

# Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

April 16, 2024

Held in Paul School Library

Approved



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

Others Present: Katie Howard, Michelle Keating 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 sessions. (Vote 2-3)**

## Presentation, Public Hearings

The Public Hearing to withdraw funds from the Maintenance Building Replacement CRF has been postponed.

## PTA Update

Mrs. Howard said the PTA had a couple of tables at the solar eclipse event on Monday. They also had crock pot dinners for the open house. She thanked all who donated. They will have dances on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. On May 18<sup>th</sup> on Pride Day, they will have a table selling iced coffee and flavored energy drinks. They are also looking for a Board secretary. She said any community members could help out for events. You do not have to be a member of the PTA.

## Public Comment

None

## Reports

### Facility

### **Well Update**

Performed a walkthrough/ consultation with NH Wett Services and Hillside irrigation. I have been advised to try the existing well pump this spring and see what the output levels are with a

pump down test. The well has had a previous flow rate of 30 gallons per minute, which is a substantial amount of flow. The well hasn't been used in many years and we could have completely different results with a new test. Hillside irrigation can manipulate zone usage to work with whatever flow rate we are retrieving from the well.

### **Shed Removal/Concrete Flatwork**

Public Hearing quotes are submitted for phase 1 of the new Maintenance Building. Phase 1 consists of excavator rental, dumpster rental and the concrete flatwork to be completed by Lapiere Concrete. Demo of the old shed will be happening as soon as the ground conditions dry up. Phase 2 will be the metal building installation Hopefully in late summer/fall.

### **Athletic Fields**

Extensive work has been completed and/or in progress at the athletic fields for our upcoming baseball/ softball. season. Bases on the softball field have been concreted and installed. Metal Team benches were purchased for baseball field. 4 foul poles are being installed and a netting fence will be going up on the visitor side of baseball field so they can be provided with a "dugout area".

### **Pre-K playground/ Garden**

Sitework and planning/ Quotes are in process for a 40x25 ft fenced in area behind the school for a Pre-K only playground with suitable structures for pre-school aged children that will be easily accessible from their classroom. Grant funding will be utilized for this project (Sarah Howard). The existing Garden will be moved to a more visible, sunny spot that should gain more attention on the side of the middle school entrance. I'm planning on four large garden beds and a bench. Looking to do "themed gardens" with labels and identification. My hope is that this will draw the attention of students and staff to care for and incorporate into their learning.

### **Bids**

Pre bid walk throughs are being conducted presently for our camera/phone system upgrades that have been awarded through SAFE Grant funding. Bids will be submitted by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Grounds Plowing contract bids will be submitted by May 1st for the new 3 yr. contract starting July 1st.

### **Generator**

The Public Safety Building is getting a new generator and they are giving us theirs at no cost. Wiring and pouring a concrete slab will be our only cost. This is the same generator the Board was told would not work. Mrs. Kebler said there has been researched with two electricians, Brock and Seth and it will work. Mr. DeColfmacker said this will take care of the whole building.

Mr. Ouellette said he came down to the school this weekend and removed a tree and its wood which was part way across the road.

Mrs. Collins asked about the gardens. Mr. Kebler said they will be looking for community donations and she just discovered a grant that is for outdoor gardening she will be looking into. Mr. Davis has some cool ideas and his wife is a master gardener. This will be incorporated into the curriculum.

## Administration

March has subsided and April started off with a surprise snow storm! We are grateful to our maintenance crew who supported getting our building back and ready for school to resume. Even with the snowy grounds we had a phenomenal turn out for our eclipse event. We want to thank all the families and community members who came to the event and enjoyed our open house after. We especially want to thank our Paul School Staffers all the hard work they put into making the building welcoming for families. The classrooms and halls reflected the amazing work our students have been doing.

At my last presentation the staff was gearing up to play the students in the annual staff vs. student basketball game. In the first game played the staff won by eight points holding their own against the students. In the second game the students let loose and won against the staff. A highlight for many of our middle school students was that Mr. Fairfield had bet on the staff winning, if they lost...he had to shave his head! Lo and behold he held up the part of his argument and Mr. Fairfield is rocking a new shaved head look.

In eighth grade our science classes had the opportunity to dissect squid. The students were thrilled to do a hands-on science experiment and were even allowed to invite some of our fourth, sixth and third graders to join the fun. Students learned about the internal and external anatomy. An exciting event that happened was that when one third grader cut into the squid there was a fish inside! Mr. Nason is excited to do more dissections as we close out the year.

Our PTA had their Breakfast with the Bunny event which was a huge success. The PTA pulled this off following one of our surprise snow storms. We appreciate all the work they continue to do for our school! As we look toward the end of the year the PTA will be supporting many of our classrooms with field trips and we cannot thank them enough.

We have started spring sports and are eager to get our students out on the fields. Mr. Davis has been hard at work preparing our athletic grounds for our spring games. We are looking forward to cheering on our teams. Our second round of clubs is wrapping up and we will be rolling into our third and final round of clubs following April Break. We want to thank the school board for approving the after school clubs and hope to continue this model in the years to come. It has highly benefited our students!

Looking ahead in our calendars, we are getting ready for end of the year field trips, graduation, dances and more! Kindergarten Registration is happening here on May 14th and 15th. Any family looking to have their child register for kindergarten should call the front office to make an appointment. We cannot wait to meet our newest learners!

## Finance

Mr. Markiewicz said he had provided the financial report ending March 31<sup>st</sup>. They are still working on a number of transfers that will come out of the general fund into the ESSER3 grant. We still have \$753,000 which has been approved in the budget that still needs to be spent between now and the end of September. We have another \$364,000 that the district has been allocated and we have not budgeted that amount yet which we know of. We have a meeting tomorrow with all department heads to go over the areas we know and can move some of the money out of the general fund. The estimated total that still needs to be spent is \$1.17 million dollars. We have been working with Fresh Pics and have a meeting on Thursday about a company where parents can put money into a child's account. We have found that for the past

two years our free and reduced applications have been down. Families would be able to go online to complete the application. Food service is currently running in the positive. Mrs. Taliaferro asked what we had planned or budgeted for ESSER3? Mr. Markiewicz said we actually have what isn't budgeted \$364,000 dollars. \$753,000 has actually already been budgeted. Mrs. Taliaferro asked what do we have budgeted for the \$753,000? Mrs. Kebler said there are a number of activities. She doesn't have the list in front of her but she said they are working on the 20% learning gap and a lot of that has not yet been posted. Once those costs are posted that money will have been spent.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked for a list of the \$753,000 that's been budgeted? Mrs. Kebler said it's on the list she gave the Board in the fall but would be happy to bring it back. There have been a few minor changes. Mrs. Taliaferro said she is looking for direct things for students. Mrs. Kebler said there is a significant number of direct things for students. All of the contracted services, school psychologist, speech pathologist. The ESSER grant is the only grant that has ever allowed us to supplant and the purpose of that was to allow school districts to be able to cover the cost of educating our students because of the gap of COVID and be able to supplant where it's needed in the budget. What is definitely in the budget is most of the contracted services, a school psychologist, behavior interventionist, math and reading interventionist.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, 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 4-2-2. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the public minutes of 4-2-24 with one correction. (Vote 5-0)**

### **New Business**

#### **Scholarship Application**

Only one application was received. Mrs. Peaslee asked about adding technical schools and trade schools into the scholarship wording. Mrs. Collins said in the past a student that went to nursing school was granted that scholarship. She said since it's a Board scholarship we can change it and add trade, technical or certificate school. Mrs. Peaslee asked that that be put on a future agenda. Mr. DeColfmacker agreed.

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to award the Wakefield School Board Scholarship to the author of the essay. (5-0)**

### **Policies** (all 2nd Reading)

#### **BEC Non Public Session**

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Policy BEC. (5-0)**

### BDD Board Superintendent Relationship

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Policy BDD. (5-0)**

### BEDC Quorum

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve Policy BEDC. (5-0)**

### BIE Board Member Indemnification

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Policy BIE. (5-0)**

### BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve Policy BEDH. (4-1)**

## **Follow Up**

### Judith Nason Scholarship

Mrs. Kebler said we did what the attorney asked us to do. The trustees ran it by someone in the Attorney Generals office and they say we would be changing the purpose of the fund. She will be talking to Steven Whitley tomorrow and then will talk with the trustees. She said we have accepted all scholarships that have come in. As soon as we can we will offer the scholarship. One person applied and they were informed it was on hold. We will open it back up when we have it all ironed out.

### Mentoring and Supporting New Teachers

Mrs. Kebler said a question was asked at the last meeting what kind of support do we offer teachers? She said they have a mentoring program. They meet on a weekly basis and the mentors work in each other's classroom to provide them with the tools to make them successful. They are observing the mentees. They all meet quarterly, mentors and mentees and discuss how the process is going for everyone. They also have additional coaching in the classroom done by Elaine Millen and Elayne Ellis. That's what we are doing to support new teachers.

Mrs. Taliaferro said the SOE's have three years what happens if there's concerns. Mrs. Kebler said if a teacher needs improvement that would be under the evaluation process. Mrs. DiRocco said there are three evaluations with new teachers and at the end of the year we meet with them. If a teacher needs more we meet with them more often. If necessary an improvement plan is put in place for the following year, sooner if needed. Mrs. Kebler said there is a formal process for an improvement plan in the CBA.

### AREA Agreement Board Meeting

Mrs. Kebler asked if there were any items Board members would like to add to the agenda. She said the two items she suggested don't have to be on an AREA meeting agenda. The Board had no items for the agenda.

### Orientation

Orientation has been scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked to have timeclocks put on Follow Up. Mr. Markiewicz said it's part of the new accounting system they are implementing. Mrs. Peaslee asked what kind of system would be used. Mrs. Taliaferro asked about the PD Committee. Mrs. Kebler said the PD Committee is in the process of being formed. They hope to meet in May. She is speaking to a person that can

coordinate the plan. Mrs. Taliaferro also asked how many children are signed up for the morning program and how many are staff's children. Mrs. Kebler said we have forty-five students and she doesn't know how many are staff's. Mrs. Taliaferro asked about Tom Ladd, the Director of School Administrators might be someone to contact about our Strategic Plan. She said it's been two years and we still don't have a Strategic Plan. Mrs. Kebler said Mr. Ladd is no longer affiliated with that organization. She said that committee was tabled last year. We should be working on a Strategic Plan but it also needs to be funded.

Mrs. Collins said we actually do have a Strategic Plan at the SAU but it needs to be updated. Mrs. Taliaferro thought it had to be updated every year. Mrs. Kebler said not every year she believes it may be every five years. She will put anything on the agenda that needs to go under Follow Up. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if Mr. DeColfmacker, since he was reelected to the Board and Mrs. Kebler have to announce who they are related to that is affiliated with the school. Should that be put on the next agenda?

### **Non Public**

**Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to enter non public session under 91-A:3, 11 (c) at 7:17. Roll call vote: Collins aye, DeColfmacker aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye. (Vote 5-0)**

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:04.

### **Adjournment**

**Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary