

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

AGENDA

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (7:00 P.M.)

Present: Carla Halpern, Karyn Briand, Johanna Bartlett, Carl Seppala, Beth Erviti, Jack Radner, Anna Wetherby (minutes) Jennifer Haggery; superintendent, Kelley Sullivan; principal

Attending teachers: Tina Newman, Lisa Aubin

Attending public: Erin Sibble

Meeting called to order: 7:02

B. Public Hearings - none

Request to move home-schooling agenda item to top of meeting to accommodate attending public

- Introduction to homeschooling student - student participates in select school-based activities (band, running, community sing)
- Karyn moves to accept homeschooling proposal A, Beth 2nds - unanimous
- Beth moves to accept homeschooling plans B 1 and 2, Karyn 2nds - 5 in favor, 2 abstentions
  - Question arises regarding grade level of students based on workbook selections. Request for student age to be part of the homeschooling application
  - Discussion regarding the obligation of the school committee on the education of all students in Wendell and New Salem
  - Kahn Academy reinforces misconceptions regarding physics. Parents should be advised
  - Question regarding IEPs, school provides testing upon request

C. Warrants –

- Voucher: 4204- 9,035.88; 4205- 97,425.04; 4206- 12,957.09; 4207- 17,289.37; 4208- 3,440.18; 4209- 2007.89; 4210- 23,901.03; 4211- 22,587.00; 4212- 58,740.14; 4213- 2,041.32; 4214- 660.00; 4215- 29,059.21; 4216- 461.62; 2802- 1,445.96; 2804- 3,433.18
- Payroll: 8052- 4,023.35; 8060-81,920.85; 8061- 33,386.03; 8062- 49,799.44; 406- 72,191.12; 806- 26,852.52; 407- 73,687.82; 807- 31,718.97; 8070- 88,631.59; 408- 72,383.99; 808- 24,676.91; 8080- 80,408.83; 409- 72,755.98; 809- 26,193.51; 8090- 87,952.03; 8091- 43,357.64; 8092- 47,025.07

D. Superintendent's Report

- School attorney is retiring but will continue serving U28 part-time
- U28 Educational conference - many teachers presented workshops
  - Michael Cortina - circle drumming, Rache Vitello, Annie Foley-Ruiz on UDL, Gillian Budine- the

young learner, Pete Nolan- group contingency, group discussion on Normal Sucks [Jonathan Mooney]

- Learning design team attended 2 day workshop in Groton on ULD. Debriefed for faculty in a 'fishbowl' style
- Budget process started
- Kaleidoscope for Collective Learning 275k - grant application to pilot new teaching and assessment tools
- Mass rural school coalition: 501(c)(3) status [non-profit]
  - Crafting articles of incorporation
  - Define rural school
  - Swift River received \$32,521 [up from approx. 20k last year] in rural aide

#### E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Emily Felton: new accounts payable employee
- Jen Spofford will take over grant coordination
- Suzor IT will be tech support at central office

#### F. Principal's Report

- Busy field-trip time:
  - 6th grade at Nature's Classroom
  - Audubon Society trip to Mt. Wachusett (a collaboration in progress of refinement) - free including buses
  - 3-6 attended Multi-Band concert at UMass
- Monster Dash - fundraiser for Nature's Classroom, very successful
- Kelley and 4 teachers attended 'Get Your Teach On'
- Impromptu in office performance of flute and piccolo
- MCAS - scored in 'high growth' area and received acknowledgement

#### G. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
  - Next meeting November 14
  - New Director of Finance and Operations
  - Timeline for new elementary school in Orange- K-6 should be up and running in 2023
  - Discussion of return extra E and D money to feeder towns - there was no vote
- Collaborative for Education Services
  - Rep not at Swift River meeting, no report
- Budget and Personnel
  - U28 office building closing in 2 years, not ADA compliant, no functioning sink, many pests, carpeting issues
  - Replacing the office will be expensive
  - What to do with the archives [records retention - what can be kept digitally, physically,

shredded]

- More information will be shared at the Joint Supervisory meeting  
– Next Meeting – November 25, 2019 @ Leverett Elementary School – 6:00 p.m.
  
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, November 25, 2019 @ Leverett Elementary School –  
7:00p.m. – Joint Supervisory Policy Sub-Committee – 6:45 p.m.

#### H. November Items

- Voluntary Recognition of Swift River Support Staff to Organize with the Swift River Educational Association/MTA – Discussion and Possible Vote
  - Beth moves to accept Voluntary Recognition of Swift River Support Staff to Organize with the Swift River Educational Association/MTA, Carla 2nd - passes with one abstention
    - Support staff can be overlooked
    - There is a majority support staff interested in unionizing. Financial concerns are the main reason for not joining
    - Legal counsel will create contract
    - Members are working on the timeline including of collective bargaining
    - Swift River is the only school in U28 without the support staff as part of a union
  
- Home School Applications - see above
  
- Policy Update and Review: - none

#### I. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – January 2, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – January 2, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

#### J. Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2019

- Carla moves to accept September minutes, Beth 2nds - passes with 2 abstentions

Jack moves to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining or litigation with no intent to return to open session, Karyn 2nd. Roll taken.

#### K. Executive Session - meeting was opened at 8:08.

- Kelley Sullivan invited into executive session meeting.
- Carla moves to approve the minutes of executive session September 5, Johanna 2nds - passes with amendments, 2 abstentions (Jack, Carl)
  - Amendment of sentence: Beth moves to enter into executive session, add comma between Devlin and Beth
- Settlement- employee will receive health insurance through February 2020
- Will receive deferential of salary from August 28, 2019 through February 29, 2020: \$14,516.11
- Irrevocable resignation effective February 29th has been submitted
- Motion to accept the settlement. Karyn moves, Carla 2nds - 5 in favor, 1 no, 1

abstention

- Jack moves to adjourn, Beth 2nds. Roll taken. Adjourned 8:27