

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

Wednesday June 26, 2024

Held in the SAU Conference Room

Approved



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

Others Present: Max Gehring from Clearview TV.

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

Agenda Review

Add school nurse under Nominations. Bob Ouellette: Update on Paras under follow Up.

Presentations. Public Hearings

None

Public Comment

None

Reports

Transportation Update

Mrs. Kebler said she arrived at the school on Thursday to find Trooper Skelley here beginning an audit on the buses as a result of a complaint by a Wakefield resident who called the Department of Safety with concerns about the safety of the students on the buses. The trooper looked at the three buses that were of concern and all three buses were grounded. Bus 16 had a tire issue. Buses 18 and 31 had a problem with the break suspension and a tire concern. The audit has not been completed so there's no report yet. Trooper Hildreth is on vacation. He's expected to come here within the next two weeks. Bus 17 is still at Rochester Truck.

The new bus still has a Maine inspection sticker. That sticker was only supposed to cover the drive from Maine to New Hampshire. All buses have a year long bus inspection sticker. Mrs. Kebler asked the Transportation Director in March if she was all set getting the state inspection and she said yes. That wasn't done so they are all out of compliance. They didn't get grounded because no safety issues were identified. We were allowed to drive them for the last week of school. Do we want to stay with Rochester Truck or get our buses serviced and inspected elsewhere? Mrs. Peaslee said any garage that does CDL inspections can do these inspections like

Crowell's or DiPrizio's. The school bus inspection has to be sent to a specific garage and mechanic.

Mrs. Kebler said they also found out that the roster for drivers was never completed so the drivers were driving all year long without being rostered. She said the person she talked to at the Department of Safety said get it to me right away and I'll roster your drivers so you have them for summer school. Mrs. Peaslee told Mrs. Kebler that she should ask if the Department of Safety is going to waive the drivers having to redo their school bus certificate and suggested that she get that in writing. If you have been un-rostered you have to take your school bus certificate test again. The drivers would have no way to know that they weren't rostered until they went to renew their drivers license and were not allowed to get their CDL.

Mrs. Kebler said all the medical cards were sent in except one and Mrs. Peaslee was nice enough to get that taken care of. Mrs. Peaslee said that the Department of Safety sends an email to the Transportation Director stating the status of all drivers that have been cleared and rostered. The roster is then put in everybody's personal driver file and kept with transportation paperwork. One of the drivers went to get their license renewed and found out she wasn't rostered. Everyone with a CDL is required to have a med card on file with the state and it's the driver's responsibility to see this is done.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if the tires should have been noticed by the garage when a bus went in for maintenance like an oil change. Drivers should have noticed this on their pre-trip. The BA oversees the Transportation Director. Mrs. Taliaferro asked about a checklist. Mr. Markiewicz said that's why you have a Transportation Coordinator. Mrs. Peaslee said the answers they received at Transportation Meetings weren't forthcoming. Mrs. Taliaferro said perhaps there should be a list of items that need to be completed. Mrs. Kebler said there is but it wasn't completed.

Mrs. Peaslee asked what is being done about buses 16, 18 and 31 because they are grounded. Mr. Markiewicz said we'll know more tomorrow as he is going down to DiPrizio's to see about getting the buses down to them. Mrs. Peaslee said the buses with orange tags need to be towed, they cannot be driven. Mr. Ouellette asked if we have any drivers that can drive right now. Mrs. Kebler said no. Mrs. Peaslee said this is the worse time of year that this could happen as every transportation company and every school in the state are due right now. Mrs. Kebler said as soon as she has a report she will share all the information. She doesn't want any misinformation spread.

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Carol Keenan comes from Massachusetts and has been a principal, assistant superintendent, interim superintendent and Director of student services in Lawrence and Woburn, large schools. Mrs. Kebler said she sounds great and interviewed well. She will receive her NH certification within 30 days.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to approve the hiring of Carol Keenan as Student Services Director. (Vote 4-1)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve the hiring of Madison Bales as a third grade teacher. (Vote 5-0)

Georgia Brunelle was a school nurse in Tuftonboro for thirteen years.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the hiring of Georgia Brunelle School Nurse. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Kebler said we have an interview with someone for the fourth grade position who lives in Wakefield. That will leave a fifth grade position to fill. She said our numbers would allow us to have two third grade classrooms instead of three if we had to. Mrs. Collins asked if new teachers are made aware of our mentoring program. Mrs. Kebler responded that they are and that they are strengthening their mentoring program and providing a lot more academic support. They are also restructuring their teacher leadership team this summer. They have some good systems coming in place for next year. Mr. DeColfmacker said they have also received some promising IT Director applications.

Follow Up

Para Update

Mrs. Kebler said all the paras met with Mrs. Lambert. They all agreed with what Mrs. Lambert said we should be paying them and they all got contracts based on that. There was never any talk about any discrepancies during negotiations. They are all where they should be that was agreed to during negotiations.

Public Comment

None

Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public session under 91-A:3, 11 (c) at 6:30. Roll call vote: Collins aye, DeColfmacker aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Peaslee aye. (Vote 5-0)

The Board returned to Public Session at 7:30.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to seal the non public minutes for five years (6-26-29) (Vote 5-0)

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. (Vote 5-0)

The Board took a field trip to inspect the buses. No board discussion or decisions were made during that time.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

School Board Secretary

