

## NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, May 6, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

### REMOTE MEETING –

**Attending:** [Johanna Bartlett](#), Anna Wetherby (minutes), Jack Radner, Carla Halpern, Barbara Doyle, Elizabeth Devlin, members; Jennifer Culkeen, superintendent; [Kelley Sullivan](#), principal; [Bruce Turner](#), Director of Finance and Operations

Teachers: Gosia Spooner, Mandy Higgins, Diane Adams

Public: Jenny Potee (New Salem Board of Health)

A. Call Meeting to Order - 7:07

B. Public Hearings - none

C. Warrants – 8212 \$86,231.64; 8214 \$1,794.12; 8220 \$90,251.18; 8221 \$45,387.10; 8222 \$43,76.62; 21 \$76,749.55; 422 \$74,591.10; 821 \$26,222.31; 822 \$26,222.31; 4043 \$884.88; 4044 \$6,639.72; 4045 \$641.25; 4046 \$47,472.24; 4048 \$70,911.34; 2820 \$15,255.96; 2821 \$679.82; 2822 953.06; 2823 \$214.15

D. Superintendent's Report

- Looking for a director of student services. Have wonderful finalists.

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Wrapping up MSBA project - filing for final reimbursement
- Received green communities money (freezer installed, weather proofing complete)
- Finalizing interconnectivity of heating system 30k from ESSER2 grant
- E and D certified at \$96,760

F. Principal's Report

- 132 students back in the building and 7 remote, 3 homeschooled students planning to return in the fall
- Everyone is happy and everything is going well
- Hard to keep outside social groups apart in the school and on the grounds
- Tech school is working on the gazebo - should be structurally finished by the end of the school year
- Two parents have volunteered to build platforms for additional outdoor teaching spaces
- Betsy Bergantino is retiring - positions are switching
- Christine Morin is taking the tech aspects
- Tina Newman new position is Library Media Specialist
- Will be creating a maker space
- Will be looking for 4th grade teacher
- Hired school adjustment counselor
- Looking for a school psychologist
- Still testing water - is ok by federal levels but higher than state regulations

G. Committee Reports

o Report from Mahar Representatives

- Budget woes - voted a very spare budget
- Anticipating having a hard time with the towns accepting the budget
- Voted to remain a school of choice
- Most of the reopening is on track - most of the staff who want to be vaccinated have been
- Pfizer is looking to have approval of 12-15 year olds vaccinated - could result in a larger percentage of the population vaccinated
- Discussion of international students - will there be a ban on international students during pandemic

- What would be the timeframe for reintroducing the program?
- Anticipating another meeting after the town meetings to discuss the budget again
- o Collaborative for Education Services
  - Have three finalists for new director position
- o Budget and Personnel – Next Meeting – October 2021
- o Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – May 17, 2021 6:30 p.m.

#### H. May Items

- o 2020-2021 Reopening
  - All schools are back
  - Have received commencement guidelines
  - No word about the fall from the commissioner other than “all back wearing masks”
  - Would like to have a small break in July
  - MCAS will still take place
    - There is no opt out
- o FY22 Budget – Possible Amendment –
  - State legislature has voted on chapter 70 - \$8,523 additional money
  - Would like to add it into the budget and reduce the assessment to the towns
  - New Salem reduced by \$3,651 (new figure \$865,440) Wendell reduced by \$4,872 (new figure \$1,155,069)
  - Carla moves to use the \$8,523 to reduce the assessment to New Salem and Wendell, Barbara 2nds
    - Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously
- o 2021-2022 SREA Contract - Vote
  - Anna moves to approve the 2021-2022 SREA contract, Elizabeth 2nds
    - Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously
- o Policy Update and Review:
  - First Reading on:
    - o CH – Policy Implementation
    - o CHCA – Approval of Handbooks and Directives
    - o CHD – Administration in Policy Absence
    - o DA – Fiscal Management Goals
    - o DB – Annual Budget
    - o DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules
    - o DBD – Budget Planning
    - o BDG – Budget Adoption Procedures
  - Second Reading, First Vote on:
    - o BG – School Committee Policy Development
    - o BGB – Policy Adoption
    - o BGE – Policy Dissemination
    - o BGF – Suspension of Policies
    - o BHC – School Committee-Staff Communications
      - o BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee members
  - Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote, Barbara 2nds
  - Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

Anna moves to vote to accept the policies listed above , Jack 2nds  
Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

Final Vote on:

- o BDB – School Committee Officers
  - o BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee
  - o BDFA – School Councils
  - o BEDF – Voting Method
  - o BEE – Procedures for Conducting Public Hearings
- Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote - Elizabeth 2nds  
Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

Anna moves to cast final vote and adopt policies listed above, Jack 2nds  
Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

I. Future Business

- o Next Meeting Date – June 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
- o New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – June 3, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. - Barbara  
will attend for New Salem

J. Approval of Minutes:

- o April 1, 2021
- Carla moves to approve minutes from April 1st, Elizabeth seconded  
Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

K. Executive Session - not needed

Adjournment: Anna moves adjourn, Carla 2nds - passes unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned 7:46