

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

Tuesday December 3, 2024

Held in the Library

Approved



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

Others Present: Michele Lambert, Brainna Valdepena, Relf Fogg, Katie Roy, and Max Gehring with ClearView TV.

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

Agenda Review

Mrs. Kebler has a resignation and a hire that were done after the packet went out. CIP and warrant articles. Mrs. Colbath said she had sent out the minutes of the two Budget Committee meetings and asked the Board if there was anything they wanted to address. The answer was no.

Presentations, Public Hearings

PTA

The PTA established a permission slip system for dances. They have a PTA meeting on December 5th in the Library. They will be having their Read-a-Thon in March. They had their 5th grade appreciation event. Everyone had fun. Mr. Ouellette said that he had a quote for the solar lighting for the building they're using. It will be under \$500 and the labor will be free. He will send the quote to Mrs. Kebler.

Supporting Substance Misuse Prevention at Paul School

Ms. Valdepena gave an overview of what they are going to do with the \$25,000 competitive grant they received for wellness called "Promising Futures For New Hampshire". [2024-2025-promising-futures-funding-opportunity-announcement_0.pdf](#). Only eleven schools received this grant and Paul School is one of them. She passed out a booklet of lessons that explains how this program aligns with the health curriculum in grade K through grade 8. This grant will cover purchasing all materials. She sent out a survey last year and 69 parents participated. After the Board reviews the program being sent to them they will vote at the December 17th meeting. Mrs. Taliaferro asked if this went to the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Collins said no, they have been working on standards. Mrs. Kebler will bring more information about this grant to the Board. The power point presentation is available at the SAU.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Transportation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wakefield School Board
Transportation Sub-Committee

DATE: November 5, 2024

THROUGH: Superintendent Kebler

FROM: Frank Markiewicz 

SUBJECT: School Buses and Vans

Attached is a spreadsheet showing four options for consideration regarding the District's school bus and caravan inventory. The estimated costs to repair and the estimated value for each vehicle was provided to the district by FirstStudent, with the value indicated after repairs.

Option #1: To sell the entire fleet to FirstStudent at a negotiated price.

Option #2: To sell the indicated buses to FirstStudent at a negotiated price and retain ownership of one 77-passenger bus and two caravans.

Option #3: Place the entire fleet out to bid via a "Request for Quote" and let the market determine value.

Option #4: A combination of selling and retaining.

Considerations:

- Majority of the vehicles have been idle since June, 2024.
- Cost to repair provided by FirstStudent is using their facilities and mechanics. Cost for the district to repair the fleet would most likely be higher having to utilize a local garage.
- Unknown market for the sale of used school buses and caravans.
- Winter storage.
- All the school buses would need to be towed back to the district as three of the buses were taken off the road by NH State Police and the others are not inspected.
- Hiring a CDL school bus driver to use retained vehicles for field trips, athletics, co-curricular activities, and for the Wakefield Recreation Department. This position could provide custodial services to the district when there are no planned activities that would require transportation.

Attachment: Transportation Inventory and Options

Mrs. Taliaferro told the Board there has been no pricing from any dealership. She read the three options. Mrs. Peaslee said that buses can't be kept by the district and rented out as they have government plates. We cannot use another driver unless they are rostered with and employed

with us and that requires ten hours of training. The Board would like to see estimates from dealerships. Mrs. Peaslee said she could call Justin and others but would like Board permission to do so. She said the buses should be plugged in now and they're not. She said you're risking every bus to be completely ruined. The diesel is jelling in the engine. Mr. Ouellette said they're a bus company and he would think they'd know that. Mrs. Peaslee said last she knew our buses were outside their gate. Mr. Ouellette asked about getting our buses back up here and their buses back to them. Mrs. Kebler said Justin has not gotten back to her.

Mr. Ouellette said he would like us to demand our buses come back here. Mrs. Peaslee asked what about the contract we signed to allow theirs to be here? Mr. Ouellette said, but ours are going to get destroyed. Mrs. Kebler said she'd call them tomorrow. Mrs. Peaslee said our first concern is the buses being plugged in.

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, to be the lead person on all things having to do with transportation. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins asked if we are keeping a bus. Mrs. Peaslee said she recommends getting completely out of the transportation business. You'd end up with the same problems on a smaller scale. All buses would have to be towed back to the school. The Board discussed repairing buses, keeping one of the vans for Mr. Davis to use. Mrs. Peaslee mentioned making sure the special seats are removed from the buses and sold separately.

Student Services Carol Keenan

Enrollment Data includes the following: Paul Elementary School = 87 students on IEP's Spaulding High School = 31 students on IEPs. Bud Carlson Academy High School= 2 students on IEP's. Kingswood Regional High School= 3 students on IEP's. Out of District = 5 students on IEP's. New Special Education Referrals = 2 Students.

Special Education Disabilities include the following: Autism = 17 students. Development Delay = 16 students. Emotional Disability = 4 students. intellectual Disability = 4 students. Other Health impairment = 27 students. Specific Learning Disability = 41 students. Speech Language impairment = 19 students.

Section 504 Accommodation Plans at Paul School= 24 students. Wakefield School District Current NHDOE Compliance Data = 98%

In The Spirit of the Season Message: I am so sincerely grateful to the following people: The Superintendent and School Board for hiring me as the Director of Student Services. The entire Paul School Staff for embracing and welcoming me into their community. The Special Education Case Managers for their knowledge, dedication, and professionalism; D.) The teachers, paras, ABA tutors, and related service providers for doing what is best for all students. The students who make us love coming to work every day. To our families for allowing us to teach, support, and care about their children.

Superintendent's Report Anne Kebler

I am pleased to present this month's Superintendent's Report, highlighting key updates and accomplishments within the Wakefield School District.

Budget Update

I am very pleased with the budget process to date. Our department heads have worked diligently to craft a budget that reflects thoughtful consideration of our needs while remaining fiscally responsible. Their efforts have resulted in a budget that has been well-received by most of the Budget Committee thus far. I would like to extend my gratitude to Brennan for her invaluable assistance, particularly her expertise in transportation and its history which has been instrumental in our discussions. included in this packet are the FY24 warrant articles. I look forward to reviewing these tonight so we can finalize this years warrant articles for approval and submission to the Budget Committee at the next meeting.

Professional Development Plan

Our professional development plan has been submitted to the state for approval. Concurrently, we are working on an evaluation system for teachers that aligns with this plan. The goal is to establish measurable goals in the spring for the next school year, enabling us to design tailored professional development opportunities during the summer.

Professional Development Highlights

I am excited to share some of the exceptional professional development opportunities provided to our staff this year. Our instructional coaches have initiated weekly "lunch and learn" sessions in the Title I room. These informal gatherings encourage teachers to engage in collegial discussions about best practices, with topics focusing primarily on literacy, classroom management, and restorative practices for addressing challenging behaviors. Additionally, staff meetings have become collaborative spaces where educators share innovative practices and strategies that are working effectively in their classrooms.

Project-Based Learning in First Grade

A special shoutout goes to our first-grade team for embracing project-based learning during this busy time of year. With numerous interruptions to students' schedules due to holidays, this approach has provided an engaging and collaborative way for students to work with their peers. Thank you to our first-grade teachers for their creativity and commitment to fostering student-centered learning.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible education for our students. I look forward to discussing these updates and other agenda items during tonight's meeting.

Enrollment

2/1/23

Paul School Enrollment Report

| | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| LP | 15 | 15 | 17 | | | | | | | |
| K | 30 | 31 | 31 | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 33 | 33 | 33 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 40 | 40 | 40 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 39 | 41 | 41 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 47 | 47 | 46 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 63 | 65 | 65 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 55 | 57 | 56 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 46 | 47 | 47 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 45 | 45 | 46 | | | | | | | |
| Out of District | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0 | 415 | 424 | 424 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

High School Enrollment Report

| | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Spaulding | 171 | 166 | 163 | | | | | | | |
| Kingswood | 14 | 14 | 14 | | | | | | | |
| Bud Carlson | 9 | 10 | 10 | | | | | | | |
| Brewster | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Out of District | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 197 | 193 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

as of 11/01/2024

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins, 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 11-6-24. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve the public minutes of 11-6-24. (Vote 5-0)

New Business

Warrant Articles

1. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$50,000 to the Special Ed Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$208,000*
2. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$50,000 to the Boilers Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$238,233*
3. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$75,000 to the HVAC Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$*
4. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to add \$25,000 Classroom Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$800*
5. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$30,000 to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$162,000*
6. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$40,000 Maintenance Contingency Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0) *Currently \$40,000*
7. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$25,000 to the Building Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0)
8. Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to add \$10,000 to the Roof Repair Capital Reserve Fund. (Vote 5-0)
9. Truck amount TBD (\$20,000-\$40,000)
10. Taylor Way amount TBD (\$20,000-\$25,000)
11. Teachers CBA to be determined
12. Well 0
13. Transportation 0
14. Judith Nason Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Kebler told the Board that the family will decide who will be on the committee.

Old Business

Board Goals

The goals were in the Board packet.

Committee Reports

Culture and Climate

Mr. Kebler read the Culture and Climate Report.

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to approve Ann Gehring as the 3rd grade teacher. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to accept with regret Julianna Purvis resignation as the third grade teacher. (Vote 5-0)

Follow Up

Mrs. Kebler will scan and send Mrs. Purvis' resignation letter to the Board. Mrs. Collins told the Board about the fifth grade pizza party. Some of the fifth graders would like to come and read some of their writings at the next Board meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Fogg informed the Board that he continually speaks with First Students and gave his opinion on how to handle the bus storage.

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary