

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

PRESENT: Dick Baldwin, Melissa Burke, John Fitzgerald, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Alyssa Rulf Fountain, Mike Yohan, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Robert Mahler, Superintendent; Lisa Aubin and Trudy Smith, teachers.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. June 5, 2014 minutes: on a motion from Carla and a second by Dick the committee approved the minutes unanimously with 2 abstentions.
3. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill - 4509, 4510, 4511, 4512, 4513, 8505, 8506.
 - b. Payroll - 405, 804, 805, 4050, 4051, 4052, 8050.
4. Mahar: Carla reported that Mahar received a \$100,000 grant from the state legislature to repair the dam. Also, US News and World ranked Mahar 62nd of 350 schools in MA. Carla reported that Butterfield will be closed for 2 years as Orange builds a new school. Those children are now at Fisher Hill. Lastly, Orange has been reimbursed by Regional Transportation monies.
5. Budget and Personnel: Bob reported that after 2 rounds of interviews for the Director of Finance of U28 there was a very small pool of candidates and he has decided to put aside the search for now and readvertise in the winter when there will hopefully be better search results. U28 is currently looking for an accountant to take care of the books for a year. The next meeting is set at Swift River School at 6 pm.
6. U28 Committee - Bob reported that the committee met in July to evaluate the Superintendent. Bob said that he had good feedback from this meeting. The next U28 meeting is set for September 23, 2014 at Swift River School at 7 pm.
7. Principals Report - Kelley reported that there are 3 new teachers at Swift River; Patricia Savage, Kirsten LaMotte, and Elise Flynn. She also announced that Ed Hines will be retiring at the end of the school year. This was met with much regret from the committee. Kelley noted that the preschool is back in session, having some extended days and attending community sing once a month, which she was excited about. Also, she said that there was a lot of work done around the building during the summer including installing new floors in some of the bathrooms, adding parking lines to the lot, moving the handicap parking spaces and installing visitor parking spaces. Kelley notified the committee that one of the refrigerators in the kitchen died and she ordered a new 2 door refrigerator which will be arriving next week. This cost \$3,400 which came out of the extraordinary maintenance fund. Swift River received a \$3,600 grant for the kitchen and a \$1,200 grant for the 100K Club. The 100 mile club is using the money to purchase trackers for the children and make it easier to keep track of laps. Dan Korpita will be doing a running club before school from 8:00 to 8:30. She also said she would like the committee to think about replacing the carpets in the school since some of them are quite old. Kelley reported that there has been a large increase in the social/emotional

needs of students and she would like to hire Karen for 1 extra day per week. Enrollment is up to 150 students.

8. Superintendents Report: Bob reported that the food service directors of the 4 schools would like to meet and work together to share menus etc.. Larry asked if the maintenance workers might meet together and share equipment etc. Bob said the regionalization process with Leverett and Amherst is moving along. There was a meeting to discuss the 5 non-negotiable items that Leverett has. The timeframe for a vote on regionalization has been pushed to the spring.
9. Review of Expenditure Report - The committee reviewed the report and decided it looks good so far.
10. New Salem School Committee Vacancy- Carla moved to recommend John Dewitt to fill the school committee vacancy. Dick seconded and the committee approved unanimously.
11. Wendell School Committee Vacancy- Joanne McDonough is interested in the seat. The committee will invite her to the next meeting.
12. Family Handbook – Kelly updated the handbook mainly on Chapter 222 with handles the suspensions / expulsions since there was a change in the law. The section on bus accidents still needs to be updated for the next meeting.
13. School Track – Kelley announced the track project will begin next week. She was approved by New Salem and Wendell Conservation Committees. Mike announced some parents are worried about the hardness of the track, but Kelley said it should have enough give and children can still run on grass if they prefer.
14. Home School Applications: Carla moved to approve the 3 home school applications. Dick seconded this motion and the committee unanimously approved.
15. Regional Transportation Fund – Bob reported schools are receiving a 90% transportation reimbursement. The Mass Association of Regional Schools suggested a Transportation Revolving Fund where the school can save the money for a year, however Bob is looking into the possibility of rolling the money into the E/D fund where it can stay for as long as needed.
16. Next Meeting - October 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm.
17. On a motion from Melissa and seconded by John and a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski