



Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

Tuesday May 6, 2025
Held in the Paul School Library
Approved

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Robert DeColfmacker, Chair	✓	Donna Magoon, Superintendent Designee	✓
Bob Ouellette, Vice Chair	✓	Financial Manager, Michele Lambert	
Mary Collins	✓	Carol Keenan, Student Services Director	
Sandrea Taliaferro	✓	Norma DiRocco, Principal	✓
Heather Wilcauskas	✓	Ivy Levitt-Carlson, Assistant Principal	

Others Present: Sam Fairfield and Max Gehring of Clearview TV.

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

Agenda Review

Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to add NH School Funding Fairness Project to the agenda. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins told the Board that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and she is going to help the PTA with a teacher's luncheon on Thursday. She asked the Board to drop a note in appreciation to the teachers. She also told the Board that it was National Walk, Bike or Roll to School Day. If you stop by Parks and Rec they will be handing out free helmets and providing breakfast.

Presentations/Public Hearings

PTA

No one present

8th Grade Boston Field Trip

Mr. Fairfield said they are going back to Boston for two days for the annual eighth grade field trip. They will have ten chaperones.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the eighth grade field trip to Boston. (Vote 5-0)

6th Grade Province Lake Field Trip

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the sixth grade field trip to Province Lake Golf Course. (Vote 5-0)

Public Comment

None

Reports

Principal's Report

April 2025- Administration Report

Spring is upon us at The Paul School and we are excited for the start of our spring sports and recess outdoors in finally enjoyable. At the start of April we had our curriculum night with our staff where teachers were able to showcase student work. A shout out to Mrs. Dexter, who displayed a beautiful array of art work around the building to make it welcoming for our community. A second shout out to Elayne Ellis and Penny Huckins who had a station dedicated to writing positive affirmations to our students, specifically students who were about to embark on the SAS testing.

We want to thank all the community members who have donated snacks and juice boxes for our SAS test prep kits. We have two remaining assessments left and welcome donations of granola bars, fruit snacks and juice boxes. These can be dropped off in the main office.

Kindergarten Registration is open and our Kindergarten Screening is slated for May 7th and May 8th. If you have a student or know of any families that need to register their K students, please contact our main office and speak with Sara Borelli. We are also excitedly running a Kindergarten Camp this summer! Any student who is joining our Kindergarten in the Fall of 2025 will be invited to come to school from July 29th through July 31st from 9:00-11:00. This new initiative is to support our newest students having the opportunity to acclimate to their school environment and see their classrooms before school begins. We are so thrilled to have this opportunity.

In May we have several field trips headed off. It is wonderful to see our students gain opportunities to events outside of our school building. We thank the PTA for all the fundraisers that they have completed this year to support our students. They have shown support through appreciation days and funded buses for field trips. We encourage community members to support our PTA by volunteering or donating to their hosted events.

This year we have partnered with the Lions Club to showcase a story walk in our field. The Lions Club has set up the first story over April vacation and we welcome families to walk our fence line and enjoy literacy outside! We are also excited to participate in Slow Down Wakefield which is an initiative to support awareness for student and family safety. Yellow signs have been popping up around town to remind those inside and outside of our communities to be aware of pedestrians who are out walking/running/biking around town. Our school is excited to be supporting this initiative with a bike safety assembly that will also give some of students helmets who are in need. Lastly, our school will participate in scooter/bike decorating and doing a bike parade to support the movement of Slow Down Wakefield!

We at the Paul School are thrilled to have many events to look forward to. We want to thank our school community for their continued support and are excited to showcase our growth as a school through the end of the year. As always, if there is anyone in our community looking to support our school please reach out to our main office as we are in need of volunteers and employees to join our amazing team!

Mrs. DiRocco also thanked the teachers for all they do not just this week but every day. She said she appreciated the communities support in donating snacks for testing. They are in need of ten more cases of juice boxes for their final testing.

Enrollment

24/25

Paul School Enrollment Report

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
LP	15	16	17	16	17	18	16	16		
K	30	31	31	30	29	30	30	30		
1	33	33	33	35	34	34	34	34		
2	40	40	40	40	40	41	41	41		
3	39	41	41	40	40	40	38	38		
4	47	47	46	43	42	41	41	41		
5	63	65	65	65	65	66	66	66		
6	55	57	56	56	54	54	55	55		
7	46	47	47	47	47	46	46	46		
8	45	45	46	45	45	45	45	46		
Out of District	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4		
Total	0	415	424	424	417	419	416	417	0	0

High School Enrollment Report

	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Spaulding	171	166	163	161	162	162	156	158		
Kingswood	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14		
Bud Carlson	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		
Brewster	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Out of District	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Total	197	193	190	186	187	187	181	183	0	0

as of 4/28/2025

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to approve the Consent Agenda. (Vote 4-1)

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to approve the non public minutes session 2 of April 14, 2025. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to approve the public minutes of April 15, 2025. (Vote 5-0)

New Business

Wakefield School Board Scholarship Award

The committee consisted of the Principal and the ELA teacher. They looked at the essays, without names.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to give the scholarship to the student recommended by the committee. (Vote 5-0)

High School Scholarship Night

Mrs. Collins will represent the Board at the Spaulding High School Scholarship night on May 20th at 6:00 and Kingswood's on June 5th at 6:00. Mrs. Collins will forgo the School Board meeting on May 20th.

NH School Funding Fairness Project

Ms. Wilcauskas told the Board that this group had put together a letter that different representatives from communities have signed about how education is funded in New Hampshire asking the legislature to fund the schools. Currently 70% of school funding comes from property taxes. New Hampshire is the lowest in the nation as far as the percentage that the state contributes to public schools. She feels that it is incumbent upon the Board, for the students and taxpayers, to demand more from the legislatures to support public schools. Currently the state pays about 17% of the cost of special ed. There is no proposed legislation that they are advocating.

Mrs. Magoon said there are a couple of things going on in legislation now. She was involved in the ConVal lawsuit. They figured out how much it would cost to educate a child, not including transportation. They then sued the state and won and the state continues to fight this. The Rand case says that according to the constitution the state, not the taxpayers, is supposed to be funding education. She said this group actually comes out to districts and shows communities how much it actually costs to educate a child in Wakefield and how much the state is contributing. She said she could reach out and ask if they could come do a presentation for Wakefield.

She will be testifying in Concord on Friday about the school choice program which does not equalize schools but actually puts them at a deficit. There is no transportation so the only people who can utilize school choice are those who can transport their children to another school. This could cause budgetary issues. We'd lose staff and programs and it wouldn't be fair to those who stay. Mr. DeColfmacker said this has been a disaster in Vermont. Mrs. Magoon said they are taking comments from people who can write in and say this is not something we should be doing.

She said this is going to happen. The School Board has a right to put a number on the number of students they will accept so schools don't get overloaded. The taxpayers of Wakefield would be hit with this additional expense to send our students out of district.

Ms. Wilcauskas said that it looks more like individuals signed the letter as opposed to entire boards. Mr. DeColfmacker asked Mrs. Magoon to set up a presentation. She said one thing they show is what would have to be cut using just the money given to the district from the state not using taxpayers money. There are certain things required by law that would have to be funded. She can reach out to the town to see if they'd like to do this jointly. The Board decided they would like to have this presentation at the beginning of the new school year,

Committee Updates

Joint Loss Committee

Minutes in the packets.

Curriculum Committee Inventory

Mrs. Collins and Ms. Wilcauskas decided to take on inventory. They went through the white building, trailer out back and the cellar. Everything in them is written down and counted. They found many items that were old. They will be working with Mr. Davis to see what is useable. They found many full file cabinets that need to be cleaned out and anything over ten years old

needs to be shredded. They will declutter and organize. Mr. Davis has posted on a site where schools place items that might be able to be used by other schools. Mrs. Collins also contacted the church, who has in the past, has taken items to be shipped to a school in Zimbabwe.

Mrs. Magoon asked if the Board considered waving the policy and have Mrs. Collins and Ms. Wilcauskas make the decision for the Board to throw things away. Ms. Wilcauskas suggested having Mr. Davis make those decisions. Mrs. Collins said the revenue from scrap metal like lockers would go into unanticipated revenue. Mrs. Magoon said the Board could specify that the money would be used for a specific purpose. Mr. Ouellette said that sounds nice but it goes back to the town.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Taliaferro, to waive policy DN and give the authority to discard unusable items to the Facilities Manager and the IT Tech Coordinator. (Vote 5-0)

Mrs. Taliaferro suggested that the Policy Committee add a line; “broken or damaged items will be thrown away” so they don’t have to waive the policy again.

Policies (1st Reading)

IHBAA – Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

JCA – Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interest and Manifest Hardship

JJJ – Access to Public School Programs by Non-Public, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils

Mrs. Magoon told the Board that a homeschooler is eligible for anything we have to offer like specific subjects and programs. There is now a voucher program. The state now pays parents to homeschool their children. Once they take advantage of the voucher program they are not allowed to get any services from public schools unless you pay for them. Mrs. Magoon has developed an application process and a parent signs the application. If they are part of the voucher program they will have to pay if they want to take part in any of our classes or programs.

She has developed a homeschool page. There is certain criteria that has to be met in order to homeschool your child. Legally you have to allow a parent to homeschool their child. They have to tell the superintendent and the state they will be homeschooling. If they want the child to return to public school they have to show proof what the child learned while being homeschooled. The school has the right to test the child to determine what grade that child would be in.

EH-R (1) – Public Access to School District Records – Procedures for Public Access to District “Right to Know”

EH – Data Management

JLF – Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to table policy JLF. (Vote 5-0)

Nominations/Resignations

FYI - Jeffrey Cordon is the new IT Support Coordinator.

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to approve Tarah Llewellyn and Aisilyn O'Rourke and offer them contracts. (Vote 5-0)

Follow Up

Gym Floor

The bubble in the floor was repaired over vacation. Mrs. Magoon said the whole floor should be ripped up, repaired and replaced. She said the cost should be about \$65,000. We could put the \$25,000 we received from the insurance company towards the floor and use the Contingency Trust Fund so there would be no additional cost to the taxpayer. This is one of the things she'd like to look at doing this summer. She'd like to have Mr. Davis begin getting quotes for the floor as summer is a busy time. Mrs. Taliaferro said Portsmouth Quality Flooring repaired the bubble. She doesn't know the cost.

Mrs. Collins said the job descriptions will be on the next agenda. Mrs. Magoon said normally job descriptions aren't done by the Board. The superintendent takes care of that. She said normally job descriptions are given out with the contract. Mr. DeColfmacker said the Board isn't qualified to determine what job descriptions should entail. The Board agreed but would still like to take a look at them as there have been prior issues. Everyone will have a job description and will be evaluated.

Public Comment

Mr. Gehring recommended that all Board members sign the letter to the legislature as a whole and not individually. He feels the letter functions as opening up a formal dialog between state and local government.

Non Public

Mrs. Collins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to enter non public under RSA 91-A;3 ll (c) at 7:25. Roll Call Vote: DeColfmacker aye, Collins Aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Wilcauskas aye.

The Board returned to public session at 7:57.

Adjournment

Mr. DeColfmacker made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Collins to adjourn the meeting at 7:58. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

School Board Secretary