

# Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

December 5, 2023

Held in Paul School Library

Approved



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

Those Present: Michele Lambert, Randi Fox, Rachael Lapierre, Caitlin Gelinas, Sarah Fenton, Ashia Roy, Wesley Roy, Jon, Veino, Katie Howard, Elizabeth Howard, Marc Taliaferro, Max Gehring from Clearview TV

Mrs. Collins led those present in the salute to the flag at 5:30.

## **Presentations/Public Hearings**

### **Withdrawal of Funds from the Transportation Trust Fund**

Mrs. Collins opened the Public Hearing at 5:32. Mr. Powers said she found a 2017 Dodge Caravan with under 13,000 from California. It's a brand new vehicle except for the age. The Board discussed what they wanted for a warranty between the options provided. Mrs. Peaslee joined the Board at 5:35. Mrs. Collins closed the Public Hearing at 5:47.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve option 2 for 60 months, 72,000 miles with a \$200 deductible for a cost of \$26,228. (Vote 5-0)**

## **Reports**

### **Student Services Report**

Ms. Howard read the following:

Over the last two months our special education department has been working diligently to provide IEP services to our special education students in addition to collaborating with support staff and general education staff and completing special education evaluations for students. Since the start of our school year the team has completed or is in the process of completing 11 initial evaluations and 13 reevaluations for our pre-k to grade I students.

The table below includes a summary of our special education students by grade level. The total number of identified students has decreased by 2 students due to student moves out of the district, and referral numbers increased by one student. The referral count includes students who

are being evaluated by the team, not students who were referred and were not evaluated. It is important to note the time required to complete evaluations, which can include anywhere from 1-3 hours per test, per student. Most students require at least 2-3 tests for their evaluations and some require 4-8 tests. These tests are a critical component of determining eligibility of students, but can be time consuming for staff and for students.

Special Education Numbers as of 11/28/23		
School	# of identified students	# of students in referral
Paul School (Pre-K)	5	3
Paul School (K-8)	74	6
Paul School Total (Pre-K to 8)	79	9
High School	31	0
Out of District	5	0
<b>District Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>9</b>

The biggest challenge for our team continues to be the unfilled paraprofessional and case manager positions. Our staff have been supportive and flexible with coverage and responsibilities, but we continue to navigate coverage needs with 3 unfilled paraprofessional positions and one unfilled case manager position. I commend the team for their hard work and support as we continue to try to hire staff to fill those positions. Our mental health and MTSS-B teams continue to work hard to support students with social emotional needs. The mental health team has been pushing in to classrooms to support social emotional instruction, and our MTSS Tier 1, MTSS Advanced Tier, and Intervention teams continue to meet regularly to review student needs and support at both the individual and school levels. During the month of November, we were able to send staff members to MTSS training and 504 plan training and are excited to continue to build the capacity of our teams.

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to go into non public under 91-A 3:11 (c ) at 5:53. Roll call: Ouellette aye, Collins aye, Peaslee aye, Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye. (Vote 5-0)**

The Board returned to public session at 641.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to table the Para negotiations. (Vote 4-1)**

### **Agenda Review**

Add resignation under new Business

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Veino asked the Board to reconsider the no vote for the Behavioral Interventionist. He said the Budget Committee voted in favor of this position with an 8-2-1 vote. He expounded on the reasons the two no votes gave for voting no. He again said this position is less than one cent on the tax rate. The Budget Committee watched the presentation and listened to the communities voice. He said the money is now there, the data is there, the person doing the job is here. The kids who need this are improving. He said it appears no one in the community is against this. He asked two Board members to put our kids first. With all those who have pledged their support they are asking for a revote.

Mrs. Fenton thanked the Budget Committee for waiting and making an informed decision. She also thanked Mr. Ouellette for going through and organizing so they could see what the numbers are. She talked about a study from 2015 that says there is a large return on every dollar spent on social emotional learning. Carroll county percentages are higher than the state average for mental health, incarceration and substance use. She said right now the Paul School has built a foundation and has a full team and if you don't have the behavior interventionist the structure is no longer there.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the consent agenda. (Vote 4-1)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the non public minutes of 11-21-23. (Vote 4-0-1)**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 11-21-23. (Vote 4-0-1)**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 11-7-23. (Vote 4-0-1)**

### **New Business**

#### **Warrant Articles**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Article 2 the Operating Budget for \$12,462,470. (Vote 3-2)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 3 without the dollar figure. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 4. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 5. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 6. (Vote 4-1)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 7. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 8. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 9. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 10.** Mr. Markiewicz said the Budget Committee asked if we could change the language of the trust fund. That account was established for students only. He found out when the fund was actually established in 2009. He has given the Board the language of that warrant article. Which means that funds can be used for access points, wiring etc. He said it was up to the Board to add funds to the original article or establish a new one. **(Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve Article 11. (Vote 5-0)**

#### Projected Revenues

Mr. Markiewicz said there was little change in the projections for 2025.

#### Default Budget

Mr. Markiewicz stated that the default budget is \$635,700 less than the operating budget. He explained how the default budget is put together. It is the same budget as 2024 with contractual obligations moved forward into the default budget.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the Default Budget. (Vote 5-0)**

Mrs. Lambert explained Gross Budgeting to the Board.

#### Resignation

Mrs. Kebler told the Board that the IT Director resigned last week. She said his contract says it's a mutual agreement between him and the Board and it's the will of the Board if they want to accept his resignation. He gave no notice. Mrs. Taliaferro said she would like to extend an invitation to him to meet with the Board. Mrs. Collins suggested Mr. DeColfmacker as he's the Chair of the Tech Committee to request he meet with the Board for an exit interview.. Mrs. Peaslee felt it would be more affective the have the Board Chair reach out.

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to have Mr. DeColfmacker reach out to the Tech Director. (Vote 5-0)**

#### Committee Updates

### Committee List FYI

A list of committees has been posted on the website and the bulletin board out front. Mrs. Peaslee said she could not be part of the Wellness Committee due to the time it is scheduled.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to have Mrs. Collins take her place on the Wellness Committee so the Board has representation. (Vote 5-0)**

Committee minutes will be on the website.

### Follow Up

There is no update on the gym floor. The attorney will be meeting with the Board sometime in January.

### Non Public

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public session under 91-A:3, 11 (c) at 7:38. Roll call vote: Collins aye, DeColfmacker aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye. (Vote 5-0)**

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:30.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to negotiate with Mrs. Kebler to move from full time to part time Superintendent. (Vote 5-0)**

### Adjournment

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary