



Wakefield School Board Minutes

November 2, 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 Gelinis by Video	✓	Tracy Bemis, Assistant Principal	

Audience: Sandra Taliaferro and Mary Soares with Clearview TV.

Chairman Ouellette called the meeting to order at 6:06.

Public Comment

Mrs. Taliaferro asked about bus write-ups. Mrs. White explained the procedure to her.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinis, to approve the consent Agenda. (Vote 4-1)

Mr. Fogg asked if checks numbered 20610 and 20615 are the same vendor. Mr. O'Neill said yes, and that it's a glitch in the system and can't be changed until the end of the year. Mr. Ouellette asked why a letter wasn't sent out letting our previous law firm know that we were discontinuing their services? A check was issued to a law firm that we longer retain. Mr. O'Neill said that he thought that was awarded last November and he assumed that his predecessor had taken care of that. Mr. Ouellette asked what that cost the district. Mr. O'Neill responded about a thousand dollars.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the public minutes of 10-19-21 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

Superintendents Report

Mrs. Stiles said that the school is the recipient of a \$1900 grant from the NH Charitable

Organization. The funds are to be used to support the music/voice program at Paul School. Ms. Sullivan has been made aware of the grant and will be purchasing items for her program. NH Charitable Organization has been thanked on behalf of the Board.

Mrs. Stiles has been in touch with W.C.Cressey & Son regarding a bus purchase. She said Evan Rossett will be taking a look at the two buses we will be trading in toward the purchase of one large bus. He will get back to her with numbers after he visits the bus yard.

She reported that the number of positive covid cases has greatly decreased over the past two weeks. Approximately 80 Binx Boxes have been used and have been very helpful in getting students and staff back to school quickly.

The District Leadership Team is focusing on creating a positive school climate, in particular for students and identified roles and responsibilities of the guidance counselor, school psychologists, assistant principal and social worker. One day was added to the contract for the school psychologist. NECC will be offering CALM training which will focus on how to utilize interventions that can de-escalate challenging behaviors. Staff in attendance will learn effective procedures that will benefit students and adults. 26 staff have signed up for this Saturday session.

Discussions regarding a Student Success room where a student who is struggling behaviorally in the classroom can go to de-escalate and learn some strategies for being successful. They are looking at ways to put middle school students in leadership roles within the school. They are also looking at opportunities to create "community" experiences to enhance pride in being a Paul School student. On Tuesday, November 9, the 2022-2023 proposed budget will be presented to the Town Budget Committee.

The High School Lottery letter has been posted and due back on December 1st. So far there has been a limited response. Mrs. Stiles held a staff chat with Mrs. Stiles called Cheese and Crackers. It was attended by thirty people. This is a laid back, relaxing discussion and will be held every six weeks from at 3:30 for 45 minutes.

School Administration Report

Mrs. White said at our October staff meeting we focused on staff wellness. One of our school psychologists Jackie Tormney made a presentation to staff about services she can provide to assist our school community with mental health concerns. Staff are currently completing a bingo board that promotes self-care and those who have finished the tasks can enter their names in the raffle for prizes. Amy Swanson finished the meeting with chair yoga that could be used to refocus both staff and students.

Due to weather, we had to postpone our Nature's Classroom events for Pre-K and grades 1-4, however Kindergarten students were able to participate in Art, Shelters and BioBlitz. Grades 5 and 6 were able to participate in Wilderness Survival, Field Journaling, and the BioBlitz! Students in grades 7 and 8 were able to participate in Survival/Orienteering, Nature Art, and Building a Civilization. We are hopeful that we can reschedule for the Spring of 2022. On Friday October 22, 2021 we held our first Annual Paul School Staff Outdoor Games event. We are thankful to our PTA who provided food. Our winners of the Cornhole Tournament were Lucas Salisbury and Meghan Nason.

We had picture day on October 27th in the gym. Student pictures will appear in the yearbook and on student ID cards. At our October Community Day we celebrated our Outstanding students as well as Jennifer Hayward who was nominated by her peers for the Outstanding Staff Member for the month of October. We were very impressed with our student volunteers who created skits to show how to be PAWS-itive classmates at recess. Students are working on being kind, respectful, responsible and safe at recess to earn extra recess with teamwork inspired games. In an effort to highlight the positive happenings within the building, we have created a "Cheers for Peers" bulletin board in our staff room where staff members can publicly thank their colleagues for their hard work and dedication to the Paul School community. Students have been earning Positive Office Referrals for their commitment to building a positive school community.

FFV program is up and running and each day our students receive a fresh fruit or vegetable with their snacks. Approximately 300 students are accessing our breakfast and lunch program daily. Students can grab breakfast from our kitchen staff in the hallway as they come into the building in the morning. Lunch is delivered to classrooms at scheduled lunch times. The new doors are all installed. The interruptions were minimal and Portland Glass expedited the job quickly. Next time you're in the building, notice the new doors.

Mrs. Collins asked is anything was going to be taught sometime next week about the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. She said she just found out that it's actually a law. Mrs. Colbath will send the RSA to Mrs. White.

Old Business

2022-2023 Budget

To be continued tomorrow

New Business

Paraprofessional/ABA Tutor Evaluation Sheet

Mrs. Stiles explained the new evaluation tool in their packets. The Union has approved this unanimously. This can be done electronically.

Restroom Accessibility

Mrs. Stiles told the Board that this is a response from actions that have come up at the school. Mrs. White said in compliance with the law, students have the right to use a restroom that affords them privacy. The School Board policy JBAB addresses this. They will make the middle school bathrooms into single stall. They would like to send a letter to parents explaining this. They will do a single frame door to make this another stall. The funds will come from the 2610 function, Care of Buildings.

Policies

DK Payment Procedures – First Reading. No changes were made to the policy

IKB Homework – First Reading, The Policy Committee changes the word “is” in the first sentence to the words “can be”. They are inserting “not to exceed” before each grade level frequency. They are planning to look at other local school districts to see what their homework policy says. Mrs. Gelinas has a lot of questions and concerns about this policy. She questioned the change to “can be”. She also feels that number 3 and 4 are contradictory. She is neither for or

against homework but feels the number of stated hours seems a lot to her. Mrs. Collins said every teacher does not assign homework every day. Mrs. Robbins responded that they were trying to stress not to give homework unless it's meaningful to their education. Mrs. White said the Policy Committee questioned the length of time suggested for homework. Mrs. Robbins said the committee will be bringing this back with some revisions.

Other Business

None

Public Comment

None

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas to hire Caroline Dexter as the new art teacher. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to accept the resignation with regret, of Deb Wilson. (Vote 5-0)

Correspondence

None

Mrs. White said the sixth grade is reading the book The Giver and the teacher would like to show the movie which is rated PG-13. The teacher wrote that Common Sense Media rates it as a 10+. Parents in 7th and 8th grade would have to sign a form in order for this movie to be shown. It is not an option for any lower grades. Mrs. Gelinas has seen the movie and would be comfortable letting them show it. Mrs. White said either all parents agree or it would not be shown at all. She received a text saying that this movie has been shown to sixth grade in the past along with The Outsiders. Mrs. Collins believes this should be a parental decision.

Mrs. Robbins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to waive the policy for this particular movie using the all or nothing rule. (Vote 5-0)

Non Public Session

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to enter at non public session at 8:01 under 91-A:3 II (a) and (k) Roll call: Ouellette aye, Fogg aye, Gelinas aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary