public Comment**

None

**Consent Agenda**

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the Consent Agenda removing invoice number 19428 from the Consent Agenda to be discussed in non public. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg nay, Gelinas aye (Vote 4-1)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve the Consent Agenda from April 6<sup>th</sup>. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve non public minutes of session 1 and 2 of 4-6-21 with amendments. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve public minutes of 4-6-21. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

The Facilities sub-committee minutes were in the packets for informational purposes.

## **Reports**

### Student Services Report

Mrs. Kebler had to leave early this will be on the next agenda.

### Business Administrators Report

Mr. O'Neill said he was waiting for approval of the minutes to send to the trustees for the approved Warrant Articles for the funds to be returned to the Town. The money will not be used by the school. He said right now there is a \$636,000 surplus in the general fund and with grants that number is almost \$800,000. He expects Medicaid to come in short but we have received more unanticipated funds. Pages 19 and 20 reflect the Food Service Report. The district is serving meals seven days a week. He expects to break even at the end of the year. The seven day a week school lunch program has been extended to June 30, 2022 and will be totally reimbursed by the federal government.

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to apply for the seven day meal program through June 30, 2022. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to increase the cost of school meals by 10 cents. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

Mr. O'Neill asked the Board to approve Fresh Picks for school meals for another year.

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to use Fresh Picks for the 2021-2022 school year. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)** Mr. Gregoire thanked Café Services for their outstanding service.

Mrs. Collins asked why stipends were paid for fall sports, After School Activities and Student Council. Mr. Gregoire said the Athletic Director got paid his stipend even though there were no fall sports he was working to see what we were going to do at that point by talking to other districts. Mr. Gregoire said it wouldn't be fair not to give him his stipend because he was still working on it even though no schools in our area were participating. Mr. Lampron said they had an eighth grade student council that meets. Mrs. Collins asked about the After School Activity Coordinator and Mr. Gregoire said he needs clarity on what was specifically paid for after school activities. Mr. Lampron said there has been no after school activities coordinator stipend paid. There have been stipends for yearbook, fundraising, eighth grade class advisor and there have been some after school activities happening. Mr. Collins said maybe if we knew what was happening there wouldn't be these questions. We don't get any information that's why she asks. She questioned why they didn't get information. Mr. Gregoire said that everything that happens on a day to day basis isn't reported to the Board. The Board gets reports from Administration. Mrs. Collins said she doesn't expect to get everything that happens on a day to day basis, but special things like upcoming trips etc. Mr. Fogg asked what is coming up and Mr. Gregoire said end of the year activities are on the agenda. Mr. Fogg asked what sports teams the school has. He questioned if there are enough students to play for Parks and Rec and the school. Mr. Gregoire said they have co-ed soccer in the fall and softball and baseball in the spring and kids would rather play for the school. They can't wait to play school sports. It has been difficult this year getting coaches because of Covid. Mr. Lampron will be the baseball coach this year. Officials, coaches and teams have been hard to find this year.

## **Old Business**

### Judith Nason Memorial Bridge

Mr. Fogg sent information to the Board. He got some prices of a galvanized steel culvert. Mr. Williams staked out the trench where the bridge would go. Mrs. Robbins asked that the area be pointed out to the Board where it will be located outside. Mr. Fogg expects the total cost would be \$16,000 to \$18,000. \$10,901.31 is currently in the Trust Fund. Mr. Fogg said the Board would have to decide if this surface should be pavers or asphalt. Mr. Fogg will have a conceptual drawing for the Board.

## **New Business**

### Chrome Books CDW Computer Centers Inc.

Mr. Gregoire asked for the Boards approval to spend \$69,100.08 from the newly approved ESSER II Funds to purchase 180 Chromebooks which included the chargers, charging stations, protective cases and licensing. This includes extra chargers and thirty five extra Chromebooks which will bring the count up to one to one.

### **Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to purchase one hundred eighty Chromebooks from the ESSER II funds.**

The Board discussed the reliability of the Chromebooks and that when these computers go, they are basically unrepairable. MacBooks are about \$900 a unit and Chromebooks are one third of that price. Mrs. Robbins asked if there is a parent permission slip and if damaged purposely do the parents pay. Mr. Lampron said we have not had this problem. There has been no intentional abuse. Mr. Gregoire said we have damaged computers all the time. Accidents happen with kids. Mayrand Computers bills us for their repair.

Mrs. Robbins asked what is the vision of administration for the district? Mr. Gregoire said this decision was driven out of Covid in the event the whole school has to go remote we'd be prepared. Mr. Gregoire said the intention is not to sit a child in front of a computer for the day. It will be used as a tool. She has seen the value of the tool but she also sees the danger of lack of human interaction and expectations placed on staff. She sees overuse of computers. She would like there to be a vision and expectations for teachers and amount of computer time here at school. Mr. Gregoire doesn't see this as a problem here. He said we are more a paper and pencil school. Mrs. Gelinas said she works with younger kids and it's hard to get them to do anything on a computer. Mr. Gregoire said during remote the students did a lot of their work on paper.

**Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins nay, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 4-1)**

### End of Year Activities

Mrs. Collins asked to have this on the agenda. She asked if the students would be going to Camp Calumet this year. Mr. Gregoire said they would not. She also said people have been asking and we have not set a date for the last day of school. Mr. Gregoire said he did not want to set it until mid-May. She asked if there were any plans for graduation. Mr. Lampron said there were tentative plans for kindergarten graduation, preschool graduation and eighth grade graduation. They are being scheduled for the last week of the school year. All will be held outside and the eighth grade will be using the fields not the parking lot this year. He said if the last day of the school year falls on a Friday eighth grade graduation will be on Saturday. Mrs. Collins asked if we have that date yet and Mr. Lampron said they didn't. She then asked about the class trip.

Mr. Gregoire said policy says if students want to travel out of state, they need Board approval and they are asking to take a day trip to Boston. Mr. Gregoire said they have not given him the details so he is asking for approval for the eighth grade to go to Boston. Mrs. Collins asked what date they wanted to go. He does not have the date yet. Mr. Gregoire said the Board doesn't need the details, just that they are going to Boston. The eighth grade teachers and paraprofessional take them on a chartered bus. Mrs. Robbins asked about the MOA in place and what may be violated. Mr. Gregoire said this request is coming from the teachers brought to him from Mr. Kearns so they're ok with that. Mrs. Gelinas asked if they just needed permission from the Board to go to Boston and the Board doesn't need the details? Mrs. Collins said she'd like to know and, in the past there was always a presentation when they used to do overnight trips and when they changed them to the one day Boston trip. Mr. Gregoire said the details are still being worked out. Mr. Gregoire told them they could leave as early as they want and come back as late as they want, do the duck tour, perhaps attend a Red Sox game and go to Faneuil Hall, Museum of Science. Mrs. Collins asked what if students don't want to go? Mr. Gregoire said there will be class at school for those that don't wish to go or aren't permitted to go.

**Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the eighth grade going to Boston.**

Mr. Fogg was concerned that parents aren't asked to chaperone. Mr. Gregoire said it's hard for them to plan without first knowing they will be going. They need to know in order to put a deposit down on the bus, duck tours etc. Mrs. Spector said when the details are ironed out, they have a parent meeting with the itinerary and expectations spelled out. Mrs. Robbins wants the kids to have this trip but the Board has an issue to work out. There has been a discussion about violation of the MOA and we need to connect with the Union to have this discussion. The MOA doesn't just go one way so if there are agreements that are made because it's the staff bringing it up it doesn't mean that the MOA is ignored. We made an agreement that if there is anything that might violate the MOA we would connect with the Union. She doesn't want to approve this today without having this conversation. Mrs. Collins agreed that they did not want to violate that MOA. Mrs. Gelinas feels that this has been ironed out. She asked where the violation might happen where we might have concerns. Mrs. Robbins said off the top of her head, clean surfaces, working conditions and social distancing.

Mr. Lampron said this was put on the agenda as new business and he wasn't prepared to do a presentation for the Board. Mr. Ouellette said, then you don't need a motion tonight? Mr. Lampron said it would give them the ability to plan for this trip. Mrs. Gelinas asked about changing the motion to approve the trip based on talking to the Union would that enable you to move forward? Mr. Gregoire said that would give tentative approval as no one wants to move forward with planning prior to Board approval.

**Mrs. Gelinas rescinded her motion. Mr. Ouellette rescinded his second. Mrs. Gelinas made a new motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Boston trip based on talking to the Union about the MOA.**

Mrs. Collins said she would like to wait. She doesn't want to say no to a trip but they need more information based on the MOA. Mrs. Gelinas would rather let them plan the trip and be able to start the process and if they find out they can't go they can come back and revisit it. Mrs. Robbins said this is another example of us being made to feel rushed to make a decision. If this is so critical why didn't administration put this on the agenda? The agenda didn't even say Boston

trip, it said end of the year activities. Mrs. Collins said she asked to have this on the agenda because she had actual dates given to her by parents when the last day of school would be and she did list the activities. Mr. Gregoire said all he got was end of the year activities. Mr. Gregoire said in the nine years doing this he has never had an issue with the Board with an out of state trip. Mr. Ouellette said the MOA can't be one sided. It should work both ways. We need to discuss this with the Union.

Mrs. Collins said there is not one person on this Board that wants to tell the eighth grade they can't go on this trip. That's not what we're saying, we need more information to make sure we are compliant with the Unions MOA. Mrs. Robbins questioned that Mr. Gregoire didn't even put this on the agenda. Mr. Lampron said they will come back to the next meeting with a presentation. Mr. Gregoire will set up a meeting with the Union.

**Roll call: Ouellette nay, Robbins nay, Collins nay, Fogg nay, Gelin as aye (Vote 1-4)**

As a point of information Mrs. Robbins read from policy BEDD number 1E. Board Members have a right to know beforehand what they will be discussing and/or voting upon. She said if administration needs Board action to move forward, we should have a heads up on what will be discussed and voted on. The sprung on us situation makes it real difficult.

#### Parks and Rec

Mr. Fogg spoke with Mr. Robinson. Parks and Rec has agreed to bus students to the ball fields for games. Mr. Robinson is requesting a discussion with the Board to consider them developing a dog park on the Rines Road property owned by the school. Mr. Ouellette asked that Mr. Robinson put something together. Mr. Kasprzyk asked to have another letter giving permission to the Water Precinct to do some test bores on the Rines Road. Mr. Gregoire will handle this request.

#### AREA Meeting

Mrs. Gelin as said the Board met with Rochester on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A few things that we learned is that everyone spoke highly of our students and teachers. We have 4 students in the top 25 and we have 9 in the top 100. Mr. Ouellette said the tech center is an amazing place.

Mrs. Robbins asked about the Covid discussion the Board was supposed to have periodically. Will students have to quarantine when they come back from vacation away? Mr. Gregoire said no stipulations have been made for quarantining.

#### **Policies (Second Reading)**

**JLCF The Wellness Policy:** After talking with Mr. Lampron there were three parts of the policy that concerned him; Fundraising Celebrations and Rewards Mrs. Collins said they were keeping the present Wakefield School Board Policy removing E, F and G from the policy. She said we would still be compliant with the law as far as school meals go. Mrs. Robbins asked Mr. Gregoire what he found out about the Wellness Plan, school coordinator, school level assessment and a school health index, the healthy schools program. Mr. Gregoire said he has not looked at an assessment. He doesn't have that information and he will note that and have the information available to the Board, The Board moved this to the next agenda when Mr. Gregoire has the information available. This policy will be on the next agenda.

**JLCJ Concussions and Head Injuries:** Number 5. The last sentence will be stricken. Athletic Director will stay in both number 5 and number 6. We have an Athletic Director so they are removing the administrators.

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

**JLCK Special Physical Health Needs of Students:** No changes to this policy

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

#### **Public Comment**

Dawn Alie said no one needs to quarantine if they go into Massachusetts. She said she thinks the eighth grade trip could have been handled better and she appreciates everything the Admin is doing. She said kids would rather play on a school team.

#### **Non Public**

**Mr. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to enter nonpublic session at 8:16 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, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Robbins aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

The Board returned to public session at 9:02.

#### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Robbins aye, Collins aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary

