



# Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

February 20, 2024

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, Nicole Dolaher, Katie Howard, Elizabeth Howard, and Max Gearing from Clearview TV

Mrs. Collins led those present in the salute to the flag at 6:30.

## **Agenda Review**

Add the president of the PTA to the top of the agenda.

Add Mrs. Taliaferro to speak about NH Hunger Solutions

Add holiday schedule.

Add state Testing – Mr. Ouellette

## **Presentation**

Nichole Dolaher, President of the PTA, told the Board about all that the PTA does for the children of Paul School for the last three years. She said she needs some help. She gets no help from the town. This year their events are not well attended. The officers and their children are the only ones that show up to them. She said having to move all the PTA supplies to the shed outdoors was not optimal. She said she can't keep doing this without help. They are in need of volunteers, monetary and food donations. She said they need backing from the town, school and board. They discussed the fact that Parks and Rec have first refusal after the school to use the Multipurpose room. It was suggested by Mr. Ouellette that she talk to Dino Scala about using the Town Hall Opera House for events. Mr. Markiewicz offered to have a conversation with the Rec Department. Mrs. Kebler said the PTA needs a PR Campaign and she'd be happy to talk with her about setting that up. The Board and PTA members had a discussion on how to get a better attendance and volunteers. The PTA will be on the agenda once a month.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Reports**

### **Facilities Report**

Mr. DeColfmacker told the Board that round 3 testing for lead had been completed and out of the forty-two outlets only eight still had lead in them. They all met the Towns requirement for lead. Most were very close to acceptable. Inline lead filters will be the next step for the eight outlets. All sinks say hand wash only and teachers are controlling this well. Right now we're looking at phase 1 of the maintenance building. The cost is \$7,000 for phase one. The building will be around \$23,000, well under the \$60,000 we have for that building in the trust fund.

They are trying to decide whether to have public hearings for the entire project or have public hearings for each phase. The facilities manager is looking deeper into replacing the well. He will have costs to have an engineer look at it and assess it. He wants to pull the pump and have it looked at. The well is 1,000 feet deep. The last assessment on the well was over twelve years ago. The Facilities Manager talked about how the sprinkler system for the field could be regulated.

### **Principals Report**

In the month of February, the Paul School has much to look forward to. We celebrated the 100th day of school on February 12th and in the same week enjoyed Valentine's Day. As a school we are focusing on Work Hard in our PAWS statements during the month of February. The goal of this month is for students or staff to identify when others are working hard. When they see that in action they will fill out a heart and add it to our school bulletin board.

The eighth grade completed their coin drive and raised \$316.87 for their end of the year trip. Mr. Gillikin's homeroom came in first with well over 3,000 points. The eighth grade has been working on a variety of fundraisers including selling subs and hat day Friday's. All proceeds from the eighth grade fundraisers support their end of the year Boston trip.

Our club paperwork just went out for clubs to start after February break. We are excited to see how many more clubs will be offered to students in this round. Our spring sports are also gearing up for the season. Mr. Balser just met with his spring coaches to begin the conversation about softball and baseball season. While we are getting excited about spring, it is still important to note that our fields are covered with snow. Students are still in need of all their winter gear to access our playground. Families, please be mindful to send in all snow gear with your child daily.

Many different grades have been going on field trips. Our eighth graders visited the CTE program at Spaulding. Our fourth graders are going to the planetarium and the statehouse. Our younger grades are planning their spring trips. It is exciting to see our students benefit from these experiences and we look forward to continuing to offer more opportunities for students.

NWEA has been completed and attached to this report you will find graphs of our data. As a school we have identified areas of need through our PLC meetings and are determining next steps of how to support instructional practices. The leadership team coupled with the curriculum committee is working to identify curriculum and instructional resources that will benefit the

trajectory of our school proficiencies. We will be looking for community and board support as we make decisions about how to better identify where and how to gain access to materials.

The drama club will be performing some of their skits this Friday. Mrs. DiRocco said they started their spelling bee today and there were still thirteen students standing at the end of an hour. The semi-finals will be held on Thursday and be ready for the final five on Friday. The eighth graders went to Spaulding to see the CTE program. The fourth graders went to the planetarium and the State House and they got to meet Governor Sununu.

She also included in her report NWEA test results for the whole school, grades 3-8 in reading and math. She and the vice principal have been looking into the data for each grade. They will be doing NWEA testing again in the spring. In math they are at 32 and the goal is to get to the 50 percentile. From looking at three year data we are moving in the right direction. The Curriculum Committee is looking for resources to benefit the students in this upward trend. Mrs. DiRocco said the state test is only one snapshot of our students. There are other measurements we utilize. Mrs. DiRocco said if any Board member has a specific interest in one grade she can get that information.

Mr. DeColfmacker gave a shout out to Kim Hurley's fifth grade class for The Hearts Across the World from all over the world. Mrs. Taliaferro asked to see all of the NEWA test results by grade. Mr. Ouellette asked about any student opting out of testing will receive a zero and that will be added in to the results. That includes homeschooled children. Mrs. DiRocco will look at her notes so that she can give Mr. Ouellette an accurate answer. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if there was a contact person at the state to make sure we're imputing the information correctly. Mrs. Collins said she was told they didn't count zeros. It only based on students that took the test.

### Finance

Mr. Markiewicz presented the Board with the financial report. He said this is kind of the midway point of the school year. At the top of the summary report under crossover in appropriations it says we have a total appropriation balance of \$14,000 which peaked his attention level. He said there were some areas that were over encumbered, one being Regular Education Tuition Public was over encumbered by a half a million dollars. If you look at the balance after making some adjustments today with Michele we have an appropriation balance of about \$391,000. He likes to see that number be about 3% which would be \$353,000.

He said we have a number of expenses that we have charged to the general fund. Making expenditures before the grant is in the accounting system doesn't always work that way all the time. Mrs. Lambert has done a great job of keeping track of those funds the money that will be transferred to the appropriate grant. This will increase the balance of the general fund. Up until today people could put in a purchase order and if there wasn't enough money in the line it would allow you to continue with the purchase. Now if you put a purchase order into the system and there is not enough money in that line there's a roadblock. The person would have to come to him or the Superintendent and have a conversation. This is a way to keep lines from being over expended. He said the district financially is in a good place.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if we had a lot less high school students. Mr. Markiewicz said it was just a miscalculation. She said everyone should have a purchase request form and everything is ordered after July 1<sup>st</sup>. She asked if that was being done for supplies. Mrs. Lambert said that all the teachers give their lists for next year and they are sent in July. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if it was the supply lines that were over encumbered. Mr. Markiewicz replied it was mainly the Public High School Tuition line. He said you're always going to see lines that are over budget. She wants to know which lines were getting overspent. Mr. Markiewicz pointed out that information is in the packet in the report. He also said that the detail of what was to be purchased and what was purchased he wouldn't have.

Mr. Markiewicz said in the SAU they have gone way over in the supply line and background checks because the Board voted to pay for volunteers. Mrs. Kebler said we have unanticipated out of district placements. She and Mr. Markiewicz have had a conversation about using the Special Ed Trust Fund if necessary. Mrs. Taliaferro asked what items were paid for out of the general fund that will come out of grants. They don't have that available tonight. Mr. Markiewicz will see that the Board gets a list of budget transfers.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeColfmacker, to approve the consent agenda. (Vote 3-1)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the non public minutes of 2-6-24. (Vote 4-0)**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve the public minutes of 2-6-24.** Mrs. Taliaferro questioned the wording on s paragraph about delayed openings. Mrs. Colbath will watch the video. Mrs. Kebler stated that the buses do pick high school students for delayed openings. **(Vote 4-0)**

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

**Wakefield School Board Scholarship Question**

### **Job Descriptions**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve for the Regular Ed Classroom Paraprofessional Job Description. (Vote 4-0)**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve the Special Education Paraprofessional Job for Description. (Vote 4-0)**

### Budget Transfer Request

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve transferring the money from the Tech Salary line to the Contracted Services line in the amount of \$36,650. (Vote 4-0)**

### Committee Update

#### Wellness Committee

#### AREA Agreement Committee

Mr. DeColfmacker said they have changed the name of the committee to an exploratory committee as the AREA Agreement Committee has members from both schools with terms and it's very structured. This committee will be looking at Barrington's AREA agreement. They have a long time agreement with Dover but can send kids to other schools too. We need an anchor school. You can't do anything without an anchor school. Mrs. Kebler said the DOE found an agreement that goes back to 2005. Mrs. Taliaferro said the Middleton Agreement is recent and might be more relevant.

#### Curriculum Committee

The Committee is still looking at standards and vocabulary and definitions to make it clear as possible for all to easily understand. Mrs. Kebler told the Board that they will be identifying the resources we have in the building that are resource and evidence based to use with the standards used in the literacy block. It will be a very helpful tool. When it's completed it will be non-negotiable. These are the resources everyone will be using. Mrs. Collins said it will flow. They won't be repeating what was learned in a prior grade. Mrs. Taliaferro would like to see more time spent on cursive writing. Mrs. Kebler said they will be using Handwriting Without Tears and that is in that literacy block

#### Tech Committee

Mr. DeColfmacker said we seem to be having an issue with WIFI throughout the building. We have Chrome Books needing screens replaced. They are working on a proposal to get rid of Macs. The last IT Director started but didn't finish things. Mrs. Kebler said we are still looking for a full time person. Mrs. Taliaferro asked how many computers and how many loaners do we have. Mr. DeColfmacker said we don't have that number.

By consensus, the Board will keep the same question for their scholarship the same as they had last year.

### NH Hunger Solutions

Mrs. Taliaferro said she had talked to Brody and Jessica. She listed the different programs they offer like grants and how to be eligible for free lunches for all students. They can find out online how many people would qualify for free lunches. You may be able to combine schools. They would like to put together a presentation. Brody will be sending that to Mrs. Taliferro for her to determine if it's good information for Paul School. She suggested the March 19<sup>th</sup> School Board

meeting for the presentation. There are others she'd like to invite to the School Board meeting with the people from NH Hunger Solutions. She said they felt it would be nice if the Wellness Committee came and State Rep. Avellani, their food committee, Fresh Picks, our BA and Spaulding School Board members. Mrs. Collins will reach out to Spaulding. Mrs. Taliferro will reach out to Mr. Avellani. Mrs. Kebler will reach out to the Wellness Committee and Mrs. Collins to Brianna.

### **Follow Up**

The SAU has a record of 76 homeschool students but feel there are more than that.

### **Nominations/Resignations/Hires**

### **Non Public**

**Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public session under 91-A:3, 11 (c ) at 8:15. Roll call vote: Collins aye, DeColfmacker aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye. (Vote 4-0)**

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:51.

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52. (Vote 4-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary