

# Wakefield School Board Budget Workshop Minutes

October 29, 2024

Held in the Library

Approved



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

Others Present: Michele Lambert, Brad Davis, Tom ?, Chris McKay

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

Mr. Markiewicz told the Board that there was no health insurance rate yet. It should be set this Friday. He said we are still waiting for the tuition rate for Spaulding.

## Regular Education

There is one less teacher this year. A third grade teacher has been added to the budget for next year. Most new hires were hired at a lower rate of pay. Support hire salaries are down. Supplies are up 3%. The textbook line is up for math books. They will do a full year of piloting math with two to three programs. They will use research to identify the potential programs. There is no cost to pilot programs. Materials are supplied free of charge. Software has been streamlined for all grades. A list of software will be supplied to the Board.

## Special Education

No substitutes are hired for Special Education. Testing will now be online. An out of district placement plans on moving. If they don't move the child will be brought back to Paul School. Tuition High School Private-two students will graduate. New equipment is needed.

The Board was given a proposal whether to keep the Partner Program as is with NECC or to do the program inhouse. The cost savings by doing it inhouse would be \$224,203. A person with a master's plus five years' experience would need to be hired. She would have a BCBA and would work year round instead of the limited basis we get now.

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the School Board proposal for the new Partner Program or FY26. (Vote 4-0)**

Mrs. Lambert told the Board that there were thirty-four students enrolled in the morning program. Two of them are children of staff and two are part time. There is no one on the waiting list right now. This program is self-sufficient.

### **Summer School**

The Board needs to decide whether to keep this program as it has been paid from ESSER funds for the past three years.

### **Nurse**

The nurse needs an office bed. The one she has is very old.

### **School Board**

Salaries were increased. The Chair will receive \$1,700 and each School Board member will receive \$1,200 each. The School Board Scholarship will now be \$1,000.

### **Administration**

Health insurance is down.

### **Operations/Maintenance**

Mr. Davis has added the multi-purpose room divider to Special Projects. He said he has quotes of around \$33,000 for the curtain. Supplies are up about 17%. The phone system will be moved to Technology. He plans to add bleachers to the upper and lower field. This item will be moved from the supply line to the new equipment line. He has left fuel oil prices the same. New Bleachers for the gym will be about \$50,000. The truck didn't pass inspection. He needs a new truck.

### **Transportation**

Regular Ed Transportation:	\$188,654	
Special Ed Transportation:	\$125,000	This can be offset by the IDEA grant
Athletic Transportation:	\$ 20,000	
Co-Curr Transportation:	\$ 9,000	This is for two field trips per grade level and step-up day at Spaulding.

### **Technology**

The phone system will be under IT. He will look into the cost for laptops or tablets for the School Board.

### **Other Benefits**

Mrs. Lambert said she needed to add two parttime employees to the unaffiliated list.

The Board will approve the budget on November 6<sup>th</sup> so it can be sent to the Budget Committee.

### **Adjournment**

**Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, 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

