

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL
NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (7:00 P.M.)

Present: Karyn Briand, Johanna Bartlett, Barbara Doyle, Elizabeth Devlin Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby (minutes) members Carla Halpern; Kelley Sullivan, principal; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance and Operations, Jennifer Haggerty, superintendent

Swift River teachers: Danika Tyminski, Shannon Brown
Public: none

Meeting called to order – 7:08

A. Reorganization of the Committee

- a. Chair – Anna nominates Johanna Bartlett, Beth 2nd – unanimous
- b. Secretary – Karyn nominates Anna Wetherby, Elizabeth 2nd – unanimous

B. Public Hearings:

- 6th grade overview: name “Spunky Sparks”, mission statement: *We are the Spunky Sparks! We promise to be persistent and embrace our unique styles. Being boundless and adventurous is in our nature. Our goal is to treat each other like family with respect and honor. We believe we should have fun and try new things. Fears will be faced and friends will be supported. Our class will help others through their struggles. We value teamwork, humor, persistence, artistry, and kindness. Our honesty will always bring us to success. We strive to lift others up. Together we will spark joy in the hearts of others.*
- 6th grade has 2 guinea pigs (Chewy and Pippin) and the class is going to Nature’s Classroom in two weeks
- Danika met with constituency of support staff- they are interested in joining the union. Asking committee to recognize the support staff as members of the union
 - Can this happen? Jennifer will need to check with legal council and see if it is possible and needs to be voted on by the school committee. MTA rep indicated that this is within the means of the committee –
 - Next step: follow u with MTA rep to cite law as well as consulting with U28 lawyer.
 - Part time staff are able to be members
 - Committee members spoke of benefits to unionizing and support adding support staff to the union
 - Add to agenda for next meeting to discuss further and with more information from MTA and lawyer
- Introduction of Shannon Brown (5th grade) – she working towards masters degree as a reading specialist

C. Warrants

Payroll: 8261- 34,346.88; 8266- 47,789.82; 426 – 76,956.38; 826 – 25,928.85; – 83,661.61; 8341 – 4,783.94; 8010 – 73,302.14; 401 – 62,039.29; 801 – 26,189.14; 8011 – 29,531.97; 8012 – 49,651.70; 8020 – 81,496.30; 8021 – 450.00; 402 – 70,742.39; 803 – 26,325.38; 8030 – 81,431.97; 404 – 67,132.50;

804 – 26,557.32; 8041 – 29,599.77; 8050 – 48,808.24; 8051 – 82,023.34; 405 – 72,741.05; 805 – 26,741.19; 8040 – 79,071.37
Vendor: 4046 – 6,897.31; 4047 – 2,685.80; 4048 – 5,945.06; 4049 – 4,561.13; 4050 – 8,594.84; 4051 – 24,503.20; 4052 – 7,118.01; 4053 – 4,974.36; 8315 – 3,949.66; 2812 – 20,665.29; 4201 – 3,339.82; 4020 – 103,037.85; 2801 – 36,151.15; 4054 – 217.12; 4203 – 36,635.26

D. Superintendent's Report

- Leadership team attended UDL symposium over summer
 - Inquiry sessions, expert learner, Shelley Moore and Jonathan Mooney were speakers. Mooney's book "Normal Sucks" book being read by staff
- 2 new members of leadership team
- Poem shared – students and staff encouraged to celebrate and scale what is right about people
- Developing core values: stands for who U28 is as a team, new norms, educator evaluation
 - Revising district vision and incorporating core values
- Looking forward to collaborative learning groups – increase accessibility for all
- UDL is the umbrella that seeks to make the school welcoming to all individuals who enter the buildings

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Working on changes in central office – anticipating retirement in October
- Food services becoming a financial issue for the U28 schools. Will meet with directors to work on this. Swift River is provision 2 (clarification on provision levels [here](#))
- New food service director in Leverett
- End of Year Transfers – Karyn moves to approve transfer as written in memo from Bruce Turner, Barbara 2nd – passes unanimously
 - a. School budget or 2018-19 did very well. Were billed for school choice students unexpectedly - \$20,000
 - b. 2 new enrols in New Salem/Wendell health benefits, one in central office – \$32,000
 - c. Food service deficit - \$35,529
- Purchase Card Resolution – Carla moves to adopt resolution as presented, Karyn 2nd - passes unanimous (7 votes)
 - a. Swift River is the fiscal agent for U28. Bank needs approval of the committee

F. Principal's Report

- Opened school with all staff and support staff singing and welcoming students
- 143 students – new kindergartener enrolling soon
- 3 new home school students
- 3 joined district
- one new school choice in grade 5

- New hires: Cole Hogg – gym teacher; Michelle Connely - remaining as K sub; Michelle Wolfe - K classroom aide; Kirsten Lamotte – 2nd grade classroom aide; Allie Barns - working in support services; Xavier Godette - 1st grade classroom aide; Carley Haydocy – 3rd grade classroom aide and Enchanted Forest
- 11 staff members are Swift River alumni
- Kelley gave updates on her professional development
- Summer upgrades
 - a. New carpet
 - b. New adult sized sink in preschool
 - c. New book shelves and cabinets across the school
 - d. Gym floor resealed
 - e. Cemented floors of 2 sheds
- Locking shed for preschool
- Waxed all floors
- Prepared gym walls for fresh paint
- Vandalism at school – egg of school from the eggs in the chicken coop; broke lights outside; peace wreath showing signs of damage; chickens forcibly locked in coop during 100^o day, one chicken died; stolen panels for goat pen;
- Installed trail cam – looking into new security cameras, asking for public help to be aware of cars in lots on weekends

G. Other items

- Danika gave examples on addressing racism through teaching practices and initiatives - committee members expressed thanks for the sensitive work the teachers are doing on this subject
 - A. Is there interest or a need for more of this, starting with the adults? How or should this be worked in more into professional development?
 - B. Upcoming UROC workshops October 4 and 25
 - C. Teaching tolerance resources available
 - D. Extend an invitation to Mahar – bring the discussion at the Mahar meeting

H. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Next meeting September 18 (no report)
 - Student with gun at Mahar soccer game on September 5th. Student taken into custody, weapon removed
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - No report, open invitation to all members to attend

- Budget and Personnel – Next Meeting – October 2019 – Barbara Doyle is rep
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2019 –

I. September Items

- MSBA Project – Carla moves to vote in favor of “Form of vote for regional school district school committee” as presented, Karyn 2nd – unanimous (7 in favor)
 - Both towns have voted to approve the proposal, needs one final vote from and papers need to be submitted to town select boards
- Home School Applications
 - Application packets have names redacted for privacy
 - School committee has little recourse to not approve application. Portfolio is submitted to superintendent at end of the year
 - Family 1 – clear instructional schedule, 3 students – recommendation to accept from Jennifer. Carla moves to approve application; Karyn 2nd – motion withdrawn
 - Karyn moves to approves all application, Carla 2nd – passes unanimously
- Policy Update and Review:
 - Final Vote on:
 - ADC – Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited – Karyn moves to approve, Beth 2nd – passes with one abstention
 - New terminology included

J. Future Business

- Unionizing support staff
 - Further discussions on racism
- Next Meeting Date – November 7, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
 - New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – November 7, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

K. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2019 – Johanna moves, Beth 2nd – passes with one abstention

L. 8:39 p.m – Beth moves to move to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with the intent to not return to open meeting – Carla 2nd – unanimous - roll taken; Kelley Sullivan invited into executive session meeting