

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

September 3, 2024

Held in the Multi-Purpose Room

Draft



| 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 Howard, Elizabet Howard, Scott Gaudet and Max Gehring of ClearView TV.

Mr. DeColfmacker led those present in the salute to the flag at 6:29.

Agenda Review

Add Judith Nason Trust Fund to New Business.

Presentations, Public Hearings

None

Public Comment

Mr. Fogg told the Board they shouldn't have waived the policy to put transportation out to bid. He said there are companies that are able to provide services that would have probably bid for one year. He said the Board was manipulated into a three year contract which he called coercion. He said this will double the expenses for the district without voter consent. He explained the purpose of budgeting. He said the Board failed the taxpayers. He knows of one company who would have bid and come in at least 33% lower than \$660,000 using our buses and drivers. He said he heard that the buses were worth \$2,000-\$5,000 which is a theft of taxpayers dollars. He told the Board they would probably see a petition warrant article on the ballot this year if not a recall through the courts.

Reports

Transportation

Mrs. Kebler said the third week of June we had an audit begin with Trooper Skelly from the Department of Transportation. Within hours he grounded three buses two with tire issues and one with a serious brake issue. All buses were out of compliance because none were inspected in March. She said we were told that they were all set but they were not. She spoke with Trooper

Hildreth on the 25th and asked when he would come back to finish the audit. He said he was in the middle of rostering season, making sure drivers were compliant and would be unable to get that done in time for our drivers to be rostered for our summer program and doubted that he could get it done for the beginning of the school year. He asked what the district was considering doing and she told him we are looking at contracted services and he said that would be his recommendation. He said he knows the status of Wakefield transportation for the last five years and you'd be better off with a contracted service where the company that knows exactly what they're supposed to do.

On that day Mrs. Kebler received a call from a bus driver who had gone to get her school bus certificate renewed and she was denied because she wasn't rostered. Mrs. Kebler called the DOT and found out our bus drivers had not been rostered all year. DOT does not call to let the district know drivers aren't rostered. She said she needs drivers in two weeks to transport for mandated students. The DOT said we would have to prove the drivers have had ten hours of training in order to get them rostered which we could not do. The two hour CPR training done by the Transportation Director was never certificates issued. The bus driver said they did do the training on June 6th. We did pay for that training to be done for the drivers as well as the teachers.

Mrs. Kebler said once we found out our drivers weren't rostered we let the drivers know. The us we purchased a year and a half ago still had a Maine inspection sticker. VIR's were not completed on a regular basis, The drivers indicated they followed the direction of their director. My response to them was, you have a CDL license and you're responsible for completing all the required documentation. They are partly responsible but she did feel sorry and is happy they have jobs. Mr. Peaslee said along with what Mrs. Kebler said we also talked about getting through summer school and contracting out. She said there will be an update when they know the status of the buses.

Mr. Gaudet said he had a question. Mr. DeColfmacker said it would be a comment as we're not taking questions. He said he was curious how we got to summer school. He said we had 2 ½ months to get some brakes and tires done and bus inspections and ten hours of training. He wonders how that could not be done.

Student Services

Current Staffing includes the following:

6 Case Managers (+ 1 Vacancy), 24 Paraprofessionals/ABA Tutors, 3 Part-Time Psychologists
2 Part-Time Speech Therapists, 1 Speech Language Assistant, 2 Part-Time Occupational Therapists, 1 Part-Time Physical Therapist, 1 ESOL Teacher (English for Speakers of Other Languages), 2 Part-Time BCBAs (Board Certified Behavior Analysis).

Enrollment Data includes the following:

Paul Elementary School = 82 students on IEPs, Spaulding High School = 38 students on IEPs, Kingswood Regional High School = 4 students on IEPs, Out of District = 5 students on IEPs
Three new students to Paul Elementary School on IEPs: 1 from Ossipee, NH, 1 from Greenland, NH and 1 from Denver, CO. New Special Education Referrals = 1 student

Special Education Disabilities include the following: Autism = 13 students, Development Delay = 14 students, Emotional Disability = 5 students, intellectual Disability = 4 students, Multiple Disabilities = 1 student, Other Health Impairment = 36 students, Specific Learning Disability = 41 students, Speech Language impairment = 15 students. Section 504 Accommodation Plans at Paul School = 21 students 8. Section 504. Accommodation Plan Referrals = 5 students

New Updates include the following: Case Managers to attend LEA Training with NHSEA, Paras to attend Professional Development on Early Release Days, Classroom teachers to be provided with PRIM-4 resource 10.

Wakefield School District Current NHDOE Compliance Data= 87%. We are measured by the DOE and 87% is very good.

Superintendents Report

The Paul School started its school year on Monday, August 26th. It was wonderful to see all the staff return on August 21st, and there were some great conversations that occurred during those first two days. The third day was dedicated to classroom set up. As a staff we continue to believe that ALL students can learn when provided with the appropriate support. Our focus for the two days in working with staff was working on developing strategies to help provide interventions in the classroom setting which allow all students to succeed in their classrooms.

On Thursday, August 22nd, our keynote speaker Katie Pagnotta presented "Using Positive Relationships and Trauma-Responsive Approaches to Guide Effective Interventions" Katie has held various roles in public schools such as school counselor, mental health therapist and educational coach. She has a great deal of experience working in PreK-8 school settings and has a great perspective of what a classroom environment looks like and the hard work teachers put into helping our students learn. She is the author of "Empowered by The Human Design, Utilizing the BBARS of Excellence Framework to Foster Student and Educator success. We are emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships with our students as we enter the beginning of the 2024 - 2025 school year

We have expanded the role of our grant funded teachers Elayne Ellis and Penny Huckins. Utilizing both Title I and Title II grant money Elayne has added to her role Academic Coaching, and Penny has taken on the role of Professional Development Coordinator. During the first two days they worked with our staff around what our data tells us about our literacy instruction, our strengths and areas for growth. Using this data staff developed their personal and school professional development goals for the year.

Our focus continues to be literacy, as we believe that all members of our educational staff have a role to play in developing literacy skills. Embedded professional development will be developed and coordinated by Penny and Elayne in collaboration with our building administrators. We are all very excited to have been provided with the extra early release days this year as we will be dedicating this time to analyzing student data to include not only our standardized testing but more importantly our students' work. It is this data that helps have the necessary conversations we need to have around best instructional practice.

We were very lucky to have retained most of our staff this year and feel very fortunate in having been able to hire the teachers we needed and many new paraprofessional staff members to support our students. As is well known, we have gone to a contracted service (First Student) for transportation this year. A summary of transportation developments is being shared with the transportation committee meeting and board this evening. I don't think there is a year that goes by that there are glitches in the school district's transportation during the first week of school, but we feel confident that we have made a good decision with the direction we have gone most importantly for the safety of our students and efficiency for our families.

I am looking forward to an exciting year for the Paul School students, and our high school students as well. We wish them well.

Mrs. Kebler added that the only vacancy we didn't fill was third grade teacher that means there are 20 students each in the two third grade classrooms, which is not ideal but doable.

She said she couldn't make the 250th birthday party but is very proud of the 5th grade. She said she heard it was wonderful. She also said there are plans underway to do some things for Wakefield's 250th Birthday. Mrs. Collins gave a summary of the governors visit and the events at the ballfield. Leftover food went to the school and food pantry. The craft fair for 68 Hours of Hunger will be held this coming Saturday and some leftover food will be served there. Ms. Keenan mentioned that the Lions Club held signs of encouragement in several areas of Sanbornville on the first day of school. Mr. DeColfmacker gave a shout out to the Lions Club who helped make Children, parents and staff feel special.

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 8-13-24. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 8-6-24. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 8-13-24. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 8-20-24 public. (Vote 5-0)

New Business

High school Lottery 2025/26

Letters were sent out to parents on August 29th. They letters of intent are due back on September 10th. The lottery will be a drawing of names. There are nine spots available for the next school year.

Wakefield School Board Scholarship Essay Prompt

Mrs. Collins suggested using, “Who would you like to have a conversation with from the past and what would you talk about”? The rest of the Board will email their suggestions for prompts to Mrs. Roy by September 11th to be placed in the packet.

Judy Nason Scholarship

Mrs. Kebler said the Trustees asked that it be made clear that the family wants the scholarship to go to a student going on to a college. She was also told that Mrs. Nason’s husband wants to know when it gets low so he can add money to the Trust. There is \$10,244 in the Trust. Mrs. Kebler recommends a yearly \$500 scholarship. She said a committee should be formed with the recommendations coming from the family and the Trustees.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve and accept the Non-Judicial Settlement Agreement of the Judith Nason Memorial Expendable Trust Fund. (Vote 5-0)

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Dawn Stone as a paraprofessional FYI

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to accept Nicholas Gorman’s resignation with regret. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to accept Robin Fifield’s retirement with regret and congratulations. (Vote 5-0)

Follow Up

Mrs. Kebler said she is working with the Behavioral Health Team to give a presentation to the Board on October 1st. She said they give Clearview TV the calendar of meetings. Due to a shortage of staff Clearview was unable to video some of the summer meetings. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if the school could do a Webex of a zoom if the videographers are busy. Mrs. Kebler said we were never informed when we weren’t going to have someone from Clearview so we’d have to come up with a communication system. Mr. DeColfmacker said he is waiting to hear from the attorney for the Area Agreement to get back to his with a cost. Mrs. Collins will send Mr. DeColfmacker a contact from a school district that went through this process.

Public Comment

Mrs. Howard asked who is supposed to show up on Teacher Workshop days and what happens. She also asked about the ESSER grant. She said she knows someone who has requested one and hasn’t heard back. She wanted to know about the buses for field trips as the PTA helps fund the transportation. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if we’d have those answers at the next Board meeting. Mr. Fugg said the Board needs to consider what they’ve done because it there is a warrant article on the ballot that commands the district to keep our buses inhouse and you’ve disposed of them you’ve betrayed the trust of the voters. He said six new tires were purchased and sent to DiPrizos and haven’t been put on the buses.

Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public at 7:21 under RSA 91-A;3ll (c). Roll call: Taliaferro aye, DeColfmacker aye, Collins aye, Ouellette aye, Peaslee aye.

The Board reentered public session at 7:50.

Adjournment

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50.
(Vote 5-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary

DRAFT