

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

April 2, 2024

Held in Paul School Library

Approved



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

Those Present: Heather Powers, Katie Howard, Mary Soares from Clearview TV

Mr. DeColfmacker led those present in the salute to the flag at 6:00.

Agenda Review

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to have two public comment fifteen minutes a piece.

Mr. DeColfmacker explained that when he set up the agenda he felt the current policy would stay in effect until a new policy is approved. **(Vote 2-3)**

Presentation

None

Public Comment

Mrs. Howard asked if teachers are being backed up so they're not stressed.

Reports

Student Services

March has been a busy, but exciting month in the world of student services. On March 15th during our school-wide professional development day, all staff spent the morning attending professional development on literacy instruction. In the afternoon, paraprofessionals and ABA tutors spent some time getting set up on Master Teacher, the recently purchased, online professional development platform funded through our IDEA grant. All paraprofessionals in the district have an account and are able to complete assigned modules during professional development time or move through training modules on their own time.

During this March 15th para meeting, paras and ABA tutors spent time reviewing model and individual student plans (IEP's), Learning more about the documents and how all the pieces work together. Our team had some great conversations around student needs and support as well as effective communication strategies within teams. At the end of the session staff received information about Para II training requirements, and the plan for the school leadership team to investigate the possibility of providing the training and Para II test in our district this summer.

This month we started the process of planning for a new preschool playground, funded through our IDEA grant. Mrs. DiRocco, Mrs. Leavitt-Carlson, Mrs. Boston, Mr. Davis, and I met to review initial proposals, space options, and next steps in this process. We are excited to work together to create a safe, engaging outdoor space for our youngest learners. We will continue to meet and plan in the upcoming weeks, and hope to have the playground ready for the start of the 2024-25 school year,

In the upcoming month, our school team will be working on finalizing plans for our summer school program, which will be available to all recommended students and will include services provided by Title 1 and Special Education. The summer school program will run from July 5th through August 1st. More information will be shared with families once program details are finalized. We continue to see slight changes in numbers as students are referred, evaluated or discharged, or when students move in or out of the district.

Mrs. Howard said the playground area they are looking at for kindergarten will be in the back of the building where there are some gardens from the UNH Cooperative Extension. They have been working with Brad whose wife is a master gardener at UNH. The gardens will be moved over by the middle school wing by the playground.

Superintendent Report

Positive Happenings in the Wakefield School District Thank you to Brianna Valdepena, our Family Liaison for getting the End 68 Hours of Hunger started. We are currently serving 20 students with the weekend backpack program and are heading into our 9th week. Since implementing the program, we have noticed positive impacts on the student's involved. Also, the school will be hosting a craft fair on April 13th with all funds raised going directly to the program. We would love to have the support of some of the board members at the craft fair. It will be a great event to bring the school and community together. We have 30 vendors currently signed up with many of them being local to the Wakefield community.

Our behavioral health team worked together to bring to the school an "Anti-Bullying Assembly" hosted by a New England local speaker and BMX bike rider named Mannie Nogueira. I was able to attend the first of two sessions, and the kids all had a wonderful time! Thanks to the brave volunteers, Meaghan DeColfmacker and Brianna Valdepena for trusting Mannie enough to allow him to jump his bike over their bodies lying down on the gym floor - brave souls!

Congratulations to Gavin Peaslee, Joseph Janice and Donavin McKellar for finishing up their high school careers in January! Nice Job Wakefield seniors!

Just a reminder to those who are watching who have seniors in high school, it is scholarship time. There are many scholarships available to seniors and they are all listed on our website and the Gaffney Library website. In addition, many have been posted to our Facebook page as well as the "Wakefield NH - A Community Working Together. If you have any questions about

scholarships please feel free to contact the SAU office. There is a new scholarship this year which is the Judith Nason Scholarship fund. This scholarship is open to any Wakefield student who is attending college and has recently been posted. Good luck to all the seniors as they pursue their next phase of education, we are proud of you!!

This past week, I had the opportunity to spend some time in the first grade classrooms while they worked with their 5th grade reading buddies. The two grades try to get together weekly to read together, a great way to provide good models for our younger students and build leadership in our older students. This week's activity was all three fifth grade classes visiting their first grade reading buddies for a fun craft. The students created hoppy spring pictures that were hung in the hallway, as a bunny trail, from grade one up to grade five. Take a look around, they are great pictures. Thank you 1st and 5th grade teachers for making time in your schedule to do this type of activity, it is a great way to build community.

In Title 1 we have great news! Since December, three of our students have been released from reading services and 6 from math. We are so excited to see the growth of our children and wanted to share the news. This allows us to pick up more students in need of support :)

Recently our own Dominick Roy, now a ninth grader at Spaulding, was asked to join the "Mental Health Awareness Club" at Spaulding High School. This is a club that encompasses students from all four grades, and Dominick was asked by the principal Mr. Roy to join. The club attends conferences to discuss the importance of mental health programs in high schools. In addition to these conferences, they have meetings to discuss what they can do in their school, they fundraise in order to be able to offer programs in their school and there is a large focus on suicide , awareness. Congratulations Dominick! You are a true leader.

Professional Development Day - March 15, 2024

We had a very exciting professional development day on Friday, March 15th. The focus of the day was literacy, as that is the current focus for our development of standards. Elaine Millen, a consultant that works with us talked in the morning about the current educational landscape, and the way things have changed in education. As Elaine often says, we can never go back, education has changed and it is our job to determine how we engage our new group of learners. Elaine has been working with our literacy team to develop a literacy block which includes all aspects of the instruction of literacy, and she was followed up by a presentation from our literacy team, Elaine Ellis, Penny Huckins, Diane O'Neil and Ann Gehring. The presentation was focused on developing a literacy block in classrooms, and we asked all our classroom teachers and paraprofessionals to be a part of this presentation, as literacy is something that can and should be taught across the curriculum. The presentation was well received, and staff were able to bring with them concrete information about the important components of literacy instruction. The literacy team's next step with the consultation from Elaine is to develop "lunch and learn" professional development sessions. They have been planning these sessions and they will begin the second week of April. In the afternoon staff was sent back to their classrooms to have collegial conversations about their roles in teaching literacy, and taking an inventory and developing a needs list of what they need to help promote literacy in their classrooms. As always, the staff were very thankful for the time given to them to have these collegial conversations. There is such limited time in their daily schedule to have these conversations and the conversations are vital to improving our student achievement. The staff is very thankful that the board approved the early release days for next year's calendar, and we will be providing a

very focused approach to these early release days. The day ended with an ice cream social, which was very well received by all! A big thank you to all involved in making the day such a success!

Mrs. Collins asked about the schools spelling bee champion and if she progressed any further. Mrs. Kebler will find that out.

Mrs. Soares said that there will be thirty two vendors at the craft fair and they will be having a raffle as well. This will help support End 68 Hours of Hunger.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if the Book Buddy program be extended to other grades. Mrs. Kebler answered that other grades may be doing it as well. She's not sure. Mrs. Kebler said she wants to share the good things happening at Paul School and the high school. If parents have things they'd like to share please let her know. She said if people want to come to the Superintendent Chats she'd be happy to start them up again.

Public Comment

Mrs. Soares said the Lions Club has opened their scholarship to any student attending college or technical school. Mrs. Kebler said the Judy Nason Scholarship is specific to college.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 3-2)

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the non public minutes of 3-19-24 with corrections. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 3-5-24 with corrections. (Vote 4-0-1)

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 3-19-24. (Vote 5-0)

The no vote from two Board members to approve the teachers contracts for next year was discussed. Perhaps a different format was suggested.

New Business

SAFE Grant Award

Mrs. Kebler said we were awarded an \$82,000 Safe Grant. We will be updating our phone and camera system. The Chair of the Board and Superintendent must sign it in order to upload it into the Grant Management System.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to have Mrs. Kebler and the Chair sign the document. (Vote 5-0)

General Assurances

Mrs. Kebler explained these are the general assurances for all federal grant we receive. Each grant has an assurance and there is an assurance for all of the grants collectively. All have to be initialed by the school board and signed by the Chair.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to have Mrs. Kebler and the Chair sign the documents for the General Assurances. (Vote 5-0)

AREA Agreement Agenda

Mrs. Kebler had two items for the agenda. There used to be disciplinary hearings and someone from the LEA and School Board members attended. She said this year it would have been helpful to have a disciplinary hearing for some of our students attending Spaulding. She will be attending both the Spaulding and Kingswood graduations and hopes a School Board member will attend. She will also attend the Scholarship Awards Night this year to present scholarships. Mrs. Peaslee asked if there was a policy when we were part of SAU 64 about hearings. Mrs. Kebler said she remembered getting a letter from the Rochester Superintendent. Mrs. Howard said she doesn't believe they have disciplinary hearings any longer since the discipline law went into effect. Mrs. Kebler would like agenda items sent to her by the end of the week.

Committee Updates

Health and Wellness

Mrs. Collins said she attended this meeting. Some members came to the Policy Committee meeting as the policy had to be updated because of changes from the state.

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Kebler attended this meeting and said it was exciting to see that we are getting closer to being able to identify our key learning targets so that we're not looking at 195 pages of standards. We are narrowing it down.

Exploratory Committee

Policies (all 1st Reading)

BDD Board Superintendent Relationship

Mrs. Collins said we are combining the NHSBA policy with the Wakefield policy. This policy will come back with corrections.

BGAA Policy Development, Adoption and Review

Adopting the NHSBA policy. Mrs. Collins said there is a policy that they have to approve and adopt and then we can remove the other policies referenced. This policy is intended to merge five NHSBA policies; BG, BGA, BGB, BGP and BGC.

BEC Non Public Session

Adopting NHSBA policy. Mrs. Taliaferro suggested listing the RSA's on the policy.

BEDC Quorum

Adopting NHSBA policy.

BIE Board Member Indemnification

Adopting NHSBA policy.

BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if both public comment sections have always been agenda items only. Mr. Ouellette believes that is so.

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to add; speakers may make a comment for three minutes on a topic on the agenda at each fifteen minute session. (Vote 4-1) Mrs. Peaslee feels there should be a Q&A section after every presentation. Board members had several suggestions on what to do if a crowd shows up to a meeting. Mrs. Taliaferro asked to have the NHSBA policy BEDH at the next meeting.

JLCF Wellness

The state determines what is allowed and the food service company abides by these rules. Mrs. Peaslee said if a child is dropped off at school with iced coffee we're not providing it and the parent is condoning it. Mrs. Collins said one teacher at the Wellness Committee meeting told the committee that if the state came in we'd be written up because there is a lot of candy, energy drinks and a lot of gum that has to be scraped off desks, floors and furniture. The policy has been very lax. Mrs. Kebler said teachers who come to the policy meeting would like to see this policy better enforced and hold kids accountable.

Mrs. Collins said the kids bring in bags of candy eating it and then not eating lunch. Mr. DeColfmacker asked if there was a way to break this out so it doesn't include everyone in the school. A very long conversation ensued about what food and drink would be allowed. Also, if teachers have to abide by the same rules. Mrs. Taliaferro said she likes Wolfeboro's system where they pick a couple days a year and go through all the policies. She said they do the policies every year. Mrs. Kebler said she believes a workshop would be a god idea. The Board chose to send this policy back to the Wellness Committee to be reworded.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion to table this policy, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro. (Vote 5-0)

Follow Up

Mrs. Taliaferro asked about getting the results of the state testing the Board had requested in February. The scores per grade level and if the zeros count against the school for those who opt out. Mr. Ouellette said that the principal and vice principal had gotten back to him a while ago and they are still working on it. Mr. Ouellette said he did find out that opting out would be a zero. Mrs. Taliaferro also asked how many laptops do we have and how many broken laptops do we have and is it the best idea to get rid of all the apples. She said she got a message from a teacher that they were waiting for approval to order parts. The teacher had really good information like questions like does the \$10 insurance cover anything. She said she got a couple of emails from teachers about finding a loaner laptop. Mr. DeColfmacker said on the technology piece it would be best to route those questions back to the technology teacher. Mrs. Taliaferro

said she believes these teachers are part of the tech committee. She was given some information and that made her have questions. She asked about the number of laptops, broken laptops, turnaround time, Insurance fees, is it the same cost to repair as to replace etc. And they shouldn't have to determine if it's junk or been misused. Mrs. Kebler answered that there are currently 68 damaged Chromebooks. There are 23 unused macs. There are 14 unused computers for staff. Each and every student has a Chromebooks and there are 8 loaners. The computer teacher believes it is cheaper to replace a screen or fix a computer than buy new ones. The expectation is that a Chromebook should last three years. Mrs. Taliaferro asked what the damage was to the 68 computers.

Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to enter non public session under 91-A:3, 11 (c) at 7:44. 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.

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary