



Wakefield School Board Minutes

October 19, 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 Gelin as by Video	✓	Tracy Bemis, Assistant Principal	

Audience: Sandra Taliaferro, Officer Mike Fenton 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. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the consent Agenda. (Vote 4-1)

Mr. Fogg questioned why they are issuing checks to a law firm that they no longer retain. Mrs. Stiles said that the Board voted to change legal firms in the Spring but this was not communicated to the law firm. This was caught in July and a letter was to go into payables and it did not. This has been remedied and this will be their last check.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 10-5-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 9-28-21 with any amendments offered. (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Student Services Report

The report is in the Board packet. Mrs. Stiles said there is now a student support team that includes the social worker, school psychologist, guidance counselor, principal and superintendent who are formulating some processes and tools for staff to work with students who are struggling behaviorally or emotionally.

Business Administrators Report

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

Facilities Managers Report

The front doors should be done by the end of the week and the wiring project is moving forward.

Old Business

Staff and the Student Handbook Approval

Mrs. Collins said in page 9 of the Student Handbook under excused absences she'd like to change the words 'have an obligation to avoid' to 'should avoid'. On page 16 of the Staff Handbook the Volunteer Policy IJOC references Policy ABA which is not on the website. The school now covers the cost for background checks for volunteers. As these handbooks have already been distributed these suggestions will be put into next year's handbooks. Mrs. Gelinas asked to have the 'safe word' blocked out of next year's Staff Handbook. By consensus, the Board agreed to the changes

Covid Update

Mrs. Stiles said there were three active Covid cases right now in school and none are staff. The Board discussed their options. Mrs. Gelinas wanted to continue with the masks. Mr. Ouellette asked the administrators what their recommendation would be. Mrs. Stiles said she agreed with Mrs. Gelinas. Mrs. White said it is difficult for the little ones to understand the on again, off again mask wearing. If the threshold numbers rise this can be discussed again at the next meeting.

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to make masks optional at school.

(Vote 3-2) Mr. Fogg said we should continue to strongly encourage but not mandate mask wearing.

2022-2023 Budget Development

Mrs. Stiles presented the Board members with the first draft of the proposed budget. The highlights are the overview by function, comparison of potential warrant articles, the proposed budget, employee numbers, staff health and benefit costs, enrollment numbers current and projected, grant overview, CIP numbers, and the two CBA's. She said she knows the practice has been to go through the budget and make adjustments and changes. She asked when they would like to do that. After some discussion the Board decided to meet at 5:00 on their regular meeting date of November 2nd with a backup date for a second meeting on November 3rd at 4:00 if needed.

New Business

None

Policies

None

Sub Committee Updates.

Transportation Minutes

FYI

Professional Development Minutes

Mrs. Stiles reported that the committee is looking at providing professional development utilizing the expertise of the Paul School staff. This was presented at the October 8th workshop. They talked about evaluations, blizzard bags, a book talk, three to five minute videos any staff member can do to show where they have had success with students and doing professional development to share with their peers. She thanked Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Colbath for the Chinese luncheon they presented and the Board for making it possible. She said the staff was very appreciative.

Facilities Meeting Discussion

Mr. Ouellette told the Board that a section of the roof has a leak. The quote to repair the leak is \$5,500. Mr. Williams has a company that will do the work. The policy would either have to be waived or Mr. Williams would have to be successful with negotiating a lesser amount of \$4,995. If this isn't attended to right now, we could be looking at a much larger bill.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to waive policy DJE - Bidding Requirements, if needed, for the roof repair. (Vote 4-1)

CIP Projects

The well for watering the fields cost \$30,000, playground cost \$66,000 grant funded and the gym floor cost \$145,000. There is \$71,100 in the gym trust fund.

Other Business

Public Comment Mrs. Taliaferro suggested that if a student in a particular classroom contracts Covid perhaps just that class should wear a mask for ten days.

Mrs. Collins said we're not logged on to Facebook during our meetings. She does not feel that Mrs. Soars should be reading other people's comments. Their names are unknown to the Board and they can't be recorded in the minutes.

Nominations

T. McGaw Special Ed Para; new hire

Correspondence

Non Public Session

None

Mrs. Gelinas suggested a student showcase which would be teachers and students showcasing something they are proud of for the Board at a meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary

