

10-16-23 AREA Meeting Minutes
Held in Room 144 Rochester SAU
Approved

In attendance from Wakefield: Mary Collins, Bob Ouellette, Sandra Taliaferro, Brennan Peaslee, Superintendent Anne Kebler

Audience: Randie Fox

In attendance for Spaulding: Chair Paul Lynch, Vice Chair Sarah Harrington, Matthew Pappas, Matthew Beaulieu, Anne Grassie, David Camire, Matthew Munn, Superintendent Kyle Repucci, Principal Justin Roy, Spaulding Teachers and Administration.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00

AREA Agreement and AREA Agreement Committee

Mrs. Peaslee explained that Wakefield has had more than the allowable 10% of students wishing to attend a high school other than Spaulding. She said the Wakefield Board is requesting an increase of the 10%. She said we had three open spots this year and nine students applying. Mr. Repucci said that the two superintendents could confer and if there is a good reason and is in the best interest of the student they could come to a solution. He said the agreement says additional students could be approved by mutual agreement. He read a portion of the agreement.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked about getting out of the 10% and having a hard number. Rochester said they didn't know how that would work. They'd need to go through the process of changing the agreement. Mr. Ouellette said this is the first year he has heard anything positive, it's always been a no. Mrs. Taliaferro asked for the parameters for the best interest of the child. The Rochester Chair said that would have to be determined at the Board level. We need to stay within the framework of the process. If we amended the agreement the attorneys would have to get involved. A committee would have to be set up for talks to change the agreement.

Wakefield Middle School opportunities to play in sports next year

The Rochester Chair said that allowing Wakefield middle school students to play sports on Rochester teams isn't in the agreement. Mrs. Peaslee said Joelle Bournel came to our Board about middle School students being dropped from Rochester teams. The Athletic Director explained that there are potential problems with start times and getting Wakefield kids to Rochester for games. Also, there could be budget issues, uniforms etc. He doesn't want to take kids from the Wakefield Rec teams. Mrs. Peaslee said it was for sports Wakefield doesn't have, two from cheering and one from wrestling.

Mrs. Peaslee said this all started with homeschooled kids. The Director said it shouldn't have and that has been rectified. Mr. Repucci said this would require an outside agreement, an MOU between attorneys. Mrs. Grassie said we are always talking about helping Wakefield kids before they get to Spaulding and this would be one way. She believes this should be looked at. Mr. Repucci felt this should be a discussion with the attorneys and the two superintendents looking at costs and logistics.

Wakefield Students – Are they ready academically?

The Administration introduced themselves. A comparison chart was shown and Principal Justin Roy pointed out that Wakefield students, according to the data, are academically right on point with the Rochester students. He said staff and administrators can't tell Wakefield students from Rochester students. The Administrators talked about Wakefield getting their pick of tech classes. They are planning on doing an exploratory event for eighth graders this year. Students will learn a little about each program. They will begin tracking the number of Wakefield students that take tech courses. Raider Pathways is an alternative study program for struggling students. Smaller class sizes, structured and the students feel connected.

Calendar Coordination – Shared PD opportunities for middle school teachers

Mr. Repucci said that the principals are talking about shared PD days for middle school teachers. There are plans in the works.

Public Comment

Mrs. Fox said she would like outreach prior to kids going to Spaulding. She said she planned to have a warrant article having the AREA agreement vacated and expressed her thoughts as to why she's spearheading this for families and students.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary