

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

7:05

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

Teachers:

A. Public Hearing:

- Staff of SRS – to address Jen as to how honoured and grateful they are that she is the superintendent and grateful she will remain as superintendent. Feeling of joy when she enters the building. Feel listened to and supported. Presented Jennifer with tulips
- Feelings seconded by school committee members. Much love for U28
- School committee publicly thanks staff
- Carla Halpern apologizes for not attending between meetings meeting

B. Warrants:

417 - \$69,918.50, 817 - \$25,721.51, 8170 - \$79, 004.79, 8171- \$32,613.64, 8188 - \$50,195.87, 418 - \$69,977.35, 818 – 25,707.64, 8180 - \$78,776.52

C. Superintendent Report:

- In midst of budgets
- In middle of 2 principal searches
- Johanna speaking with Doug Tanner (fincom) – worried about the levy limit and budget cap. Budget and finances are difficult in Wendell and Jen acknowledges this. First time hearing concerns from Wendell FinCom. [Law- you cannot levy more than a certain level of taxes from the town to fund the school (2.5%). The state sets the cap. Can be overridden by prop. 2.5/ Levy ceiling (\$25 per \$1000). Outcome: schools must reduce services

D. Director of Finance and Operations

- Bruce, Johanna, and Beth went to Boston for Rurality day. Met with senators and reps regarding plight. Met with Comerford and Whipps. Desire a larger delegation goes in future. Many adults and children from Orange were present and representatives of other Western Massachusetts school. Adam Heinz was there asking for 9 million in increased rural aide.
- Was worth time
- Jen met with Natalie Blais and Jo Comerford along with superintendents from other school districts

- MSBA – design project going forward. Team will be back with revisions to plan in a few weeks

E. Principal report

- MSBA project- adding a double door to the front doors allowing more flow
- Windows were an interesting conversation. Crank out only option- would like to have a larger window option to allow more air flow in the classrooms
- New windows will start at ground level and have a panel, will be more energy efficient. Will have a fiberglass break within the window pane
- 5th grade had Mario Day and Doctor Day (math and operations)
- Preschool – next year plans
- Larry and Eric cleaned air ducts over February vacation
- Menu for kitchen has changed. Trying new things based on student council survey
- Tomorrow will announce Grinspoon teacher award at community sing

F. Committee Reports

- a. Mahar Report:
 - i. Meeting on 14th (no report)
- b. Collaborative for Education Services
 - i. Meeting on 17th (no report)

- No B&P meeting
- Joint Supervisory at SRS on March 18

G. March Items

- a. Employee request
 - Article 11 section AC
 - Request for sick leave daily rate 365.31 234.75 130.76 per day \$3922.90 (30 days) 13337.52 until end of school year
 - Recommendation to honor contract
 - No money in budget to cover until end of year
 - Motion to comply with the contract provision under Article 11, Section A. c. to pay the difference between the substitute and the employee's salary for thirty (30) days in the amount of \$3,922.90: Beth moves, Amy 2nd
 - Request to readdress the issue after 30 day – language in contract allows for a revisit
 - Request to look to find a middle ground between 30 days and until end of year. There is no money for this unexpected expenditure
 - This is a challenging year – we are not in a position to honor the request for the amount requested to the end of the year
 - Contract most likely predated the sick-bank
 - 30 days begins with the committee vote
 - The person has used the sick bank and cannot request any more

- Employee did not take out short-term disability
- Did use the FMLA
- Employee contracted to return next year
- Vote 9 in favor, 1 opposed

b. Policy Update and Review

First reading on

- JFABE – opportunities for military families -
- JFABF – children in foster care (best interest hearing with DCF)
 - There is a typo, committee makes edit to ad “law”
 - Can our policy require DCF and DESI to do things?
 - This is a restatement of the law
 - Request to check with legal council regarding wording
- BEDG – minutes of school committee [references minutes from executive committee

Second reading, first vote on

- GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity
- GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
- AC – Nondiscrimination
- JB – Equal Education Opportunity
- JFBB – School Choice
 - i. Beth moves to vote on 5 policies as a group as the wording is same for all polices, Karyn 2nd – unanimous
 - School choice policy – JFBB – can Swift River guarantee that a student remain through graduation of high school when it is not the same district?
 - Does Mahar require school choice applications from Swift River
 - Is Mahar required to accept school choice students from Swift River
 - Strike until graduation from high school
 - ii. Vote on all 5 with JFBB as amended – Carla moves, Jack 2nd – unanimous

H. Non-agenda Items

- a. Swift River Community Action Award
 - Nomination for JennyLou Powers
 - Examples of how caring and exemplary she is with children and families given. She goes above and beyond (as do all Swift River teachers)
 - Move to nominate JennyLou Powers Anna moves, David 2nd – unanimous
- b. Conversations with Michael Idoine who is in conversation with Adam Holloway (Warwick) about Warwick joining U28
 - i. Can Warwick be a separate region within U28?
 - ii. U28 not in favour of this joining if it will cost the Union anything
 - iii. Will be addressed in the next supervisory meeting

- iv. Conflict of interest already as same legal council is used by both schools
- v. 6 towns contributing to budget might be a benefit financially but not to the number of meetings for superintendent

I. Future Items

a. Next meeting:

- April 4
- Will be public budget hearing

J. Approval of minutes - Carla moves, Beth 2nd unanimous with corrections:
Typo Michael Cortina, Swift River alum Thor Mead

K. Adjournment: Carla moves to adjourn, Beth 2nd – 7:59