

Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

Thursday January 8, 2025

Held in the Library

Approved



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

(Transcribed from the video)

Others Present: Michele Lambert, Ashia Roy, Dino Scala, Alyssa Hall, Max Gehring with ClearView TV.

Mr. DeColfmacker led those present in the flag salute at 6:12.

Agenda Review

Add teacher contract under New Business

Transportation and Warrant Articles were emailed to the Board.

Add Warrant Articles for the CBA

Mrs. Taliaferro asked to have a vote on a Warrant Article revisited under Old Business.

Presentations, Public Hearings

None

Public Comment

Parks and Rec Director Alyssa Hall asked about the status of the buses. She asked if there was a possibility that the Rec Department could acquire one of the buses before the Board disposes of them. She said they have been utilizing the school's buses for summer camp, vacation camp, ski program etc. Now that the school is using First Student we have to go through an outside company which is costly. If we have to continue on this path our prices for programs will increase. We may not be able to offer some of these programs.

She said she realizes that the Board is trying to sell the buses to help pay for your transportation contract. In a perfect world we'd ask to take one of the buses. If for some reason you still need to sell it maybe we could get a deal. We do have some funds that we've fund raised and we may be

able to use a little bit to help offset the cost. If you would consider Parks and Rec for one of your buses it would be much appreciated.

Reports

Transportation/Bus Updates

Mr. Ouellette feels that policy DN is vague. He personally feels that a bus should be given to the Rec Department. Mr. DeColfmacker asked if a 77 passenger bus meets their need. Miss Hall said we have to limit our numbers for some of our programs. She said right now we have a 24 passenger bus that's not very reliable. We'd be able to increase the numbers for other programs if we had a 77 passenger bus.

Mr. DeColfmacker said he agreed with Mr. Ouellette and support the Rec. Mr. Ouellette said he feels that the town and school should work together.

Mr. DeColfmacker read Policy DN:

The Board authorizes the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to dispose of obsolete items according to the following priority actions:

1. First, by offering the items to the Town of Wakefield or any of its municipal departments for use.

Mr. DeColfmacker feels it reads like this; if we have a department that comes before us and wants a bus that would be our first priority and if that doesn't happen we'd move to option 2. To sell them.

Mrs. Collins said in the memorandum of the four options we received from the BA option four was selling and retaining. Mrs. Peaslee said if we retained the bus for Parks and Rec we'd have to follow all school bus laws like rostering and training. It also puts less on the Rec Department not having it be a school bus. She said if we're getting rid of busing we need to get rid of busing.

Mr. DeColfmacker asked if having a large bus and a small bus meet the needs of the Rec. Miss Hall said she hadn't given that any thought. Mrs. Peaslee said the newest 14 passenger is handicapped accessible. Miss Hall let everyone know that they don't plan on paying for this with tax dollars. She said if they were to acquire a bus or get a good deal for one the money would come from fund raisers. This would be subject to the Selectmen approving this.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Wakefield School District transferring ownership of a 77 passenger school bus to Wakefield Parks and Rec as long as the Selectmen and all parties agree. Mrs. Collins modified her motion to insert: to transfer the 2022 Freightliner 77 passenger bus and the 2019 13+1 passenger Minotour bus to the Rec.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked what happens if the budget doesn't pass and we have to go back to our old transportation? Mrs. Collins said that won't happen because First Student is in the default budget. Mrs. Lambert clarified by saying transportation is in the default budget and its based on FY25.

Mrs. Peaslee suggested saying upon the approval of our budget. Mrs. Lambert spoke to Mr. Markiewicz and even if we are on default budget we will still be paying transportation to First Student.

There was a discussion among the Board. Mrs. Lambert said in July there was a discussion about selling the buses to help pay for transportation costs. Mrs. Taliaferro said she had brought up not selling the buses. Mrs. Peaslee suggested that they say *upon disbursement from our ownership of the buses the Rec gets those two*. Mr. Ouellette told Miss Hall they would be responsible for existing repairs. **(4-1)**

Mr. DeColfmacker called for a recess at 6:23.

Mr. DeColfmacker called the meeting back in session at 6:25

Mrs. Keenan told the Board \$79,200 is the total itemized list from First Student to repair the buses. \$54,500 was the original estimate First Student had given the district a few months ago. Mrs. Kebler said First Student is anxious to get them off their lot. She said that the buses would cost \$400 each to tow back to Wakefield and we'd have to keep them in the front parking lot. She said we have a very tight budget. She asked how the Board would pay for the bus repairs.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked Mrs. Keenan what the cost for repairs would be not including the buses that would be going to the Rec. The difference would be \$6,900 which would make the amount about \$72,000 plus the \$800 for towing. Mrs. Kebler said we have eight tires at Diprizios. She's working on who will pick up the tires. Mrs. Peaslee suggest they be given to the Rec.

The Board had a discussion about towing the buses back or selling them to First Student. Mrs. Peaslee what First Student will buy them for is a higher price than what Cressy's would pay for them. As a dealership they will pay less because they need to resell them. Mrs. Peaslee said er could probably get more the mini vans through the districts private sale.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to get a purchase offer from First Student for each bus. (Vote 5-0)

By consensus the Board agreed that the eight tires at Diprizios will go to the Rec.

Student Services Report

Student Services Report: January 8, 2025 **Carol Keenan, Director of Student Services**

1. Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.
2. Enrollment Data includes the following:
 - A.) Paul Elementary School = 92 students on IEPs
 - B.) Spaulding High School = 30 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 = 5 students on IEPs
3. New students to Paul Elementary School on IEPs: none
4. New Special Education Referrals = none
5. Special Education Disabilities include the following:
 - A.) Autism = 17 students
 - B.) Development Delay = 14 students
 - C.) Emotional Disability = 5 students
 - D.) Intellectual Disability = 4 students
 - E.) Other Health Impairment = 31 students
 - F.) Specific Learning Disability = 39 students
 - G.) Speech Language Impairment = 23 students
6. Section 504 Accommodation Plans at Paul School = 24 students
7. Section 504 Accommodation Plan Referrals = none
8. Wakefield School District Current NHDOE Compliance Data = 93%!!
9. New Updates/Information:

I am continually impressed by the dedication, professionalism, and positivity of our ABA Tutors/Paraprofessionals. They are extremely hardworking, student-centered, and complete team players. Our Special Education Department is so very lucky to have such an exemplary group of professionals working with our students. When I took the Position of Student Services Director on July 1st, the district had 10 ABA Tutor / Paraprofessional vacancies. I am thrilled to report that all of those vacancies have been filled. In addition, we have eliminated our use of hiring ABA Tutors / Paraprofessionals from outside agencies. We went from having 3 NECC ABA Tutors / Paraprofessionals down to 1 currently as well as going from 5 Soliant/BW ABA Tutors/Paraprofessionals down to 2 currently. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our ABA Tutor/Paraprofessional Union President Michelle Castonguay for a very

Superintendents Report

Superintendent Report

Wakefield School Board January 8, 2025

District Leadership Team

The District Leadership Team held a mini-retreat on December 23rd before the holiday break. This uninterrupted time allowed us to accomplish several important tasks efficiently. Here are the highlights:

- **Professional Development Planning:**
 - We finalized the professional development plan for the remainder of the year, including teacher workshop days and early release days.
 - These sessions will focus primarily on analyzing student data to ensure we are meeting the needs of every student.
- **Student Support Team Proposal:**
 - Carol, our Director of Student Services, proposed the formation of a Student Support Team (SST). This team will meet weekly to:
 - Process student referrals for special education.
 - Monitor progress resulting from our intervention programs.
 - Develop plans to establish our School Leadership Team as a Distributive Leadership Team.
 - The Distributive Leadership Team will include eight teachers with diverse expertise. This team will:
 - Collaborate with school leadership.
 - Coach new teachers.
 - Support the adoption of effective educational practices.
 - Provide school leaders with additional classroom observation time to evaluate instructional culture.
 - The team's work will occur outside of contracted hours, ensuring no disruption to teaching and learning.
- **ELA Curriculum Progress:**
 - Assistant Principal Ivy introduced the Curriculum Committee's plan to distribute ELA power standards to staff. The goal is to make these standards more accessible to parents and guardians by creating consistent, grade-level expectations.
 - The next focus for the Curriculum Committee will be developing similar resources for math standards.
- **Classroom Configurations:**
 - We reviewed enrollment numbers as of December 2024 and the available classroom space to plan next year's configurations.
 - We will collaborate with staff soon to finalize these configurations by the end of the school year.

Budget Updates

We are nearing the completion of the budget process and want to remind our school community of the following important dates:

- **January 6, 2025:** Budget Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM (Location: Town Hall)
- **January 14, 2025:** Public Hearing at 6:30 PM (Location: Town Hall)
 - This session will provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the proposed budget and warrant articles for FY 2025-2026.
- **February:** Deliberative Session (exact date to be announced)
- **March:** Annual Voting Day: March 11, 2025
- Additionally, we are currently in teacher contract negotiations. We anticipate presenting a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) designed to retain current teachers and attract new talent

An Invitation to the board:

Alison Ericolo and Breanna Valdepeno will be leading a free suicide prevention training for community members on Friday 2/7 from 5:30-7:30pm in the school library. They would like to invite the school board members to this event.

Transportation Summary

Breakdown of maintenance of bus needs will be emailed to the board members if ready - if not they will be hand carried.

Closing Remarks

I would like to extend warm wishes to our entire school community for a happy and healthy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with family, good food, and some much-needed rest as we gear up for the second half of the school year.

Happy New Year to all!

Respectfully Submitted
Anne Kebler
Superintendent of Schools

Enrollment

Paul School Enrollment Report

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
LP	15	16	17	16						
K	30	31	31	30						
1	33	33	33	35						
2	40	40	40	40						
3	39	41	41	40						
4	47	47	46	43						
5	63	65	65	65						
6	55	57	56	56						
7	46	47	47	47						
8	45	45	46	45						
Out of District	2	2	2	4						
Total	0	415	424	424	421	0	0	0	0	0

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High School Enrollment Report

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Spaulding	171	166	163	161						
Kingswood	14	14	14	14						
Bud Carlson	9	10	10	10						
Brewster	1	1	1	1						
Out of District	2	2	2	2						
Total	197	193	190	186	0	0	0	0	0	0

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 12-17-24. (Vote 3-1-1)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Public Minutes of 12-17-24. (Vote 3-1-1)

Old Business

Revisit Budget Vote

Mrs. Taliaferro said she thought the Board was approving what the default budget was and not voting on the entire operating Budget. She asked to revisit on the operation budget.

Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to revisit the Operating Budget vote. (Vote 3-2)

Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Operating Budget of \$13,616,277 with a default budget of \$12,670, 852. (Vote 3-2)

New Business

Teachers Contract

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to approve Article 3, the Wakefield Teachers Association CBA.

Total \$271,961 for year 1.

Total \$175.960 for year 2.

Total \$121,693 for year 3.

Mrs. Taliaferro said she didn't get a chance to read it all.

(Vote 4-1)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve Article 4 Special Meeting if Warrant Article 3 is defeated. (Vote 5-0)

Warrant Article Summaries

The Board agreed to the Warrant Article summaries and will decide at a later date who will handle what warrant article at Deliberative Session.

Annual Report Cover Contest

Milo Raynone's drawing was picked by the Board for the cover of the School District Report.

Policies

GBGBA- Use of Automated External Defibrillator

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Peaslee, to approve Policy GBGBA. (Vote 5-0)

JLCGA- Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional protocols for Athletics
Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve Policy JLCGA. (Vote 5-0)

First Reading:

JLP – Parental Notification of and Involvement in Student Welfare

Mrs. Roy said this policy is required by law

ACE – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability

DAF – Administration of Federal Grant Funds

Related policies were added.

Follow Up

Professional Development Tools

Mrs. Lambert explained that money was taken out of the operating budget to pay for an item that was supposed to come out of a grant when it was found that they never received the grant. Mrs. Kebler said that it was out of ESSER Funds and Esser Funds changed their process the closer to the end of ESSER so a Professional Development activity that we thought was approvable was not. She said this was to pay a contracted service to help get our grants in place. We now have two staff members who have worked with her and have learned the grant process well.

Mrs. Taliaferro asked how many people are getting stipends to do the grants? Mrs. Taliaferro said we have two. Mrs. Kebler said we have our academic coach and our professional development coordinator and they have done a great job of getting them done. She said since ESSER we haven't had a lot to do any longer. There are five grants that are done and one is done by The Student Services Director, which is IDEA. Elaine Ellis and Penny Huckins are getting grants done.

Mrs. Lambert said she checked with Mr. Markiewicz about the special ed line where there was zero for projected revenue and she said it had to do with the Adequacy Grant. She said we do have the Adequacy number for Wakefield. It's \$1,030,482 and it's a component by the DOE to calculate adequacy aid. It's posted on the DOE website. You calculate that out of the passed budget to know what the Town has to pay us. That reduced the operating budget by that amount.

Ratify the CBA

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to ratify the Wakefield Teachers CBA for the next three years. (Vote 4-1)

Public Comment

None

Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette to enter non public at 7:30 under RSA 91-A;3 II (c). Roll Call Vote: DeColfmacker aye, Collins Aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye Peaslee aye.

The Board returned to public session at 8:33.

Mrs. Peaslee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to seal the non public minutes of 1-8-25 for one year. (Vote 5-0)

Adjournment

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
School Board Secretary