



Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

April 19, 2022

Held in the Paul School Library

Approved

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Mary Collins, Chair	✓	Anne Kebler, Assistant Superintendent	✓
Sheena Robbins, Vice Chair (via Zoom)	✓	Michael O’Neill, Financial Manager	
Caitlin Gelinias (via Zoom)	✓	Kristen White, Principal	✓
Brennan Peaslee	✓		
Sandrea Taliaferro	✓		

Relf Fogg, Norma Joy, Emma Joy, Nickie Dolaher, Joe Whitten and Mrs. Whitten and Mary Soares from Clearview Community TV

Mrs. Collins opened the meeting at 6:00 with the flag salute.

Mrs. Collins said the presentation by Dino Scala has to be rescheduled to May 24th.

The Board, by consensus agreed to add the resignation of Tracey Bemis to Nominations. Resignations. Two Board members will be Zooming in tonight.

Public Comments

Mrs. Dolaher asked what the \$200 in line 21098 for. Mrs. Kebler said that was for Covid tests. Mrs. Dolaher said they hadn’t received them. Mr. Fogg questioned the number of drivers that were stated in the last minutes. Mrs. Peaslee had said there were eight drivers under her. Mr. Fogg said there were actually more like 11-15 drivers. He said this year we budgeted for seven full time drivers and two special Ed drivers and a substitute. He requested a complaint filed by Mrs. Peaslee and has not received it. Mrs. Kebler will ask Mrs. Stiles where to get that. Mrs. Joy asked if the district was going to budget for a bus this year. She said buses are breaking down and she’s bringing her kids to school. Mrs. Kebler said all buses except one that is under warrant are back or will be coming back this week. Mr. Whitten asked if Mr. Winn would be attending the meeting to discuss the Rines Road property. Mr. Kebler said Mr. Winn asked that Mr. Fogg represent him.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda with any adjustments. Roll call Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye (Vote 3-0)

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the 4-5-22 non public minutes with any adjustments. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye, Gelinias aye (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the 4-5-22 public minutes.

Mrs. Gelinias wanted to let everyone know that the Kindergarten field trip is Friday, June 3rd. The rain date is Friday June 10th.

Roll call: Gelinias aye, Robbins aye, Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Gelinias made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the 4-6-22 workshop minutes. Roll call: Gelinias aye, Robbins aye, Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Student Services Report

Special Education update Lisa Dubois: With the start of the last quarter of school, transition activities for our 8th grade students moving to high school are in full swing. As our older students move on, we are also working to transition our new students for the next school year into Paul School. We will be hosting Kindergarten registration/screening for incoming students on May 5th and 6th. Some of our Little Paws preschool students who are transitioning to kindergarten were able to visit a kindergarten classroom and participate in an activity with this year's kindergarten students. We are hoping to have other area preschools bring their incoming kindergarten students in over the next couple of months to become more familiar with the school as well,

Facilities Report

Fields (Practice and Recess)

Fields when wet are not used. The use will not only destroy the field but the mud will be ground into the carpet. When the ground is frozen, they can be used. It's been like that since Mr. Williams went to school here.

Playground

The playground is ordered and Mr. Williams is looking at lining everything up for install. The playground will be located 60' from the double gate and will be a 40' x 100' area.

Baseball Diamond

Bases are here and will be installed this spring by Corey Howe. The right field is not regulation so it will be a ground rule double.

Sidewalks

Mr. Williams has touched bases with the contractor and the cost of the sidewalks will be \$15,000-\$16,000.

Gym Floor

Mr. Williams is waiting for bids to be returned. He wanted to know if the Board will want to set aside half hour intervals with bidding contractors to explain their products at the May 3rd Board meeting. This will be brought to the full Board tonight. Bids closed April 22nd and he is accepting bids for flooring products other than Nora Flooring.

Dumpsters

Another dumpster is needed. Bees will be out soon and he usually compacts the trash two or three times a week. He also takes trash to the Transfer Station using his own truck on Monday and Friday. It cost the district a \$160 charge for overfill. The Waste Management line is over spent. Adjustments haven't been done in the budget lines. Mr. Williams has to get with Mr. O'Neill. There has been a lot of trash because of students eating in their rooms. Mrs. Kebler will check to see if this cost can come out of ESSER funds. Mr. Williams would like a 10 yard dumpster.

Pro Rider Motorcycle Safety Class

FYI Michele Cole and Jason McKenna will be holding advanced motorcycle safety courses on various weekends. They have an insurance binder and also waivers for hold harmless. They have also filled out a facility use form. These will take place on Saturdays. They have received permission from Mrs. White.

Mrs. Peaslee asked the Board if they would like to talk with all gym floor bidders. After some discussion the Board chose to meet with all bidders at the next meeting. She also filled the Board in on the need for another dumpster. The cost for the remainder of the year would be \$3,000. Mrs. Kebler said if the overage costs are related to Covid we may be able to use ESSER funds. Mrs. Robbins asked if we could get a dumpster with a compactor in it. Mrs. Gelinis questioned if people are using the dumpster to throw away their trash, is cardboard being broken down?

Mrs. White said there is extra trash because of free lunch for all. Next year lunch will not be free which should produce less trash. They are back to using trays. Mrs. Collins would like to know how much this line is over and how much is left in the function before the Board votes. Mrs. Taliaferro said shouldn't we be getting more detailed information for the sub committee meetings so we can bring information back to the Board? Mrs. Collins said if Mr. Williams has more information in paper form that he needs to bring it with him for the meeting. Mrs. Kebler will bring the cost of the extra dumpster and the current budget numbers and if the charges could be Covid related. Mrs. Peaslee asked Mrs. Kebler to see if Mr. Williams will research dumpsters with compactors and ask if we ever had two dumpsters.

Old Business

Rines Road Tree Cutting

Mrs. Kebler said there was no contract with the logger to be found in the SAU office. Mr. Fogg said there is still some cutting and clean up to be done but by state law he can't finish the job until an Intent to Cut Form is renewed and signed. It is the same as the previous contract which gives him permission to complete the job. He is ready to start on May 1st. The Report of the Timber Cut has been filed with the Board of Assessors. Mrs. Gelinis said the date of June 30, 2023 is stated on the original contract and she believes the Board already gave permission for the complete job. The Board just needs to comply with the law and sign another Intent to Cut. Mrs. Robbins agreed, permission was already given. The Board agreed by consensus to allow an abutter to speak. Mr. Whitten asked if the school was profiting from this cut. Mrs. Collins responded no. He wanted to know what the school was going to do with the property because a tremendous amount of wood has been removed. Mrs. Collins explained the district has no plans for the property. Mr. Whitten said no one on the road knows anything about it. Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Gelinis said that that there has been talk about nature trails and student learning about

forests and nature. Mrs. Peaslee asked if the Board knew this would be clear cut. Mr. Fogg explained that in 2016 they had a forester come out to the property and he and another Board member walked the property with the forester who said this is a property that should be whole tree harvested and chipped because there was no marketable timber. Twenty one years have passed since it was logged. He said the property is not clear cut, There are stands of birch, beech and maple. Mrs. Peaslee asked if it was clear cut. Mr. Fogg said no, there is young growth and tree groves. He said most of the wood was chipped. Mrs. Peaslee said it sounds like clear cutting which she doesn't believe in. Mr. Whitten said it isn't clear cut. Mr. Fogg suggested Board members go out and look for themselves.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinias, to sign the Wood Products Purchase Agreement allowing Mr. Winn to continue cutting on the Rines Road property.

Roll call: Gelinias aye, Robbins aye, Peaslee nay, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye (Vote 4-1)

(Connection with two School Board members was lost.)

School Board Goals

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve the School Board goals.

Roll call: Peaslee nay, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye (Vote 3-0)

Strategic Planning

This will be put off until the fall. Not enough participants have signed up.

AREA Board Meeting

This will be on the next agenda.

(The two Board members were connected by phone)

New Business

Last Day of School

The last day of school falls on a Monday. The Board was asked to make the last day on a Friday as they don't feel they will have the required attendance on that Monday.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the last day of school on Friday June 17th. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye, Gelinias aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

General Assurances

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve and have the Chair sign the General Assurances. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye, Gelinias aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Camp Calumet

Mrs. Dolaher addressed the Board with her concern that the sixth grade class will not be attending Camp Calumet this year even though it is budgeted for. She said she was aggravated. She has called the camp and looked online and they are doing nothing different than they were pre Covid. She was told that the sixth grade teachers don't feel comfortable enough to go. She suggested using volunteers. She does not have a child in sixth grade but is willing to volunteer

her time. She doesn't understand why money that wasn't used for the trip last year doesn't roll over to the next year. She said it doesn't make sense. Only the person in charge can get answers about availability from the camp. Mrs. Peaslee asked if it was budgeted for. Mr. Fogg said it was, gave the amount, line and function. Mrs. White said she met with the sixth grade teachers and she can't force them go. She has reached out to Wayne Robinson to brainstorm something they can do that is fun. She had the conversation with Mrs. Stiles as well and if they teachers aren't comfortable, we're not doing it. Mrs. Collins said perhaps other staff members are comfortable enough to go. She said other schools have their after school activities up and running and questioned why we don't. If teachers aren't comfortable perhaps, we can get community members to run the activities. Mrs. Kebler said the first thing to do is contact Camp Calumet. There might be a liability not having staff members there. Mrs. Peaslee suggested asking other staff members to go and have the sixth grade teachers substitute in their class for the week. Mrs. White said that she'd contact Calumet and see what she can do. Mrs. Robbins said it wasn't the Board's job to iron out the plans and asked if the Board could come to a consensus that we support them doing what they need to do to make something happen for the kids? Mrs. Dolaher said she has been asking about this trip since January and has not received satisfactory answers. If we are too late for Camp Calumet we need to do something else for these kids.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee to support the sixth grade class going to Camp Calumet and supporting administration, staff and parents doing everything they can to make this happen. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye, Gelinias aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Peaslee asked that the Board receives an update. Mrs. Kebler suggests a parent meeting ASAP.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Gelinias made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro to approve the Transportation Minutes or 4-5-22. (Vote 2-0)

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if there were any updates on anything that was discussed at the last meeting. Mrs. Kebler updated the Board on the buses that were back and coming back this week. One bus under warranty is still at Cressy's having a part replaced. There will be a transportation audit by Trooper Hildreth on May 3rd. He doesn't intend it to be a punitive audit.

Public Comment

Mr. Fogg said that Mrs. Peaslee had bus records destroyed. Mrs. Kebler said she went through all the driver files today and they contained many years of records in them so she does not believe driver files were thrown away based on what she sees in the files she reviewed. Mrs. Collins said if Mr. Fogg is repeating something someone said have them come with him to the meeting so it's not hearsay. Mrs. Collins said she realizes that School Board members and public officials can be talked about but with no proof of your accusation based on hearsay it's not appropriate to bring up. Mrs. Peaslee has the option to answer to this at the next meeting if she wishes to. Mrs. Dolaher asked why public comment is being taken away. Why wouldn't you want to hear from those who elected you? Mrs. Collins explained that, like she did tonight, get on the agenda after following the chain of command. She said Public Comment is not supposed to be a back and forth. We want to have communication with parents in a better way. The School Board meeting is to get the business of the Board done. It's in the policy based on what was passed in the new

law and this Board will follow policy. Mrs. Joy said there may be items that the Board take up during the meeting that we might have questions on. She said the only people who should be addressing in any public comment per the policy is the Chair. She explained how Public Comment should be handled. She also asked how much money was made from the Rines Road logging. Mrs. Collins said this was all discussed over a year ago.

Nominations/Resignations

Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to accept the resignation of Amy Swanson with regret. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, Collins aye, Gelinas aye, Robbins aye (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Gelinas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Robbins, to approve the resignation of Tracey Bemis with regret. Roll call: Peaslee aye, Taliaferro nay, Collins nay, Gelinas aye, Robbins aye (Vote 3-2)

Correspondence

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Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gelinas, to go into non public under 91-A 3:11 (a) &(c) at 7:58 Roll call: Gelinas aye, Collins aye, Robbins aye, Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye (Vote 5-0)

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary