



Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

May 16, 2023

Held in the Paul School Library

Approved

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

Others Present:

Kimberly Burns, Ryleigh Burns, Robert Glenn, Robert Glenn, Jackie Jakubec, Samantha Carberry, Relf Fogg, and Mary Soares from Clearview TV.

Mrs. Collins called the meeting to order at 6:02.

Approval of 6th Grade Class Trip

The sixth grade will be going to Province Lake Golf Course which is partly in Maine so requires permission from the Board. The students will be learning about water quality, watershed and how runoff impacts the water quality.

The sixth grade will also be attending Camp Calumet, an overnight environmental camp. They will be taking a 2.5 hour hike, a 2.5 hour pontoon boat trip taking water samples around Ossipee Lake. They will enjoy canoe rides and campfires. Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Furlong, Mrs. Capen, and an extra person for a medical need will be chaperoning the trip. Mrs. Kebler will stop by one day.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to approve sixth grade class trip to Province Lake on the 18th. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Soares said the Lions Club is sponsoring a bed race on Pride Day and they are challenging the School Board to come up with a team. The twenty dollar entry fee will go to the eighth grade class trip.

Agenda Review

Sandrea's Email

Add Curriculum under Reports

Mr. DeColfmacker said he had met with Mr. Robinson and Ms. Hall yesterday. Mr. Robinson said he had been working with Mrs. Kebler and he would like to do a trial run of a couple of days of using the gym this summer and work on a plan and get it implemented for the next school year, vacation weeks and summer. Mr. Robinson is very happy with the relationship the Rec has with the school. It would be great to be able to use the gym on rainy days as they put close to sixty kids in the rec center on rainy days. Mr. DeColfmacker said it was a very productive meeting.

Mrs. Kebler said that the basement of the school is an amazing clean space suitable for storage. The new Facilities Director is more than willing to use that space this summer for storage. Because there had been some concern in the past about water they will be purchasing shelves. Mrs. Kebler said this space could be used for year round storage.

Public Hearing, Presentations

First Grade

Mrs. Jakubec introduced Ryleigh, Piper and Robbie. These students from all three first grades read a book and decided to write letters. Mrs. Jakubec's class wrote a letter to Longmeadow Hardware. Mrs. Courts class wrote a letter to the art teacher and Miss Leonard's class wrote one to the School Board members explaining that they had read a book called the Buddy Bench and it inspired the students to create a Buddy Bench here to spread kindness and make friends. The students discussed ideas on how to create a Buddy Bench.

They have come up with ideas for the bench and with the help of the community they will create this bench. Piper said that this is a cool thing to do and if someone doesn't have a friend they can sit on the bench. One student said when she doesn't have anyone to play with at recess she can sit on the bench and one student said our school should have one and no one will be sad. Ryleigh read her letter and Robbie read his. Mrs. Jakubec said the response from parents has been overwhelming. Any help anyone wants to give would be great. Mrs. Kebler said the first grade teachers are thinking outside the box working and teaching together.

Mrs. Collins read the following:

NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES CHAPTER ED 303.01

POLICY BBAB, BEA, BCA, BDB, BEDD

As chair I am responsible for the orderly conduct of Board meetings and enforcing the Boards policies relating to the conduct of the meetings. Following policy and Roberts Rules, as they pertain to us, this is how the meetings will be run from this point on.

The reason being We have become the brunt of a lot of negative comments by staff, parents and the community. The infighting, digs and inappropriate comments need to stop. Talking over people, talking out of turn and talking to the person sitting next to you, when the mic picks up everything you say, also needs to stop. We need to be more professional. Please raise your hand to speak and do not speak until you are recognized by the chair and allow others to speak before you speak again.

During public comment do not engage with the audience unless called on by the chair, do not have conversations with the public during the meeting.

We will stick to agenda items, and if we have late items, we will decide as a board if we want to add it to the agenda for discussion. If anyone wishes to speak on an item not on the agenda a majority of the board must agree with that request. A quorum of the board is three board members. That is all we need to conduct a legal meeting.

We must work respectfully with all board members to achieve the educational goals of the school district. Following the policies will facilitate a productive meeting and we will meet our obligation to fulfill our duties as a board.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked who asked her to read this. Mrs. Collins replied this was discussed with the attorney when meeting for something else. Different policies came up that we weren't following. She said she has had pictures sent to her showing Board members on their phones during meetings.

Sandrea's email

Mrs. Taliaferro said she didn't know why her email wasn't in the packet. It should have been there to set the record straight. It was on the advice of the attorney. Mrs. Taliaferro sent out an email to all Board members and went into detail as to why she wanted it on the agenda. The NHSBA attorney told her she shouldn't have gone into detail. The School Board attorney said in order to correct the record you put the emails on the agenda and that would satisfy the issue and make it public record. Mrs. Taliaferro asked that it be put on the next agenda and would like to discuss it. Mrs. Peaslee said it's been discussed a couple of times and doesn't change anything but it does have to be a matter of public record. Mrs. Collins said this will be on the next agenda with the emails. Mrs. Collins suggested it be placed under Consent Agenda. Mrs. Taliaferro would rather be able to discuss it.

Public Comment 6:40

Mr. Fogg was concerned with doing things without Board discussion. He said the chair went down to the police department and filed a complaint about his behavior at a Board meeting without discussion by the Board. He said limiting comments to three minutes is contrary to the law. He stated Disorderly Conduct 644: 2 ll (b) Directs at another person in a public place obscene, derisive, or offensive words which are likely to provoke a violent reaction on the part of an ordinary person and (d) Engages in conduct in a public place which substantially interferes with a criminal investigation, a firefighting operation to which RSA 154:17 is applicable, the provision of emergency medical treatment, or the provision of other emergency services when traffic or pedestrian management is required.

He said he brought it to the Boards attention and nothing is getting done about it. He also said that Mrs. Collins threatened to punch him in the jaw when he was a board member. He shared with the Board his interpretation of Bullying. He said excluding Board members from reorganization was more censorship than leadership. He said we have witnessed in the community others belittle and berate other members of the community.

Mrs. Collins said she wanted to state for the record that she did not go to the police station and file a report nor did she threaten to punch Mr. Fogg in the jaw when he was on the Board.

Mrs. Soares said Howard Systems is very responsive. She feels IT will be an overwhelming task for a single person. She believes the district should keep Howard Systems.

Ms. Carberry offered what she called evidence that there was a report made and that Mrs. Collins had made it. Mrs. Collins said she did not go to the police station and make a report. Ms. Carberry asked if Mrs. Collins had read that you are not supposed to be using cell phones during a meeting and does that include Mrs. Kebler and the scribe? Mrs. Collins said that wasn't said but has been a rule since day one. She said sometimes Board members have to be in contact with their children in case of an emergency. Ms. Carberry said she brought it up because Mrs. Colbath called time using her phone and she wasn't on the phone with her kids, she was timing. Mrs. Colbath replied that's part of her job.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked what the issue was concerning the emailed complaint sent to Mrs. Kebler. Mr. DeColfmacker said it was you and Mrs. Peaslee talking back and forth and showing your phone to one another, We were in the middle of a Board meeting and Mrs. Peaslee is showing a picture of lettuce in the refrigerator and my wife and others on Clearview heard the conversation over the mic. People were saying they're not paying attention to the Board meeting. They're joking back and forth about personal things. That's an example of what happened last month. Mrs. Collins said it's not just last month. We want to get away from the negative comments and focus on the school. Mrs. Kebler said the email she received said, does the Board realize that the Town of Wakefield is watching them? Mr. Ouellette commented that we have a job to do and let's do that job.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve the Consent Agenda. (Vote 5-0)

Meeting Minutes

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the non public minutes of 5-2-23. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve the public minutes of 5-2-23 with corrections. (Vote 5-0)

Reports

Discipline Report

Mrs. White said that the numbers for April probably includes reports that were backlogged; that's why the numbers were high. April also had a vacation. She said there are more instances of

reportable behavior on the playground as the weather gets better. She and the Assistant Principal are spending more time outside during recesses.

Curriculum

Mrs. Collins said they had a curriculum meeting last week and the staff is working on definitions. On May 19th there is a Professional Development Day and the committee will finish up the definitions. At the first Board meeting in June, they will be making a presentation to the Board on what they have accomplished. They will also share their plans for the summer and how they have updated the standards.

Old Business

Facilities Update

Mechanical and Plumbing

Mrs. Kebler said they received one bid for mechanical and plumbing. It did not satisfy the requirement for the bid so it was not accepted. They put the RFP back out and have received one bid from the current provider that will be opened tomorrow. She'll have a recommendation for the Board at the next meeting.

Grounds Maintenance

Howe Two has agreed to extend their contract for one year. Mr. Markiewicz is writing an addendum to the contract.

Gym Floor

Mr. Markiewicz is working with the School Board Attorney. The insurance company has done a third party investigation. The attorney recommended that Mr. Markiewicz work directly with their insurance company to get the report. It may be the sub flooring that's defective. The bid included a million dollar liability. Mr. Ouellette asked if our insurance company would go after them and Mrs. Kebler said no. The Facilities Manager will be coming to meetings to give his report beginning in June. Mr. Ouellette asked that the safety issue described by Parks and Rec and others, like the tripping issues and that we spent a great deal of money to correct the things that were wrong with the original floor and that this floor is actually worse than what we had. He asked that this be part of the official record.

New Business

Office Summer Hours

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve the request for summer hours for the SAU office from 7:30 to 4:00 Monday through Thursday and 7:30 to 2:00 on Friday. (5-0)

IT Director Job Description

Mrs. Kebler said she is still committed to hiring an IT Director. One of her frustrations is that it's mid may and she still can't communicate using Infinite Campus.

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve the IT Director job description.

Mr. DeColfmacker would like to add under job skills: Being able to train staff and be patient with staff. Mrs. Taliaferro didn't see the list from Howard Systems of items that still need to be done or the iatrical pieces that are part of the job. Mrs. Kebler said she would be happy to incorporate the items in the description. She asked that Mrs. Taliaferro send her the list she compiled. Mrs. Peaslee said those items should be under: Knowledge of. Mr. Ouellette said items that would need upgrading or replacing. Mr. DeColfmacker added items that should go under the CIP. Mrs. Peaslee said attendance at Board meetings and Budget meetings should be added. Mrs. Peaslee would also like attending subcommittee meetings rotating with Facilities and Transportation. Mrs. Kebler feels that perhaps the Tech Committee should be a Board Committee. Mrs. Kebler said she is trying to build a team that can help move the school forward.

Mr. DeColfmacker withdrew his motion. Mrs. Collins withdrew her second.

The job description will be on the next agenda.

Mrs. Kebler said the new BA started today. They had a meeting about grants and she knows the lingo.

Policies (all 2nd reading)

DJ – Purchasing

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve policy DJ with one change. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Fogg asked if contracted services are included in this policy. Mrs. Kebler explained that sole services don't have to go out to bid unless there will be a change. This is contingent upon acceptance of the DOE. Correction on the bottom of the page: see policy DJR instead of DJB.

DJ-R – Purchasing Procedure

Mrs. Collins said Mr. Markiewicz is the person that had put these policies together. Mrs. Kebler said we have to revise these policies based on the federal audit last spring.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion to approve policy DJ and get rid of policy DJB.

Mrs. Collins said we are only able to discuss the policies that are on the agenda. Mrs. DeColfmacker said to bring DJB to the Policy Committee and then to the next Board meeting. Mrs. Taliaferro questioned the amount of \$10,000 required to go out to bid, it has been \$5,000. Mrs. Kebler will check with Mr. Markiewicz to see if the state \$10,000 was a recommendation from the audit and if purchases and items that go out to bid are the same required amount.

DK – Payment Procedure

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to reaffirm policy DK. (Vote 5-0)

IMAH – Daily Physical Activity

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve policy IMAH. (Vote 5-0)

The 15 degree temperature will be in the handbook and Mrs. Peaslee suggested it also be on the website.

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to accept Norma DiRicco as the new Paul School Principal. (Vote 5-0)

FYI, Tyler Guy was hired as a custodian. (Vote 5-0) The custodial services will end in thirty days.

Correspondence

None

Non Public Session

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public under RSA 91-A 3:11 (b) and (c) at 7:40. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye, Peaslee aye Vote: (5-0)

The Board re-entered public session at 8:50.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52. (Vote 5-0) Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye, Peaslee aye.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary