

PUBLIC HEARING – FY20 BUDGET (7:00 P.M.)

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, April 4, 2019, Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

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

Teachers: Danika Tyminski, Rachel Vitello

Call Meeting to Order 7:01

A. Public Hearings

• FY20 Budget

- Review of changes since the last budget
- Removal of circuit breaker and Kindergarten funding
- \$20 per child in state aid (\$2500 in total towards the budget)
- Overall increase to budget: \$114,008 (4.1%)
- \$167,258 (6.8%) an increase of revenue needed [due to reduced funding aspects]
- Jo Comerford is holding a meeting on April 18th to address state-level funding of education in rural districts
- CES holds great data in enrolment – can help support the work being done by Wendell Fin Com
- Partner with Universities to have students working on Special Ed degrees
- Keeping Special Ed students enrolled at Swift River helps keep budget expenses down
- Next year will hit the levy ceiling - would require cuts to personnel
- Request to have New Salem member connect with New Salem Fin Com
- Create a liaison position to the town financial committees

Request for the school committee to meet on May 2nd - strategies for town meetings

- Motion to approve budget FY20 in the amount \$2,8784,33 (gross) \$2,618,672 (net) Beth moves, Karyn 2nd – in favor 6, 1 abstention

- Other Public Hearings: a moment of enjoyment of 6th-grade cell projects and Kindergarten aquarium project

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

- Payroll: 8191- 36,674.23, 8312- 49,717.96, 8311- 4,054.43, 8200- 81,185.71, 4037-1,036.03, 4038-7,610.64, 8190-81,943.48
- Warrants: 420- 72,246.93, 820- 25,707.64, 419- 72,921.60, 819- 26,057.64

C. Superintendent's Report

- Awarded small rural achievement grant \$20,000 (Federal funding)
- Mass Rural School coalition: shared services proposal
 - o \$160K in seed capital
 - o Making economies of scale accessible
 - o Pilot program
- Transportation (regionally supported in Franklin County)
- A priority list of other shared resources including:
- Shared payroll and bookkeeping
- Food services
- Other local government services

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Approved initial design for windows – moved onto estimating
- Need dollar numbers to get final approval of the project by towns
- Getting a 76% reimbursement rate
- If all moves forward as currently planned
 - o The design will happen over summer
 - o December will go to bid

- o The project will begin summer 2020

E. Principal's Report

- Current enrollment: 152 (new student from Wendell in March)
- Blizzard Bag trial, positive and negative feedback – good feedback from students, positive for teachers
- Enjoyed watching videos of preschoolers reciting ABC's
- A survey has been crafted for feedback
- Candy Bar BINGO M.C.'d by Mike Cortina, decorated by Danika
- Summer work project schedule: minimal capital improvements
- Kindergarten transformed into an aquarium, repurposed materials for garden hoop houses
- Pancake run Saturday to benefit student council
 - o Provide scholarships for Enchanted Forest
- MCAS started this week, 3rd grade on computers for the first time – ongoing through mid-May
- May 23rd, Spring Spectacular concert, 6 pm
- June 7th talent show 1 pm and Swift River Community action award presentation
- June 14th last day of school, graduation at 10 am
- Eggs for sale in office \$2.50

F. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
- March 14th – June 10 X – student organization
- E-sports team going very well
- Vaping policy
- Local school reports
 - o Interim principal at Fisher Hill who will finish out the year
- Collaborative for Education Services
- Doing very well with Bill Dehil – evaluating him as director, doing well with the budget

- Budget and Personnel – no meeting

Joint Supervisory

- Met with Warwick town reps:
 - o Economies of scale
 - o School choice level of students
 - o Good building
 - o Great teaching staff
 - o The principal took a 7K pay cut to keep specials
 - o Have volunteers to handle clerical duties
- Questions should go to Lauren or Carla
- Erving had all school play – really awesome
- Shutesbury is a school of commendation – 4th graders learning about petitions (chocolate milk)
- Leverett brought up the idea of a grant writer for U28

– Next Meeting – May 20, 2019, @ 6:00 pm at Central Office •

- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2019, @ 7:00 pm at Central Office
- Joint Supervisory Policy Subcommittee – Next Meeting - Monday, May 20, 2019, @ 6:45 pm at Central Office

G. April Items

- FY20 Academic Calendar - Anna moves, Carla 2nd passes - unanimous
- No discussion
- Identification of School Choice Seats
- Currently 35 students of school choice, but no room moving forward
- Kindergarten is a preference for beginning school choice
- School of Choice – Beth moves that SRS stands as a school of choice, Karyn 2nd
- Vote – 6 in favor, one abstention
- Support for keeping Swift River as a school of choice

- A concern of Swift River becoming a ‘magnet’ as a school for special needs
- Policy Update and Review:
 - Second Reading, First Vote on: Karyn moves to accept, Carl 2nd
 - o JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - o JFABF – Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - How can the school committee control what DCF does?
 - A way to balance home and school aspects of the child’s life
 - o BEDG – Minutes
 - Beth moves to group three policies into one vote, Karyn 2nd - unanimous
 - Karyn moves to accept all three policies, Carl 2nd – unanimous
 - Final Vote on: Carla moves to vote on all 5 at once, Beth 2nd – unanimous
 - Carla moves to approve all 5, Beth 2nd – unanimous
 - o GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity
 - o GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
 - o AC – Nondiscrimination
 - o JB – Equal Education Opportunity
 - o JFBB – School Choice

H. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – May 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – May 2, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

Town Meetings

- Wendell – June 8
- New Salem – June 18

I. Approval of Minutes • March 7, 2019 Carla moves, Beth 2nd – 6 in favor, 1 opposed

- Add Johanna to going to Boston
- P. 1 A- Presented Jennifer with tulips
- Carla apologizes
- E. Grinspoon Award
-

J. Adjournment – 8:30 Carla moves, Beth 2nd – unanimous