

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

August 6, 2024

Held in SAU Conference Room

Approved



BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Robert DeColfmacker, Chair		Anne Kebler, Superintendent via Zoom	✓
Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair	✓	Frank Markiewicz, BA	✓
Mary Collins	✓	Carol Keenan, Student Services Director	
Brennan Peaslee	✓	Norma DiRocco, Principal	
Sandrea Taliaferro via Zoom	✓	Ivy Levitt-Carlson, Assistant Principal	

Mr. Ouellette led those present in the salute to the flag at 5:30.

Transportation Contract

Mr. Markiewicz said the Board waived the bidding policy on July 9th and he contacted SLC, Eldridge Transportation and First Student to discuss our transportation needs providing routes and our special ed needs. Neither Eldridge Transportation nor SLC are able to meet our needs. Mr. Markiewicz provided the contract that would go to First Student after legal counsel reviews it. First Student wanted more than a one year contract to make it a viable option for them. They would also be willing to include an option for years 4 and 5. The cost per day per big bus would be \$489.70 and \$369.51 for sped buses. There are currently four students who need transportation out of district driven separately. Mrs. Peaslee suggested asking about district sharing with other districts with First Student going to the same destinations to see if there would be a cost savings.

Mr. Markiewicz continued saying that we ran seven buses last year. The estimated cost for First Student to handle transportation would be \$939,374.10. The district would be responsible for fuel costs and the First Student buses would be housed at the Paul School bus area. Mrs. Peaslee said we would be better off having them take care of the fuel costs with a fleet account as we would no longer be eligible to get the state discount as the buses would have to be owned by the municipality to take advantage of the discount.

Mr. Markiewicz is working on the total the district spent last year on transportation. Mrs. Taliaferro asked to have the total cost of everything including repairs and insurance and all the little things etc. The Board discussed asking for a one year lease, the condition of the buses, repairs needed and costs, if First Student would be interested in our buses. The buses being parked on Paul School campus, the cost of electricity to plug them in during cold weather winter plowing, drivers, access to the school, who would hear complaints. Also, our buses will be parked in the First Student lot in Rochester.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to add fuel costs into the contract (Vote 4-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to negotiate the cost of electricity to plug in First Student buses. (4-0)

Mr. Markiewicz will also have a discussion with them about plowing costs.

Mr. Kebler said that there is \$188,000 available through the IDEA Grant to help cover the cost of transportation.

Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to change the contract to one year. (Vote 3-1)

It was stated that this is actually a one year contract as the voters are the only ones that can agree to allow the Board to enter into a contract longer than a year.

Mr. Ouellette suggested keeping a bus to transport students for co-curricular and sports activities.

Mr. Markiewicz asked the Board for direction as school starts in four weeks and we need to transport the students. Mr. Markiewicz was asked to try and negotiate what the Board voted on earlier and let the members know if he was successful. The contract needs to go to the attorney. The Board will wait until the next meeting to vote on the contract.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to allow Mr. Markiewicz to continue the process with the contract and send the contract to the attorney for review. (3-1)

Mr. Markiewicz said we need to get this to a contract attorney ASAP. He told the Board that he had complied with the law and sent all the drivers the letters. Mrs. Peaslee supplied some information about possible future steps. Mrs. Kebler said they will put together a summary of what's occurred with transportation.

Adjournment

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20. (Vote 4-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary