

# Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

October 1, 2024  
Held in the Library  
Approved



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

Others Present: Katie Roy, John Powers, Relf Fogg and Max Gehring of ClearView TV.

Mr. DeColfmacker led those present in the salute to the flag at 6:30.

## **Agenda Review**

Add non public to the beginning of the meeting.

## **Presentations, Public Hearings**

### **PTA**

Ms. Roy said that last Friday they had their first dance and it went well. They have a public meeting at 3:30 in the school library. They still need new members and people to help with events. Chipotle night is October 12<sup>th</sup>. They are still looking for vendors and crafters for their carnival.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Fogg said the district sent two people out of town to become bus trainers. They were certified as trainers. He feels that they could have been transportation coordinator. He said the buses should be brought back to the district. He believes the Board is violating RSA 32:11. He said a Board member offered to resign from the Board and take over transportation.

## **Non Public**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public session at 6:40 under RSA 91-A;3 II (c). Roll call: Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye, Collins aye, Ouellette aye, Peaslee aye.**

The Board returned to public session at 7:18.

## **Reports**

### **Student Services**

Enrollment Data includes the following:

- A.) Paul Elementary School = 84 students on IEPs
- B.) Spaulding High School = 32 students on IEPs
- C.) Bud Carlson Academy High School = 2 students on IEPs
- D.) Kingswood Regional High School = 3 students on IEPs
- E.) Out of District = 4 students on IEP

Two new students to Paul Elementary School on IEPs: 2 from Rochester, NH 4. New Special Education Referrals = 1 student

Special Education Disabilities include the following:

- A.) Autism = 13 students
- B.) Development Delay = 15 students
- C.) Emotional Disability = 4 students
- D.) intellectual Disability = 4 students
- E.) Other Health impairment = 31 students
- F.) Specific Learning Disability = 41 students
- G.) Speech Language Impairment = 17 students

6. Section 504 Accommodation Plans at Paul School = 23 students

7. Section 504 Accommodation Plan Referrals = 1 student

8. Wakefield School District Current NHDOE Compliance Data = 99%

9. New Updates/Student Success Stories: Our Newly Designed Partner Program is a huge success! Thanks to our stellar new teacher Beth Corbett, our highly skilled paraprofessionals; John Brideau, Sean Gallipo, Max Gehring, Kristina King, Jaden McKellar, and our amazing BCBA Matt Pizzi. On a daily basis, I am amazed, impressed, and so very thankful to all of them for having embraced our Newly Designed Partner Program with enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism. Seeing our students mainstreamed in ELA and Math classes, in the halls, in the cafeteria for lunch, and outside at recess with their grade level peers is exactly what is going to excel our students' academic and social growth.

### **Superintendents Report**

We have had a busy September, and it is hard to believe we have our second full month of school:

Budget season is upon us, and our department heads have been great at working on their budgets and getting them to the SAU in a timely fashion. Last week we had our first budget committee meeting, and it seemed to go very well. We are on target to have a draft budget to present to the board and will share our timeline at the next board meeting.

The Rochester Superintendent Ararloza will be reaching out to me soon with a date they are proposing for an area agreement board meeting which is typically in October. Board members should get any agenda items they would like to see on the agenda to me so that I can send it over to Rochester once we get a proposed date.

Our professional development committee is beginning to review the revisions to our professional development plan for the state. Our first meeting is September 25th. We are looking at a plan that embeds our professional development throughout the year within our own learning communities, focusing on the data analyzed this summer to determine literacy targets.

Our first half day of this school year we started off with the SAU holding a cookout for lunch for the staff to celebrate the beginning of our school year. It was very nice to have an opportunity for all to have lunch with each other and have collegial conversations with their peers. Facilitators were trained during that afternoon to assist with facilitating the data talks we will be having for the remaining early release days this year. The data we look at will be not only standardized assessments but "format assessment" such as looking at student work with benchmarked project dates to determine interventions.

As part of our embedded professional development and academic coaching, teachers have begun to visit and complete peer observations in classrooms. They have been able to see instructional best practices in action and gone back to their classrooms to implement them. Teachers are excited and looking forward to utilizing these visits and resources as the year progresses.

We would like to send a huge shout out to Brandon Balsler for all he does to ensure that students are learning how to play games well, together, interact with each other in a good sportsmanship way, strategies for resolving conflict, and providing great video tutorials of games we can play with our students at recess! All these things are in addition to our regular PE classes, and our schoolwide sports! Thank you, Brandon!!!

And finally, Mrs. Libby would like to share how proud she is at how Vera Keating and Essie Skelly have done since school began. They are wonderful role models for our class. They always make great choices, and they are very kind, respectful, and responsible.

### Enrollment Report

		Sept		
	LP	15		
	K	30		
	1	33		
	2	40		
	3	39		
	4	47		
	5	63		
	6	55		
	7	46		
	8	45		
Total	0	413		
			Sept	
	Spaulding		172	
	Kingswood		14	
	Bud Carlson		9	
	Brewster		1	
	Total		196	

### Consent Agenda

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

### Meeting Minutes

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the non public minutes of 9-17-24. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 9-3-24. (Vote 5-0)**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 9-17-24. (Vote 5-0)**

### **Old Business**

#### **Public Comments in Meeting Minutes**

Mr. DeColfmacker said he looked into what should be in the minutes from the public. He read the following paragraph from the New Hampshire Municipal Association:

The RSA requires that you provide the opportunity for public comment at regular meetings at which final action is taken. It also does not address whether such comments should be included in meeting minutes. However, since meeting minutes are subject to disclosure under the RSA 91-A. If you choose to include public comment in the minutes, we recommend a summary of the comment period and not details.

Mrs. Taliaferro said it doesn't say that we shouldn't so if the public wants their comment put into the minutes. We're voted in by them and if it's a hot topic issue....she said if they're asking specific question or want specific information for next meetings follow up that should be in there. Mr. DeColfmacker said that's on us to make sure what we want is in there. Mrs. Colbath said if there's a follow up she puts that in there. She said if there's an argument or peoples opinion that doesn't go in there.

Mr. DeColfmacker said we have to be careful we're not violating RSA 91A. Some of the public comments have that information. We should all read the minutes and if there is something missing we add it. Mrs. Colbath said your meeting is a business meeting. I put more than, there was public comment. Mr. Ouellette said and we can table the minutes, they're only draft. Mrs. Taliaferro said she doesn't want to have to watch videos for every single meeting depending on who is speaking as to what's going to be in the minutes. She wants to make sure that whoever is speaking the information is the same across the board. Mr. DeColfmacker reminded the Board that the minutes reflect what's on the agenda. We have public comment and someone talks about something not on the agenda that doesn't have to be reflected in the minutes. Mrs. Colbath said these are your minutes and if there is something someone wants in there as long as the Board agrees it goes in.

#### **Transportation Committee Update**

Mrs. Kebler said the Chair asked her to reach out to the attorney to see what happens with the Transportation Committee. She went on to say he told her it doesn't need to be disbanded. It takes on a different role when we have a contracted service. It doesn't require monthly meetings. The Committee reviews the contract and budgeting of transportation, some disciplinary problems. Meetings are to be scheduled by the Board chair or herself. She said right now there isn't a need to have a meeting. Mrs. Peaslee asked if there were any other contracts besides First Student. Mrs. Kebler answered no. If there is a disciplinary issue it will go to the transportation Committee.

Mrs. Peaslee felt they should have a meeting as the district still own buses and has to be discussed with the committee as what we will do moving forward. Mrs. Kebler agrees. Mrs.

Peaslee would like quotes from a dealer for each bus. Mrs. Kebler said this is exactly what Mr. Markiewicz and she talked about doing. Mrs. Peaslee said it wasn't good that the buses are sitting on grass. After some discussion, Mrs. Kebler said that Mr. Markiewicz will be at the next meeting to discuss the buses as they don't have any more information at this point. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if we knew how many proposed field trips there would be. She said it is per trip so it's not in the contract. She also wants an estimate of athletics and summer school transportation costs at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **AREA Agreement Agenda and Date**

Mrs. Kebler has not yet received a date but asked the Board for agenda items for the AREA meeting. Mrs. Kebler said she thinks the new superintendent wants to talk about the AREA agreement. It gives the Board the opportunity to see if there's any movement.

Mr. DeColfmacker said he has been in contact with Naomi Butterfield and she has read the agreement. She said if the Board would like to proceed with a consultation she would do that. Her hourly rate is \$235 per hour. Mr. Ouellette asked Mrs. Kebler if there was anything she would like to see on the agenda and she replied, a conversation about curriculum alignment and standards is always good.

Mr. Ouellette said they always say that our Wakefield students are doing great academically.

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

Mrs. Keenan said we had two vacancies and Amy Nason has filled one. There is another that she is still checking references for and will be in the next packet.

### **Follow Up**

#### **Public Comment Questions from 9-17-24 Board Meeting**

1. There is a provision in the contract, non-appropriation clause (escape clause) that terminates the agreement automatically without penalty to municipalities if the appropriation is not made.
  2. RSA 30:3 Municipalities may make multi year agreements as long as the legislative body adopts it.
  3. Policy DBJ does not allow transfer to salary lines. The budget is prepared using the existing staff 10 months ago. New Staff may be hired at a higher salary depending on experience.
- Mrs. Taliaferro asked if the multi-year contract means we need to have a hard number for field trips etc. Mrs. Kebler said she will bring that to the next meeting.

#### **Board Requests from 9-17-24 Board Meeting**

1. The \$5,000 encumbrance on line 100-2724-51101 Athletic Transportation Salary. This is an open PO with First Student for field trips as per the signed contract. Mrs. Peaslee asked for the PO as it's outside of our contract.
2. Transportation costs from 2018- 2024 are in the Board packets

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Roy asked where the money is taken for overages for salaries and transportation. Mr. Fogg asked if the transportation contract is for three years or five years. He had a comment regarding the minutes saying the narrator was insubordinate saying a narrative would not be put in the

minutes and it was inaccurate. He feels RSA 91-A is being violated when you can't get the notes from the SAU used to write the minutes.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked if section 2; 2.4 means all transportation for our students must be by First Student? Mrs. Peaslee answered the question saying this is for home to school. A field trip is not home to school.

Mr. Powers asked if the process regarding transportation was an emergency or not. If it was an emergency there is paperwork that needs to be sent to the Department of Education.

**Non Public**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public at 8:00 under RSA 91-A;3 II (c). Roll call: Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye, Collins aye, Ouellette aye, Peaslee aye.**

The Board reentered public session at 8:15.

**Adjournment**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. (Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
School Board Secretary