

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes



September 19, 2023
Held in Paul School Library
Approved

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Mary Collins, Chair	✓	Anne Kebler, Superintendent	✓
Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair	✓	Frank Markiewicz, Business Administrator	
Robert DeColfmacker	✓	Sarah Howard, Director Student Services	
Sandrea Taliaferro	✓	Norma DiRocco, Principal	✓
Brennan Peaslee	✓	Ivy Levitt-Carlson, Assistant Principal	

Others present: Shawn Williams, Melissa Williams, Robert Davier, Randi Fox, Relf Fogg, Katie Howard, Emma Joy, Elizabeth Howard, Max Gehring and Gil from Clearview TV

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Collins at 6:45. She led the salute to the flag.

Agenda Review

FYI: Rochester has scheduled an AREA meeting for October 16th. They are usually held at 6:00. Mrs. Taliaferro asked that sports and numbers be on that agenda. Mrs. Collins asked that Policy BEBD be removed from the agenda as her notes from the Policy meeting are not reflected in the policy.

Presentations/Public Hearings

None

Public Comment

Mrs. Collins said she allowed people to speak more than once at the last meeting. The policy is for the public to speak to something on the agenda and each person is limited to three minutes and one turn to speak. Mr. Fogg asked when the Board approved the policy change. He said the change never got approved. Mrs. Collins explained that the current policy has that wording. The policy that has been in place for years states what I just said. Mr. Fogg said the policy never had that wording. It never had a three minute maximum or that people had one opportunity to speak.

Mrs. Collins explained that there were legal changes to the policy last September and a Board had to allow a thirty minute block for people to comment. She said that the Board could continue with their agenda but if someone entered the room before the thirty minutes were up they would get a chance to make a comment. Mr. Fogg asked if the Board was limiting free speech by not allowing one to speak longer than three minutes. Mr. DeColfmacker said that the policy states items on the agenda and they have been lax on that. He feels the Board goes above and beyond

allowing the public to speak on items not on the agenda. Mt. Fogg said you can not create a policy that violates the law. Mr. DeColfmacker asked Mr. Fogg to state the RSA. Mr. Fogg said it is RSA 189:74-1. Mrs. Peaslee said there was a back and forth and if Mr. Fogg had something to say during Public Comment he should be able to say it.

Mrs. Fox made a comment about the Kingswood 'non' lottery. She was unhappy about the first come first serve basis for choosing students to attend Kingswood. She doesn't believe we need a contract (AREA agreement) with Spaulding. She said there is school choice in New Hampshire. The number of students that may attend a school other than Spaulding is ten percent of the total high school number. She feels being told there were two available slots this year was grossly inaccurate. She'd like to know who is responsible for getting and accepting and disseminating the information.

Mr. Fogg wondered why the recording secretary was allowed in their non meeting. Mrs. Collins told Mr. Fogg several times that he was not to talk about an employee and he should stick to the agenda. He said that the Board, in a policy to be discussed, was trying to protect employees by changing the law as written. Mrs. Howard asked about the Board going into non public, returning to public and voting on Ms. Hurley. She wanted to know why it wasn't stated what the Board voted for and that there was no public in attendance at that time. Mrs. Taliaferro asked for clarification as far as recording names with votes. Mrs. Collins explained that going in and out of non public and while in non public, roll call votes legally are to be recorded. The vote was made in public session. There was no discussion about that motion in non public.

Reports

Facilities

Mr. DeColfmacker summarized the Facilities Report.

Follow up questions

There have been fourteen outlets that tested over 5ppb. Ten outlets have been shut off. Students only have access to two outlets in the building that are marked handwash only (room 104 bathroom and the main girls bathroom)

The flooring project is complete. They are room 111 and the music room. The payment has been processed using Esser III grant funding.

Facilities update

Lead

Mr. Davis has continued conversations with Amy Clark (NHED) and Ian Atwell (NHDES) and was advised to continue with investigative sampling and minimize access to the best of our practical ability. We minimized student access to only two outlets in the school that continue to be posted as handwash stations only. Room 104 bathroom and the main girls bathroom). NHDES provided further guidance on more investigative sampling instructions to localize the source of lead in the plumbing or faucets, using different volumes of water and testing techniques.

NHDES provided information and results for Wakefield public water system testing. (des.nh.gov) one stop search ID # 2391010. (NHDES) New Grants will be available in November that will cover up to 100% of remediation efforts. We will save receipts for

reimbursement on items bought for remediation efforts. NHDES recommended upgrading fixtures that were installed before 2011 and retesting. We are working with Pioneer Mechanical on a plan for installing new fixtures or filtration in problem areas and retesting. Round 3 testing starts after January 2024.

ML work orders

New ML work order system is running efficiently and helping organize and prioritize our facilities work as needed. The Custodial team has completed 48 Work order requests over the first 2 weeks. Our facilities team is focused and dedicated.

School Approval Facility review inspection (DOE)

The 2023/2025 school inspection is scheduled for October 17th . This is a full inspection in and around the facility and a review of the following documents prior to the inspection: floor plans, fire inspection report, health inspection report, playground inspection checklist, indoor air quality policy.

Grounds contract Walkthroughs are being scheduled for our upcoming Grounds and Plowing contract that ends June 30, 2024. Interest has been shown in the latest walkthrough. Continued soliciting will resume to local companies to try and gain interest before the bidding process begins.

Athletic Fields

Soccer season has resumed and will continue through fall. - Black Panthers football will host two games this season on our upper field on September 24th and October 1st.

Porta Potty delivery is scheduled for Friday Septembber15th from Lapierre Septic.

Mr. Davis is currently working on the infields to get them back in shape over a rainy season, which has created uneven, weedy and hard compacted surfaces throughout infields. Infields have been tilled, nail dragged, edged, weeded and leveled to make for an easier transition to spring season. Upkeep will resume to maintain better playing conditions on the fields.

Paving

We are working with town DPW Brock Mitchell and Clairmont Asphalt Paving & Excavation to complete the paving project. We have a tentative date of between October 6th and 9th to start the project. We are waiting to hear from Clairmont paving to finalize this date. The contracted price came in lower than we anticipated.

Mr. Ouellette asked about the bid process for the grounds. Mr. DeColfmacker said that Mr. Davis was doing walkthroughs with local potential bidders but there will be an RFP. Mrs. Taliaferro thanked Longmeadow Hardware for donating a tiller to the school.

School Administration

It has been a wonderful start to the school year here at The Paul School. We have many new faces in the building and we welcome them to our great community. Prior 10 students starting with us our staff kicked off the school year growing as a team. We worked collaboratively on defining school expectations, understanding our standards for teaching, and developing

professional goals. We are so happy to have students back in school. Classrooms have been busy creating positive cultures and setting expectations.

In the building we have brought back PAWS statements to identify expectations for staff, students and community members who enter The Paul School. PAWS stands for Practice Safety, Act Responsibly, Work Hard and Show Respect. Teachers are helping students learn these expectations by modeling positive behaviors. The goal is to support students here at school and as citizens of the community.

Our first event of the year was our community BBQ. A huge shout out to Fresh Picks Cafe Services for serving over 400 meals. In our community we had the Lions Club supporting our cafe services to move our line efficiently and keep smiles on everyone's faces. In our school. The PTA set up popsicles, face paint and lollipops. The popsicles were a cool relief on an incredibly hot day. Please consider joining the PTA to continue to support our school. A huge hit of the BBQ were our two bouncy houses supplied by first grade teacher Jackie Jakubec. We are very thankful to all the support we had from the community and staff members to make this a great success.

Coming up next for our community is our Open House. This event is on September 27, 2023. This event will be from 5:00-6:30 pm. This will be a great opportunity for families to meet with teachers, ask questions and view what your child has been working on. We look forward to seeing many families here on this evening.

Mrs. DiRocco will check with the junior high teachers to see if they are planning to have any fund raising tables at the open house.

Consent Agenda

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

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve the non public minutes of 9-5-23. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve the public minutes of 9-5-23. (Vote 5-0)

Old Business

Local Critical Shortage

Mrs. Kebler explained that classroom teachers are not on the state's critical shortage list but schools are allowed to request a local critical shortage. She said we have openings for a third grade and fifth grade teacher. Last year was the first year they allowed a local critical shortage for teachers and we requested one last year. Mrs. Taliaferro said we voted on this at the last Board meeting and said no. Mrs. Collins apologized for doubting Mrs. Kebler as she was correct as far as conditional employment and background checks.

Mrs. Taliaferro believes her point still stands. She said conditional to her means you're hired once your background check is cleared. She said we represent the parents and if the parents don't

want people in here until they have a cleared background check she still says no. Mrs. Peaslee agrees with Mrs. Taliaferro. Mrs. Kebler said all background checks have come back. She told the Board they will have to redo the policy they approved as it states you can offer conditional employment. DeColfmacker and Mr. Ouellette also feel the same as Mrs. Taliaferro about background checks.

Mr. DeColfmacker asked what local critical shortage entails. Mrs. Kebler says it allows us to hire people with a bachelor's degree who are pursuing their statement of eligibility. They are told by the DOE what they need to get their Beginning Educator Certification. Mr. DeColfmacker asked could we do that but require background checks prior to being in a classroom? Mrs. Kebler said she's not asking for a vote on background checks. She's asking for a vote for Local Critical Shortage only. Mr. Ouellette asked if in past years we've had employees start without having background check results? Mrs. Kebler said yes and some didn't have them in last year. It is stated in their contract that they understand that it's a conditional offer. She explained the process of becoming a certified teacher. She said as long as she's been in education there has never been a shortage in regular education teachers on the states critical shortage list. She wouldn't have to ask to declare a local critical shortage for a special ed teacher because they are on the states list the state makes every year. Mr. Ouellette said it's more for certification and has nothing to do with background checks. Mrs. Kebler said correct.

Mrs. Peaslee said her definition of conditional is apparently different than others. We need to review that policy and add the meaning of conditional employment. Mrs. Kebler said we have people working on their SOE. She sent an Emergency Authorization to the DOE which allows her to put them in the classroom while they're going through the process. She said we are lucky we only have three. Some schools have half their teachers going through the process. We have three IA teachers pursuing their SOE.

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Local Critical Shortage. (Vote 3-2)

The people applying for their SOE's are long term subs being paid from the teacher lines. Mrs. Taliaferro wondered why we didn't use some of the positions we just hired to shift them over to the two classrooms that way we're not paying an exorbitant amount of money.

Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to enter non public session under RSA 91-A 3:11 (c) at 7:35. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, DeColfmacker aye Vote: (5-0)

The Board returned to public session at 7:50.

Water Testing room numbers/teachers

Classroom #	Type of Faucet	Teacher	Status/remediation
402	classroom	Mrs. Siegler – gr. 5	Water turned off
401	classroom	Mrs. Malynowski – gr 5	Water turned off
400	classroom	Mrs. Hurley – gr 5	Water Turned off
108	classroom	Mrs. Boston - preschool	Water turned off
108	bathroom	Mrs. Boston – preschool	Signage for handwashing only
107	classroom	Mrs. Osmer – gr. 4	Water turned off
105	classroom	Ms. Reynolds gr 3	Water turned off
104	Bathroom	Mrs. Drum – gr 3	Signage for handwashing only
104	classroom	Mrs. Drum – gr 3	Water turned off
103	classroom	Mrs. Krafton – grade 2	Water turned off
101	bathroom	Ms. Kelly – kindergarten	Signage for handwashing only

Kingswood Numbers

Mrs. Collins explained that when an agreement was reached with Spaulding to allow a certain percentage of high school students to attend another high school it was on a first come first serve basis. Then it went to a lottery which left the parents with more time to make a decision and the students were not able to choose classes in a timely fashion. That was remedied. One year there were three students who were picked that dropped out and the students on the waiting list were offered those positions but it was too late for them to choose their preferred classes. Mrs. Kebler said we have 182 students who will be attending high school next year. When we sent our letter to parents there were two openings for Kingswood. Then we learned that a student had transferred to Spaulding so that meant there are three spots available at Kingswood.

Mrs. Kebler had spoken to the Rochester Superintendent about allowing more than 10% and he said absolutely not. The AREA agreement has been in effect for decades and there is no end date. Mrs. Kebler and Mr. Ouellette said they ask at AREA meetings if they can bring the numbers up and Rochester won't discuss it. Mrs. Peaslee said we can bring it to the area meeting? Mr. Ouellette said it's just a different Board asking the same question. There was a discussion about how the numbers added up for high school students allowed to go to another school. Mrs. Peaslee would like to see the different grades numbers be more even. Mrs. Kebler said she takes the 10% population, looks at the numbers presently at Kingswood and other high schools and she subtracts the spots that are available from the 10% and this year it's three. She said each Superintendent has done the high school decision differently. Kingswood has a drop dead time limit for our students.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to approve the three slots to go out of district. (5-0)

Policies

DJ-R Purchasing Procedures

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker to approve policy DJ-R Purchasing Procedures. (5-0)

Mr. DeColfmacker said the changes were to align the dollar amounts. He said the packets are on the websites. He told the audience that the changes are highlighted,

BEDB Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (removed from the agenda)

BEDG Minutes

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve policy BEDG Minutes.

Mrs. Peaslee asked why the words will were changed to should. Mrs. Collins said this is a recommendation from the NHSBA in the Fall legislative changes. Mrs. Peaslee said it's the secretaries job to record the meeting,. Why should it be an option?

Mr. Fogg said the Board is considering circumventing state law. He said 91-A commands and says shall provide all notes and anything regarding public decisions of a governing board to be available to the public upon request. You're trying to create a policy that goes around 91-A. He said there are no districts that are adopting a policy that says should. Mr. DeColfmacker said shall is the same thing, shall not must.

Mr. Ouelette rescinded his motion and Mrs. Peaslee rescinded her second. This policy was tabled by consensus.

FBB Enrollment Projection

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker to remove Policy FBB Enrollment Projection. (5-0)

FEA Educational Specifications for Construction

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker to remove Policy FEA Educational Specifications for Construction. (5-0)

FEH Supervision of Construction

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker to remove Policy FEH Supervision of Construction. (5-0)

GBE Employee Rights and Responsibilities

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker to remove Policy GBE Employee Rights and Responsibilities. (5-0)

JBAB Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro to remove Policy JBAB Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students. (5-0)

Committee Updates

Climate and Culture Committee Minutes

FYI

Committee Lists

This is in the packet, will be on the website and in the hallway. Parents can join the school committees not the Board committees but anyone can attend the meetings.

Mrs. Peaslee said the agenda needs to be more readily available. Mrs. Taliaferro wants the packet emailed to staff and parents. Mrs. Kebler said the public packet has become difficult. Mr. Ouellette suggested the QR code be posted in the entryway or library. Mrs. Collins said decisions should be by consensus not one person.

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Sharie Colby

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to accept the resignation of Shari Colby. (Vote 5-0)

Katherine Osmer

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to accept the resignation of Katherine Osmer. (Vote 5-0)

Amanda Bright, Paraprofessional-FYI

Britney Joy, Paraprofessional-FYI

Follow Up

Lunch Payments through ALMA

Mrs. Kebler said lunch payment can not be done through ALMA

Classroom Floor Funding

Reported earlier

Gym Floor Update

Mrs. Kebler said we need to hire an independent investigator. Mr. Markiewicz is seeing about hiring an independent investigator who will write a report. She said we have come across some documents that may be helpful for us.

Fresh Picks Advisory

This is the Wellness Committee

Mrs. Fox asked questions about the process for those chosen for Kingswood. Mrs. Peaslee responded.

Non Public Session

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public session under RSA 91-A 3:11 (c) at 8:35. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, DeColfmacker aye Vote: (5-0)

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:15

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, DeColfmacker aye. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary