

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, May 2, 2019 Swift River School – 7:00 p.m. – FINAL MINUTES

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order – 7:05

Present:

Carl Seppala, Jack Radner, Carla Halpern, Barbara Doyle, Johanna Bartlett, Amy Palmer, Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Kelley Sullivan, Bruce Turner

A. Public Hearings

- Community Network for Children update – Gillian Budine
 - Provide families with comprehensive services (housing, food, etc)
 - Prompt school readiness
 - Grant is near 84k, submitted continuation grant this week
 - Raises additional 5k each year
 - SAC fundraiser was 1200
 - 220 families participating on monthly basis
 - Family needs have risen
 - Summer program at Northfield Mountain – outdoor, 160-190 people attended weekly last summer
 - Friends of Libraries fund the summer playgroups in the town libraries

B. Warrants:

- 422 - \$68,509.59, 822 - \$25,790.86
- Vouchers: 4220 - \$77,856.29, 8220 – 32,960.99, 8313 – 49,717.96

C. Superintendent's Report

- No official report but update regarding rural school issues with state reps and senators (organized by Comerford). We are 'held harmless' and will receive no additional aid.
 - Charter schools impacting Amherst area schools
 - We are not benefiting from regionalization in this area
 - Wendell is close to reaching the tax cap
 - Revisiting Chapter 70 funding level
- Are there studies on the impact of long bussing distance both on younger and older students
- Bussing is not fully funded for the schools

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Review of FY20 Budget - Vote

- Same budget, E&D certified
- 35k for E&D upped to 50k
- New total gross budget: \$2,878,433, town responsibility: \$1,881,651
- Carla moves to approve the budgets, Jack 2nd – passes with 7 yes, one abstention
- Will received 21,657 in rural aid. Asking to approve this for teacher salaries to replace the circuit breaker money that was not received
 - If we have approved to pay salaries, do we need to approve to this?
 - Circuit breaker can only be used to offset certain costs
 - Vote not necessary but suggested
- Carla moves to use rural aid towards paying teachers salaries – Beth 2^{nds}. Unanimous
- Design team met: bid for work \$1,238,000 for windows and doors [under the estimate]
 - 800k from MSBA, remainder from towns (160k per town)
 - Is the school committee with running this project (borrowing and repayment of funds) through the school books? Makes reporting cleaner. Committee raised no concerns
 - FinComs from both towns have approved the town funding for the building project

E. Principal's Report

- In the midst of MCAS
- Field trips
- Spring Fling – PTCA event on May 18 (following Rabbit Run)
 - Wonderful donations
- Spring Spectacular. May 23 6 pm – dinner fundraiser at 4 pm
- Big Y donation for playground project moving forward– met with Franklin Tech to create pavilion and outdoor classroom
- 5th grade
 - Harry Potter theme week in
 - Glow day – review of math
 - Genius hour project – research without using Google
- Gillian and Kelley attended No Small Matter film at GCC – the impact of early care on child development
- Summer programming for students
- Mascot for Swift River

F. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Appointed Jack to Leadership Accountability and Measurement subcommittee
 - Concern of not being eligible for free lunch. Dropped to 37% (cannot direct certify)

- French Club appreciative to trip to Quebec including 6 Swift River alums
- Tari Thomas is retiring in 2020
- Mahar X is June 10
- Next meeting June 13
- Graduation May 31
- Side meeting with Petersham rep regarding joining U28. Redirected to U28 joint chair

- Collaborative for Education Services

- Most programs used by bigger schools
- Review of Bill Deihl – impressive
- Discussed how the programs are doing [financially]

- Budget and Personnel – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2019 - 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office
- Joint Supervisory Policy Subcommittee – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2019 - 6:45 p.m. @ Central Office
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. @ Central Office

G. May Items

- Policy Update and Review: First Reading on:
 - ACAB – Sexual Harassment – returned to policy committee for further review with following revisions
 - Reads Expressly written for staff and faculty – are the students represented
 - Teachers are unionized – contractually they need to follow the policies of the school
 - What happens when the grievance officer is the one who is involved in the harassment?
 - Can it be made more clear that is the grievance is with the grievance officer the person to report to is the superintendent
 - Student involvement would be directed to the school psychologist
 - Line 4 has extra commas
 - ADC – Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
 - Fine

Final Vote on: Beth moves to move all three as one vote, Carla 2nd

Motion to vote – Jack moves, Carla 2nd – unanimous

- JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- JFABF – Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- BEDG – Minutes

First Vote to Delete: Carla moves, Jack 2nd – unanimous

- ADA – School District Goals and Objectives

- Minutes – Beth moves to approve with corrections, Amy 2nd – passes with 1 abstention
 - Rachel Vitello name misspelled
 - Candy bar bingo - Danika misspelled
 - Committee reports Mahar – June 10 X
 - Bill Diehl

H. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – June 6, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – June 6, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
- Approval of Minutes
 - April 4, 2019 * – Beth moves to approve with corrections, Amy 2nd – passes with 1 abstention

Corrections: Rachel Vitello name misspelled

Candy bar bingo Danika

Committee reports Mahar – June 10 X

Bill Diehl

- Military funding vs. Education
- Town Meeting

- Wendell June 8 (Saturday)
- New Salem June 19 (Wednesday)
- Next School Committee – Late June/Early July By Doodle Poll

J. Adjournment - Carla moves, Beth 2nd – unanimous 8:17