

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

Present: David Briand, Karyn Briand, Johanna Bartlett, Carl Seppala, Carla Halpern, Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Barbara Doyle, Bruce Turner, Kelley Sullivan, Jennifer Haggerty

(Absent: Jack Radner, Amy Palmer)

Public: Jim Culkeen

Teachers: Diane Adams, Michael Cortina

Call Meeting to Order – 7 pm

A. Public Hearings – none

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

- Vouchers: 8140 (79,626.22), 8150 (81,714.92), 8152 (33,035.58), 8015 (49,968.63), 8160 (78,608.46), 4032 (21,424.54), 4033 (2,428.91), 4034 (1,979.80), 4035 (3,987.39), 2810 (3,316.99), 4036 (40,216.89)
- Warrants: 414 (71,033.12), 814 (25,763.12), 415 (73,234.67) 815 (25,763.12), 416 (69,685.90), 816 (25,735.38),

C. Superintendent's Report

- The Rural Day has been postponed to Feb. 28
- All interested to attend should email Johanna Bartlett
- Talking points on the flyer, Bruce will draft specifics to U28, Swift River
- Approved "Blizzard Bags", any snow day after Feb. vacation will be a trial run (Shutesbury another school in U28 has approved)

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Cite visit from architecture group, working on the proposal
- Health insurance group met. No increase for next year, official by the end of the month. Will reduce the 2020 budget by approx. 25,000
- Governor's budget: \$20 per child, 25,000 for Swift River school district (if funded by rural aide [as is the Wisconsin model], state funding would be \$42,300)
- Mass Municipal advocated for min. \$100 per child
- FY20 Preliminary Budget – vote
 - Big change – health care
 - Chapter 1
 - Final year of Inclusive Pre-K learning environment grant- one more year application in, potentially \$10,000 in funding
- Carla moves to accept preliminary budget, Karyn 2nd - 7 – yes, one abstention
- Request for updated budget draft requested to come with meeting materials

- Transportation Bid – discussion and possible vote

- 2 bid for transportation (5 year contract): Kuzmeskus \$393 per bus per day, J. P. McCarthy and Sons \$450 per day, per bus
- Karyn moves to accept Kuzmeskus. bid, Carla 2nd. Bid needs to be accepted before negotiation with company can begin - Vote passes unanimously
- Kuz. Has updated buses, now have cameras on buses, same drivers over a number of years who are dependable and work well with the school. Good working relationship with company overall
- Contract would have fieldtrip provision (\$310)

E. Principal's Report

- Enrollment at 150
- Big Y Holiday Express Sweepstake letter (all inclusive and accessible playground), awarded \$5,000 for updating playground
- Reached out to Tech School to build a pavilion (Swift River will provide materials)
- Student council lunch survey to all grades. Will meet with Darcy next week to feedback
- Community Sing – 6th grade shared poems using the words of MLK
- Enchanted Forest pizza fundraiser – raised over \$800
- Report cards going out this week (delayed due to snow day)
- 4th grade book tasting
- Looking for substitute custodian

F. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Student council held sock and mitten drive and winter carnival
 - Swift River Alum won grand prize in Science Fair (Thor Mead)
 - E-sports team
- Collaborative for Education Services – no report
 - Next meeting March 27
- Budget and Personnel – Next Meeting – TBD
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, March 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm at the Swift River Elementary School
- Update on activities from previous Joint Supervisory meetings
 - Budget issues, issues caused between teachers and U28
 - Warwick inquires of U28
- Joint Supervisory Policy Subcommittee – Next Meeting - Monday, March 18, 2019 @ 6:45 pm at the Swift River Elementary School

G. February Items

- Rural School Aid: Regional Efficiencies Plan*

- Received rural aide- completed document on areas of increased collaborative activities
 - Coordinating efforts, challenges in the educational landscape
 - Shared regional resources (food, transport, etc.)
- NS/W Treasurer (Jill Berry), Assistant Treasurer (Bruce Turner)
 - vote required for assignment of duties –
 - Motion to nominate Jill Berry and Bruce Turner: Beth moves, Karyn 2nd. Passes unanimously
- 2019 Recipient Swift River Community Action Award – discussion
 - Individuals (not on school committee) who have gone above and beyond to support the school
- Mileage Reimbursement - Discussion
 - Federal reimbursement level different from current Swift River (.42/per mile). Request to be reimbursed at Federal level (.53/per mile)
 - Carla moves to reimburse at federal rate, Beth 2nd. Passes unanimously
- Policy Update and Review
 - First read (changes to policy to include pregnancy)
 - GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity
 - GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
 - AC – Non-discrimination
 - JB – Equal Education Opportunity
 - JFBB – School Choice

Next Meeting Date – March 7, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – March 7, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

H. Future Business

- Friends of New Salem Library request to hang poster for Read Aloud for Grown-ups

I. Approval of Minutes

- Clarification: p. 3 JS meeting: Bruce said two budgets offered, approved ones with cuts

Adjournment: Carla moves to adjourn, Carl 2nd (unanimous) adjourn at 8: unanimous