



# Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

March 7, 2023

Held in the Paul School Library

Approved

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Mary Collins, Chair	✓	Anne Kebler, Superintendent	✓
Brennan Peaslee, Vice Chair	✓	Frank Markiewicz, Business Administrator	
Bob Ouellette	✓	Lisa Dubois, Special Ed Director	
Sandrea Taliaferro	✓	Kristen White, Principal	✓
Robert DeColfmacker by Zoom	✓		

Mrs. Collins called the meeting to order at 5:00.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public under 91-A 3:11(c) at 5:00. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye. (Vote 5-0)**

The Board resumed the meeting at 5:35.

The Transportation Committee met from 5:40 to 6:05.

## **Others Present:**

Kaitlin Spencer, Ryan Manning, Chris McKay, Relf Fogg, Melissa Williams, Shawn Williams, Sandy Ouellette, Katie Howard and Mary Soares from Clearview TV. Cara McNevich, Media Specialist.

## **Agenda Review**

Add nurse to Nominations. Add sealed minutes under non public.

## **Public Comment 6:40**

Mr. Fogg asked about a Forestry Report. He asked the Chair to provide that for him. He stated that he had requested to be put on the agenda and was denied. Mr. Manning commented on Policy IJLL. He asked if a committee were formed that it includes a majority of community members. He stated his feelings on YA books. Mrs. Williams asked about the lottery and Mrs. Collins said that will be discussed under Policies. Mr. McKay said the Board should focus on a new direction like curriculum. He talked about making School buses more green like the use of electric vehicles.

## **Presentations**

None

### **Consent Agenda**

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda. (Vote 5-0)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve the 2-21-23 public minutes with an amendment. (Vote 4-0-1)**

### **Reports**

#### **Superintendents Report**

Another busy month in the Wakefield School District! Our District Leadership Team has been developing a Professional Development plan for the 2 teacher workshop days and 1 early release day. We will be focusing on working on our current standards, and assuring they are consistent across the grades. For March 17, as a staff we will begin the day by defining what a standard is with guiding questions such as .

1. What are standards?
2. How are standards different than curriculum? ,
3. What do we need to do together as a staff to make our standards consistent across grade levels?
4. And finally, how will this help us increase student achievement and impact our school culture. While we all have this information, it is always a healthy activity to come to common agreement around the work we are doing.

From there we will break into small groups and begin the work with "grade level team work", using guiding questions such as

1. What are the ESSENTIAL standards at our grade level?
2. Consider what we have for tools/materials (curriculum materials) that you have to support the standards?

This work will continue during our April early release day and May's teacher workshop day working on vertical teaming and considering the evidence we will use collectively to determine if our students are mastering the standards. We will also as a District Leadership Team begin to identify the summer work we will do with standards, with a goal of having a hard copy of grade level standards for our teachers as well as parents/guardians and community when our students enter the FY 23-24 school year.

A big thank you to Bob Adams, our interim Facilities Manager and our custodial staff Luke and Ronnie, along with Bob Ouellette a member of our school board for such speedy work on the frozen pipes in the kitchen and the repairs. It is their hard efforts that allowed us to only miss one day of school! During February break, our District Leadership participated in an Active Shooter Training with our Wakefield Police Department. It was a great opportunity to have all the right people at the table to discuss the procedures and protocols for Wakefield with regard to if an active shooter is in our school, as well as to determine evacuation considerations. We will continue to work on this with the Wakefield police Department, and as a school we will be reviewing and revising our Crisis Intervention Plan.

It is very exciting to report that we are bringing a Transportation Coordinator forward this week. She is anxious to get started, and I believe she will be a great addition to our transportation team. In addition, we are close to being able to have 7 drivers driving large capacity buses, and shortening our routes. Brandon Balser, our Physical Education Teacher is actively working on an after school program for our students. He is looking for staff, and community that might have something interesting they may be able to offer our students for afterschool programming. Thank you to Brandon for pulling this work together. More to come on this when he has been able to finalize.

With all the snow we have been getting, it is hard to believe that spring is around the corner-but it is. We are all anxiously awaiting the flowers to bloom, and see green grass on our grounds.

#### School Administrators Report

We celebrated our January Outstanding Students with an Ice Cream party that was hosted by our PTA on Tuesday February 7th. On Friday February 10th we celebrated our 100th day of school, students and staff were creative with their costumes of what they would look like if they were 100 years old and made for an exciting day. The 100th day of school is an opportunity to rejoice in classroom and school community successes, individual accomplishments, and the pursuit of a love of learning overall.

On Friday February 10th staff participated in a Suicide Prevention Training through Connor's Climb. We would like to thank Lori Cook for setting up this training. Connor's Climb information: Connor's Climb is on a mission to provide suicide prevention education to New Hampshire youth and the community. In the aftermath of a suicide, family, friends and communities respond in different ways. When Connor Ball died by suicide in October of 2011, his family and friends decided that no one else should experience such a profound and life-altering loss. Connor's Climb Foundation is the result of their love for Connor and their commitment to end youth suicide. Through the implementation of suicide education programs in New Hampshire schools and agencies, Connor's Climb Foundation helps educators, students and community members foster help-seeking behaviors so that youth in need of supportive services either reach out for them, or get referred to them by a peer, coach, teacher or other trusted adult.

School Staff Training: In this 2-hour session, school staff learned about risk factors, warning signs and protective factors as they relate to youth suicide prevention. Website for more information the website is [connorsclimb.org](http://connorsclimb.org).

On Friday February 10, our fantastic PTA held a Valentine's Day themed dance for students in grades 4-8. Students were amazing and had a lot of fun. We would like to thank Emma Joy, Kylee Joy, Chloe Cochran, Elizabeth Howard and Jace LeClair for helping clean up after the event. A very special thank you to our PTA who go above and beyond to support our school, we are better because of you! STAR testing took place during the two weeks before break. Students in grades K-B completed the assessment. This testing informs instruction and allows teachers to track student growth over the course of the year. Our interventionists and Title One team also uses this data to look at trends over time as a whole school to determine push-in and pull out support for students. We plan to complete one more round of STAR testing at the end of the school year. We celebrated our Outstanding Student of the Month at our Community Day celebration on February 17th.

This month we launched an official online Paul School Spirit Store, where families can choose from hundreds of designs and garments that are delivered to their homes. The company has provided our community with a grand opening special, use code SPIRIT312-FS to receive 25% off and earn free shipping on orders over \$50. [https : //1stplace.sale/59954](https://1stplace.sale/59954) The 8th graders will be hosting a Potluck dinner at the Function Hall in Union either the 16th or 17th of March. 8th graders, their parents/guardians and student's families will be responsible for advertising the dinner, gathering donations and helping with set up, serving and cleaning up. Admission will be between \$10 to \$15, all proceeds will go to the 8th grader end of the year field trip.

### **Old Business**

#### **Bus Drivers Handbook**

The drivers looked at the handbook and it has gone back for some revisions

#### **Transportation Bids**

They receive two bids for a 77 passenger bus. One from W.C. Cressey and one from DeVivo. The bus bids went to the Transportation Committee for a checklist summary. Mrs. Peaslee said that we have all Thomas buses now and that's what the drivers trained on and are used to. The recommendation was to purchase the Alternate bus Cressey now has on his lot. This bus could be ready in a couple of weeks. The Board will have a Public Hearing to expend money from the Transportation Trust Fund to purchase a 2024 bus for \$111,500. The Board has not purchased a bus for the past two years.

#### **Ceiling Repair**

Mr. Ouellette said they had five leaks. He and Bob Adams had to remove the ceiling panels and replace those plus the insulation in the kitchen ceiling. The Board thanked him for his help,

## **New Business**

### **Food Service Bids**

Only one bid was received. Fresh Picks, the current company. Mrs. White said they have only had minor complaints this year. The feed back from students is that they really like the food. This will be on the next agenda for approval.

### **Stipend Approval**

Mrs. Kebler has met with the Union to formulate a committee in the spring to as per the CBA to pre approve stipends before they come to the Board. Mrs. Taliaferro said she believes the Board has asked for a list of the stipends so they could do a generalized instead of an hourly amount like it used to be. Mrs. Collins said that has changed in the CBA. Mrs. Peaslee questioned having a drama club with SCAMP and a limited amount of kids in town. Mrs. White said they actually wrote a play. Mrs. Peaslee asked if only one staff member would be getting a stipend. Mrs. Soares said drama club started because kids wanted to put on plays during Community Day about PBIS. They then wrote a play. She said they are not taking anyone away from SCAMP. The kids used their flex time for the plays. The stipend is for the afterschool part. She said she donated her lunch time for a whole year. They will take part in the upcoming Talent Show. She said part of the stipend will go for a pizza dinner for the kids.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve a stipend for Mrs. Soars for \$775. (Vote 3-2)** Mrs. Taliaferro asked that the pizza party be listed on the stipend sheet.

## **Policies**

### **Policy IJLL Review of Challenged Library/Media Central Material (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Revisions were made at the last meeting. Mr. McKay was concerned about number 6.7. and 8 which he feels is shifting responsibility from the professionals to a committee. He said he thinks number 6 needs some clarification. Mrs. Kebler pointed out that a book, after being challenged, couldn't be reviewed for a period of three years. Mrs. Kebler said that during the last two policy committee meetings they reviewed this policy from other k-8 schools. Mrs. White said they did add an appeal process if a parent wasn't satisfied with the result of their complaint. They added they can now take it to the School Board.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve policy IJLL (Vote 4-1)**

Audience members asked questions about this policy and Board members answered their questions. Some inaudible, people talking at the same time. Mr. DeColfmacker said the Board needs to remain neutral. There may be five parents against the book and hundreds for it. The process in place needs to be followed. Ms. McNevech said only 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can sign out YA books. She explained the that this policy weighs out the process of all reviewed material. It has to do with how books are chosen as well. She said the State of New Hampshire does not have any banned books. If a book is being challenged this would fall under privacy.

This falls under the Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement which protects our students. Three years is common throughout our state and if the three years isn't in there someone could fill out another review form that person could continue to apply again. A book could come back after three years. In New Hampshire no book has been challenged or removed. Number 7 majority vote.

**Mrs. Peaslee rescinded her motion and Mr. Ouellette, rescinded his second on the approval of policy IJLL**

This policy will go back to the policy committee for some changes. Mrs. Taliaferro asked that procedures be included.

**Policy JICD Student Discipline and Due Process (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Mrs. White said PBIS is Positive Behavioral Intervention and this policy is about discipline. Mrs. Kebler said this policy is specific to RSA 193:13. When you enter in to exclusionary discipline. This is the way it must be followed. They're two different things. Mrs. Kebler said we have a policy around behavioral interventions that will be put on the next policy meeting and she believes that's the place to put what Mrs. Taliaferro is looking for. Mrs. Taliaferro said she would like to have clear lines for students, staff and parents to know what's expected and know what the different levels are for punishments or awards across the board. Mrs. Kebler suggested a procedural policy that has the PBIS information in it.

Mr. DeColfmacker said when we look at policies we need copies of all the related policies in order to make an informed decision. Mrs. Collins said most of the policies reference other policies so when we look at the policies in the packet we could look at them in our books instead of printing them all off. Mr. DeColfmacker said he doesn't believe reading several policies, come to a meeting and recall all you've read. He said either the school will print it or he will print it. Mr. DeColfmacker asked if lunch detention should be added to the policy along with before or after school. Mrs. White said the policy says when the students are not assigned to a class and they are assigned to be in the lunch room.

Policy JICD was tabled.

**Policy JFACC Tuition Expenses for Wakefield Residents (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

This policy was originally first come first serve. The AREA agreement was changed with Rochester so that 10% of the total Wakefield high school population would be allowed to attend a high school other than Spaulding. The previous agreement was for 10 % of each class. This allowed more students to attend other high schools. In recent years students have put their names in the lottery and then end up dropping out. As far as siblings go, we can't guarantee if there will be spots for siblings every year. An audience member asked if siblings could be chosen first. Mrs. Taliaferro said then others may be denied the chance to go. Mrs. Kebler said that one year there has been as little as two openings. Mr. Ouellette agreed with an audience member who said both her children should be able to attend the same school. Mr. Fogg said there once was an

academic achievement level attached to attending Kingswood. Mr. DeColfmacker said he has had a few conversations hearing Kingswood had plenty of space to accept more kids and other schools do as well at a lower tuition cost. Mrs. Collins said we have a contract with Spaulding. He said it may be time to take a look at that because it should be a family decision not a contract decision. A start date to accept applications need to be in the policy. There will be an AREA Board meeting in April with Spaulding. Mrs. Kebler mentioned one school that has in their policy to the best of our ability we will consider siblings. Mrs. Kebler said this year we have fifty three eighth graders and only tow or three leaving Kingswood. Every year it's different. She said there is a lot of attorney work to change the AREA Agreement. The Board and audience had a conversation about how to word this policy.

### **Nominations/Hires/Resignations**

Mrs. Kebler said she is excited to recommend Heather Powers at the Transportation Coordinator. She has twenty years' experience in transportation. She has her CDL but needs to get the passenger endorsement to drive an empty bus. She won't be going for School Bus Driver Certificate. She's been a dispatcher for fifteen years. Both Tim and Celest have agreed to mentor her as she doesn't know the routes. The Board agreed on \$28,000 for up to 20 hours a week when Tim was offered the job. Mrs. Taliaferro suggested that this amount be a salary instead of an hourly rate.

Mrs. Peaslee said Tim would have been a sub driver and this person won't be but she will dispatch. Mrs. Peaslee felt the offer should be \$26,000. Mr. DeColfmacker asked to see complete information on the intent to hire sheet. Mrs. Peaslee asked if she had her air break endorsement, she'd have to retest. Celest is handling this. Mrs. Peaslee is asking for a job description. Mrs. Peaslee explained the training school where the new Coordinator can get materials and information.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to ire Heather Powers at \$26,000. (Vote 5-0)**

### **Teacher Nominations**

**Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve the teacher nominations, (Vote 4-1)**

Brooke King has been brought forward by Mrs. Kebler as the new school nurse. an extensive background. She has to give her two weeks' notice and the present nurse said she would stay on to get her acclimated.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to hire Brooke King as school nurse. (Vote 5-0)**

### **Non Public Session**

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public under RSA 91-A 3:ll (c) at 8:10. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye DeColfmacker aye. Vote: (5-0)**

The Board re-entered public session at 9:10.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to seal the minutes of the non public session until 3-7-33. Roll call Vote: (4-0) Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, DeColfmacker aye.**

Mrs. Collins told the Board how excited she is about the new playground equipment. The Board, by consensus, asked Mr. DeColfmacker to write a letter to the Conservation Commission about the Rines property.

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 (Vote 5-0) Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, DeColfmacker aye.**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary