

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
December 4, 2014

Present: John Fitzgerald, Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, Mike Yohan, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, John Dewitt, Melissa Burke, Jessalyn Zaykoski, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Bob Mahler, Superintendent; Matt Galman, U28 Accountant; Jack Radner, potential Wendell School Committee Member.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill – 4528, 4529, 4530, 8509, 8510, 4110, 4111, 4112, 4120, 8110, 8120.
 - b. Payroll – 411, 412, 811, 812.
3. November 6, 2014 Minutes: on a motion from Johanna and seconded by Dick the committee unanimously voted to accept the revised minutes.
4. Mahar: Carla reported that a request for bids for the dam was sent out. The process of fixing the dam is restarting because the funding of \$100,000 for the project is no longer available from the state. She noted that there was a bomb threat at the school, but the staff responded very well and handled the situation appropriately. She also noted that the budget cuts the governor has made is now affecting Mahar. There is enough money in the budget to cover the year, but the school is in communication with Senator Stan Rosenberg. There has been money for a paraprofessional added to the budget to help the 7th and 8th graders with MCAS. The scores were low, especially in 7th grade. The Mahar Committee is also been talking about the idea of changing the scheduling of the school day, and what their different options may be.
5. Union 28 Supervisory Committee: Johanna reported that during this meeting each of the 4 schools spoke a little bit about their school and the current events happening. She said it was wonderful to see how proud each town was of their school and to see the uniqueness of each school. This was a great demonstration of the pros of a union versus a region. Johanna noted that there was an update on the superintendent search indicating several applicants. She also noted that the U28 budget is up to date and doing fine. Lastly, she reported that the committee had a quick discussion of the impact on the budget if Leverett does leave the Union. Vote: Johanna moved to accept the U28 budget in the amount of \$552,019 and this was seconded by Alyssa and approved unanimously by the committee.
6. Collaborative: Mike spoke to the committee about how the Collaborative offers many different services; they mainly provide professional development, but also provide different types of therapies etc. The organization recently had a clean audit. They also completed a market survey that turned out the need for additional instructional material for the common core as well as the need for technology help.
7. Principal's Report: Kelley started out by announcing that the server died. She plans to use money from the government E-rate program to cover this cost. The E-rate program is a government program that helps schools with technological expenses. Kelley announced the secretary search is going well, there are 4 good candidates. Each candidate completed a 2 hour shadow with Christine and the secretary search committee will make a final decision tomorrow. Kelley also informed the

- committee that there was 2 new paraprofessionals hired this month. She spoke about the Veterans Day assembly, it was very nice and the school was able to have 2 veterans come in for the assembly. A new and exciting addition to the school is the student council. The students are enthusiastic about the new organization, they have representatives and a board which consist of 3rd, 4th 5th and 6th graders. Kelley also talked about the Stone Soup and Yoga gathering the preschool organized. The preschool made stone soup and invited family and friends to come share their meal. It was during the school day, and older siblings were invited to come from class and join the meal.
8. Superintendents Report: Bob first spoke about lockdown drills, saying the Safety Committee will complete lockdown drills in a way that is safe and the least obtrusive to the school. He reported about the regionalization process between Leverett, Shutesbury and Amherst and noted that there is a town meeting vote in the spring. Bob suggested he would like to add legal fees of \$5,000 into the budget so that SRS can have Fred Dupere on retainer. He thinks this is a very important tool for Kelley to have on hand.
 9. Review of Expenditure Report: Kelley reported that she has been watching the budget and she thinks there is enough to get through the year.
 10. PARCC: There was a discussion about the new test, which will be conducted this year at the school in March and May. ELA and math will be given both times and there will be 2 tests per day for grades 3-6. The committee discussed their thoughts on a way to change the way the testing is conducted, noting that as a group they do not support the length and “all encompassing” aspects of state testing.
 11. Draft NS/W Budget FY16: Bob reported that there is a 7.6% increase in the budget this year. He would like to use \$175,000 of school choice monies to decrease the overall budget to a 2.8% increase. This increase is due to; additional enrollment, additional OT and PT, an additional day per week for the school psychologist, and an additional paraprofessional.
 12. Policy Update and Review: IHBGR-R: The committee did a first read of the Homeschool Policy. ADA: Carla moved to accept the School District Goals and Objectives policy. This was seconded by Johanna and voted unanimously by the committee. ADC: Melissa moved to accept the No Smoking on School Premises policy, as edited. Carla seconded and the committee approved unanimously. AE: Johanna moved to accept the Commitment to Accomplishment policy as ready by Dick. Carla seconded and the committee approved unanimously. Dick volunteered to be on the policy committee.
 13. Carla moved to go into executive session and not return to regular session for purposed of negotiations. Johanna seconded. The committee approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary