

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
November 6, 2014

Present: John Fitzgerald, Carla Halpern, Mike Yohan, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, John Dewitt, Jessalyn Zaykoski, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Bob Mahler, Superintendent; Matt Galman, U28 Accountant; Beth Haggerty, Carolyn Croteau, teachers.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Public Hearings: Carolyn Croteau, the president of the SREA and a teacher at SRS, brought to the attention of the committee that DESE is in the process of changing the method of teacher re-evaluation. Teachers need to be relicensed about every 5 years. In the past teachers needed to meet the knowledge requirements, but now DESE is requesting that the re-evaluation should also be linked to evaluations and student test scores. If there were a “needs improvement” the teacher would not be relicensed. Carolyn asked the school committee to help fight this new method of re-evaluation because it will be very harmful to schools and teachers if it is administered.
3. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill – 4090, 4091, 4092, 4100, 4522, 4523, 4524, 4525, 4526, 4527, 8090, 8100, 8505, 8920.
 - b. Payroll – 409, 410, 810, 892.
4. October 9, 2014 Minutes: on a motion from Carla and a second by Johanna the committee approved the minutes unanimously.
5. Mahar: Carla reported that at the last meeting the head of food services presented a demonstration of lunches for the committee. This included the specific calorie intakes for the specific age groups, and samples of different meals. Carla mentioned that the committee worked on policy review and approval. She also noted that the NEACS status of the school in being reviewed and there is some talk of discontinuing the accreditation since many schools are letting it go. Carla also talked about the cost of AP tests saying this may be a problem for lower income families.
6. Collaborative: Mike reported that the Collaborative reorganized. He also spoke about a presentation from the occupational therapy center. He said it was a very nice presentation to demonstrate what the Collaborative is helping facilitate.
7. Principal Report: Kelley reported that the school has been doing very well and the writing program is doing great. She mentioned that once a month children will share a piece of writing at Community Sing. Kelley said this month she saw a living museum that the kids presented. She also attended the 6th grade Author Share and the 2nd grade Air Movers presentation. Kelley told the committee that Ashley Baylor from 22 News visited the 2nd grade to speak about the weather. The Running Club has kicked off and there have been 1,700 miles run so far! The breakfast program has doubled in size, partly due to the smoothie machine (which the kids love). There as also been a 25-30% increase in the lunch program. Kelley reported that an ad for a secretary has been posted. There has also been an ad

- posted for a paraprofessional for a maternity leave. The furnace was cleaned this month to keep it running well. A big surprise for the budget was the 37% price hike from National Grid, starting this month. This will increase the monthly electric bill by roughly \$1,100.
8. Superintendent's Report: Bob reported that the 1st draft of the budget would be out next month. He noted there was a change in the health insurance plan for retirees, which will result in a total savings of around \$2,079. Bob mentioned that the superintendent search has produced a wide range of applicants. There are been around 30 applications so far and a few more are expected.
 9. Superintendent Search Update: John D. moved to have Melissa Burke as the superintendent search representative for the New Salem school committee. Carla seconded this motion and the committee unanimously agreed. Dick moved to have Johanna as the superintendent search representative for the Wendell School Committee. Jessalyn seconded this motion and the committee unanimously agreed.
 10. Review of Expenditure Report: Matt reported that everything is on track with the budget with the exception of the unknown factors of the new electricity price raise and Karen Nelson's extra day.
 11. School Committee Vacancy in Wendell: No news.
 12. Lunch Prices: The committee had a discussion over raising lunch prices from \$2.50 to \$2.75. The other schools in the union are still at \$2.50 and the committee decided to put off the raise for another year.
 13. Trash Removal: Kelley changed trash providers from Republic Services to Gelinas' because Republic was overcharging for each dump. There was a savings of around \$140 per dump.
 14. MCAS vs. PARCC: The committee voted to table this issue for the time being with a vote of 6-1-0.
 15. Gun Bill: A bill has been passed that requires a resource officer in each school. A school can apply to the Committee of Education for a waiver. However, there is currently no penalty for non-compliance with the law. The bill also states each school should have a 2 way radio system with the local police. Bob has applied for a safely grant to fund teaching the staff how to use the 2 way radio safely and correctly.
 16. On a motion from Carla and a second from Johanna and a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary