

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
June 5, 2014

PRESENT: John Fitzgerald, John Gray, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Jess Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Mike Yohan and Alyssa Rulf Fountain, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Bob Mahler, Superintendent.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill – 4860, 4861, 4862, 4863, 4864, 8822 and 8823
 - b. Payroll – 424, 425, 824, 825, 4240, 4241, 4242, 4250, 8240 and 8250.
3. Hearings: John Gray was honored for his 18 years of service to the New Salem/Wendell. John G. was given a plaque and a Swift River School tee shirt with all the teachers signing the back. The committee enjoyed cake from the 2nd Street Bakery in Turners Falls. John G. thanks the committee.
4. May 8, 2014 minutes: on a motion by Jess and a second by Johanna and a unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as written.
5. Mahar: Johanna and Carla reported that the school continued to work on the consolidation arrangement with Orange Elementary School and Petersham Center School. Also, the committee continued to work on the Mahar dam project. They applied for a \$100,000 grant from the state. Lastly, they were considering investing \$450,000 in lighting improvement grants with a 5-year pay back.
6. Principal: Kelley reported that the track project will start after school ends with GS Lyman doing \$20,000 in work. She said that the parking lot was repaired and signs were up with good results. She said that the new kitchen equipment was in place. Finally, Kelley said that she had a great year and loves being here. Carla and the committee echoed; we are glad you are here, thank you.
7. Superintendent: Bob announced that Shutesbury and Leverett have new principals and that Mike Kociela was leaving August 1, 2014. The committee praised Mike for a job well done. Bob said he was looking for someone from the committee to be on the search committee for the new Director of Finance and Operations. John Fitzgerald volunteered. On a motion by Johanna and a second by Carla and a unanimous vote, John F's offer was accepted.
8. Budget transfers: With Bob and Mike Kociela explaining the annual procedure, Johanna moved that \$6,020 from plant and operations and \$2,257 from other school programs be moved to student services and fixed assets. Carla seconded and voted unanimous.
9. Testing: After a discussion led by Bob, Alyssa moved and Carla seconded and voted unanimous to use the PARCC method and test on paper rather than on the computer.

10. Preschool: Kelley explained the new preschool proposal. The preschool would run 8:30 to 11:30 on Monday and Friday, on Tuesday and Thursday, it would run until 3p.m. and on Wednesday it would run until 1:00 p.m. like the rest of the school. Kelley explained that the new plan would cost about \$44,000 a year. On a motion by Johanna and a second by Alyssa and a unanimous vote, the plan was approved.
11. Home School Policy – With Bob taking notes, the committee reviewed the new proposed policy. The Committee decided that home schoolers can not go on school field trips. (no vote, first read).
12. Policies – Bob mentioned that he was looking at some of the old school policies and thought that they needed updating. John G. mentioned that it was not a pleasant job and be careful what you wish for. Bob asked for volunteers to go over the old policies. On a motion by John F and a second by Carla and a unanimous vote, John F and Carla will take on the task.
13. On a motion by Carla and a second by Jess and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gray
Committee Secretary