

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes



October 17, 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: Nicole Beckwith, Relf Fogg, Rachael Lapierre, Randie Fox, Robert ?, Michael Pelletier, Jennifer Pelletier, Rachael Lapierre, and Gil from Clearview TV.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Collins at 6:06. She led the salute to the flag.

Presentations/Public Hearings

Student Report

Haven Pelletier who is an eighth grade class officer, soccer player and band member said the class officers are planning a concession stand for Halloween night. All monies will go toward the eighth grade trip. She said she visited first grade classes to find out what they are learning this year. The Paul School soccer team has played six games and has lost four and have a game tomorrow. The football team has played seven games and won five. Students are working hard on their Paw Statements practicing safety and good behavior. She said the school year has been going very well. Mrs. Collins said the eighth graders did an excellent job serving ice cream and helping out at the Fall Festival. Miss Thomas, Mr. Fairfield and Mr. Nason helped out at that event.

Public Comment

Mr. Fogg said there was no non public or non-meeting posted on the agenda. He said it looks like again the Board is trying to go around the law. He said people have a right to give someone else an opportunity to speak. If this policy passes it will be a violation of your First Amendment right of free speech. In the Minutes policy you're trying to circumvent RSA 91-A. The law states you shall keep all your notes at a public location. Changing the wording gives your minute taker an opportunity to circumvent the law. He said the Board is breaking the Fictitious Capitalization law by not freezing or reducing wages when someone reduces their workload. He said the budget shows an increase in administrators contracts.

Randie Fox said she wanted to discuss the AREA Agreement. She said she attended the meeting last night and was a little embarrassed as a community member with the lack of communication.

She feels the wants and needs of the community were not communicated effectively. She asked why are we rewriting policies when we could be focusing on secondary education? Other towns have school choice. We should be exploring this. She feels that Rochester was willing to discuss the agreement. Year after year the correct avenue has not been sought. She said that she was sitting among administration that sees us as a joke and she heard it. She will be doing a petition to present to the town to have the AREA Agreement revisited and null and voided.

Reports

School Administration Report

Open House on September 27th was a great event for families. We were happy to have our gym used as a resource for several different booths for people to learn more about our programs. There will be more communication coming to families about Alma, our information system and ways to interact with the parent portal. We are thankful to Dr. Bridget Jameson who hosted a seminar during the open house. Based on feedback she is going to begin running evening events for families seeking more support. There will be information put out to the community on these events in the coming Weekly Happenings.

Our committees have started to meet and we are happy to have teacher and school board involvement. The committee work being done will be an important piece to our district continuing to progress forward.

Our teacher workshop on October 6th was a great event. During this day we had Pam Harris guiding our teaching staff through new strategies around math instructional practices. Our paraprofessionals and mental health team participated with Kate Salvati who helped the team to learn about Understanding Cycles of Escalating Behavior through a Trauma Sensitive Lens. In the afternoon the whole staff took time to review our behavioral data points to continue our conversations around interventions that are working and how we can continue our progress.

In our upcoming calendar we have the PTA hosting a cornhole tournament on October 21st. The start time for the event is 11am. We look forward to seeing some of you there! The Paul School is also excited to celebrate Halloween on October 31st. We plan to have a parade again this year and will provide more details as the date gets closer.

The Paul School continues to advertise and post about open positions. To help support our school please continue to repost and share our openings in the community.

A parent asked about having Trunk or Treat in the school parking lot. Mrs. DiRocco said she will look into this. Mrs. Collins asked if the Leadership Team and different committees have discussed the multi-tiered system of support. Mrs. DiRocco said yes. The MTSSB team that people signed up for meets every Wednesday at 7:30am. We also have tier one and two meetings. Mrs. Kebler said there has been a lot of work done and asked if the Board would like a presentation. Mrs. Collins said she'd like to know if students go back to the previous grade for reading if they are still at that grade level. Mrs. DiRocco will share a presentation with Mrs. Collins with follow up questions to her.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda. (Vote 3-1)

Meeting Minutes

The non public 2nd session minutes of 9-19-23 were tabled until non public.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the non public 1st session minutes of 9-19-23. (Vote 4-0)

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve the non public 1st and 2nd session minutes of 10-3-23. (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 10-3-23. (Vote 4-0)

Numbers will go back on the packets from now on.

Old Business

AREA School Board Agenda

Mrs. Peaslee would like to wait until Mrs. Kebler receives the charts that Spaulding is supposed to send her and when the minutes are ready. Mrs. Kebler will put AREA agreement meeting on the next agenda.

Public Comment

A gentleman from the audience asked if the Board knew if there were places available in other high schools that would take our students.

Mrs. Peaslee said we didn't discuss changing the agreement. She said we would have to do the research. There was a discussion between the Board, Mrs. Fox and another audience member about the process of altering or changing the AREA agreement with Mrs. Fox making suggestions. Mrs. Fox feels that the Board should be taking action steps. Mrs. Kebler said she was at an AREA meeting when Spaulding said they absolutely refused to discuss the AREA agreement. Mr. Ouellette said they have said that many times and that's why he was shocked last night when Spaulding said they would have some specific discussions about individual students.

New Business

School Calendar

There was a mistake on the school calendar and that has been corrected and posted.

Budget

Timeline

Budget meetings will be held on **October 24th**, **November 7th** (where changes will be made. Mr. Markiewicz will be in attendance) and **November 14th** (budget approval. Mr. Markiewicz will be in attendance) The Budget will go to the Budget Committee on November 17th. All meetings will all begin at 5:30.

2310 School Board

School Board Auditor

53820 - Increase of \$4,500

School Board Background Checks

55410 - Increase of \$3,000

The Board will discuss whether they want to pay for background checks.. Mary will find the policy and send it to the Board and bring it to the Policy Committee. .

2510 Fiscal Services

They have kept the BA's salary at parttime but on November 7th they will be bringing a proposal parttime vs. full time.

Support Staff Salary

51120 – Difference of \$53,579

Maintenance Agreements

54300 – Increase of \$804

Mr. Markiewicz will give a presentation on the 7th so the Board can make a decision on a new accounting system by 2025. Infinite Visions is going away. It has to be done this year or next at a cost of around \$29,000.

Supplies

56100 – Increase of \$2,000

Mrs. Kebler will bring a breakdown of the projected increases.

Next Board Meeting the Board will go over Co-Curricular, Athletics, Summer School, Truant Officer, Guidance, Nurse, PD, Library, Principal, Transportation and Facilities. This is a workshop so there will only be budget. When the department heads present their budget they will have their backup documentation.

Job Descriptions

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Assistant Principal Job Description. (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Director of Student Services Job Description. (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Kebler told the Board that all teachers were under the same job description. She asked if the Board wanted that changed. They did not.

Policies

BEDB Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

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

Mrs. Collins says this gives the office more time to get the packets ready. Mrs. Kebler said the Thursday dead line for submittals to Wednesday is to make sure that department heads get

everything in on time. Mrs. Kebler said she went through other districts packets to determine what should be in the Board member packet and the non-Board member packet. Mr. Fogg asked if the Board is proposing to adopt a policy that the Board will repeatedly violate. His asked about not putting people on the agenda when they have requested numerous times. He said a portion of the policy is a violation of ones first amendment rights of our state constitution. He said people have the right to relinquish their time to speak and to speak freely. Mrs. Collins said we are following what NHSBA sends us. There was a discussion with the audience and Board about the last two lines of the policy about relinquishing time.

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee to approve policy BEDB. (Vote 2-2)

Mrs. Peaslee said she wants backup on policies. She wants to know what is being added and what changes are being made and why.

BEDG Minutes

Mrs. Collins said this came back to the Policy Committee and they decided to recommend keeping what the NHSBA recommends which is related to the administrative procedure EH-R.

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

Mr. Fogg said, once again the Board is circumventing the law. Mr. Fogg asked what their lawyer said about this policy and Mrs. Collins stated that the NHSBA is comprised of lawyers. Mr. Fogg disagreed. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if there should be something in the policy about destroying old files. If someone has their notes and we don't have them and we know that somebody still has them they are required to produce them. Mrs. Collins said the notes are not public record. Mrs. Taliaferro said they are. Mrs. Colbath said her notes are destroyed as soon as she transcribes them into minutes so there are no notes. Mrs. Taliaferro asked Mrs. Colbath if she had notebooks. Mr. Fogg made a comment and Mrs. Collins called for a recess at 7:38.

Mrs. Collins resumed the meeting at 7:44 at which time Mrs. Colbath said that all notes for all Boards she keeps minutes for were all destroyed after the investigation. She keeps no notes.
(Vote 2-2)

DAF Administration of Federal Grant Funds 1st Reading

Mrs. Kebler read the changes. She will see that it is written in the usual format.

JLDBB Suicide Prevention and Response 1st Reading

Combined some of the suicide prevention policy. This is the policy not the plan. The word building will be removed from the policy. When the plan is developed it does not have to come to the Board for approval but Mrs. Kebler will share it with the Board.

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Antoinette Canfield ISS Para– FYI

Mrs. Kebler said we have reduced our suspensions significantly so she will have added to her roll student behavioral problems.

Follow Up

Workshop: Roles and Responsibilities /Dates

Lead Update

The facilities manager changed six faucets and sent out samples. The results; 1 broke in transit, 3 tested below levels, and two stayed at the same levels. She said we have decided that we are going to replace all the faucets. The grant is now at 100% reimbursement.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked how the Superintendent Chats were going. Mrs. Kebler said they haven't been well attended. She also asked if grades were being put into ALMA. Mrs. Kebler said yes. ALMA is up and running now. Training will be offered. It is much more user friendly than Infinite Campus.

Mrs. Kebler had a conversation with Steven Appleby from the Department of Credentialing. He said our plan for SOE is a very good plan. She also met with the Commissioner. He felt we were in great shape in regard to compliance with our teaching staff. She said we discussed some complaints made to him and how they were resolved. She also set up a training day for paras with a grant writer she ran into. The NH Apprentice program should be up and running in January. The morning program has been well received. Mrs. Taliaferro asked how many are children of staff. Mrs. Kebler will find out. She has received many calls thanking her for this program. Stipends for after school programs will be brought to the Board.

Non Public Session

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public session under RSA 91-A 3:ll (c) at 8:06. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, Vote: (4-0)

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:45

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to seal the non public minutes until 2033. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye, Vote: (4-0)

Mrs. Taliaferro asked Mrs. Kebler and Mrs. Colbath to leave the room at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary

(PUBLIC SESSION # 2 ATTACHED.