

Attending: Kate Woodward, Carla Halpern, Beth Erviti, Steve Blinder, Barbara Doyle, Mandy Blackbird, Miriam Warner, Anna Wetherby (minutes), members; Kelley Sullivan, principal; Jen Culkeen, superintendent, Caitlin Sheridan, director of finance and operations; Corrina Wcislo, Director of Student Support Services

Teachers: Diane Adams, Rachel Vitello, Goshia Spooner, Kelsey Alvarez
 Public: Lisabeth Willely

- A. Call Meeting to Order at 7 PM
- B. Public Hearings
- C. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

406	9/15/22	\$80,858.94
461	9/15/2022	\$1,649.37
406.1	9/15/2022	\$2,017.13
407	9/29/2022	\$91,286.05
408	10/13/2022	\$85,967.25
409	10/27/2022	\$85,904.64
410	11/10/2022	\$89,615.97
411	11/23/2022	\$86,500.64
412	12/8/2022	\$85,277.63
413	12/22/2022	\$88,460.05

806	9/15/2022	\$26,984.12
807	9/29/2022	\$27,115.37
808	10/13/2022	\$26,984.66
809	10/27/2022	\$27,427.03
810	11/10/2022	\$28,789.23
811	11/23/2022	\$28,225.62
812	12/8/2022	\$28,005.62
813	12/22/2022	\$28,005.62

814	1/5/2023	\$27,563.24
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8060	9/15/2022	\$90,537.42
8610	9/15/2022	\$315.81
8070	9/29/2022	\$106,756.50
8071	9/29/2022	\$46,645.34
8080	10/13/2022	\$94,783.79
8090	10/27/2022	\$95,115.88
8091	10/27/2022	\$36,382.91
8100	11/10/2022	\$99,788.10
8110	11/23/2022	\$96,259.12
8111	11/23/2022	\$36,681.29
8112	11/23/2022	\$48,714.52
8120	12/8/2022	\$94,894.21
8130	12/22/2022	\$98,173.57
8131	12/22/2022	\$36,810.05
8132	12/21/2022	\$47,818.32

- o Grants: Acceptance Vote: REAP \$17,109
 Beth moves to accept the REAP grant, Steve seconds - vote taken by role, passes unanimously

D. Superintendent's Report

- Budget season
- Soliciting feedback and survives from staff as to how things are going and what can be improved
- Opening formal and informal meetings with families
- Shared physical therapist
- Creating supportive classroom in special education - what are the needs across the district that can be shared in a classroom across the district
- School attending report - mandatory for all students K-12
- Monthly central office new letter coming

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Certifying E&D
- Look to have FY22 audit ready for vote next month
- Wellness committee on January 11
- Tremendous gratitude expressed to Caitlin from the School Committee
- Thanks the committee for being warm and kind

F. Principal's Report

- Held winter concert for the first time in 3 years
 - Showcased flute soloist, brass quartet, much happy singing
 - Music teacher worked with the Art teacher to create festive environment around the school
 - Nature's Classroom held bake sale
- Circulation pumps in the next week or two
- New carpet and tables in 5th grade
- Working hard on relearning organization skills
- Working with The Hill - what is working circulatory, what needs to be improved

G. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - No full meeting yet.
 - Next meeting - next week
 - Kate met with Superintendent Dr. Liz - met for about 2 hours and spoke on a wide range of topics
 - Working on a handbook for new school committee members
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - No report
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
 - No report
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – January 30, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.
- Budget & Personnel – Next Meeting – TBD

H. January Items

- JEB – Entrance Age – Discussion and Possible Vote on age cut-off for Kindergarten
 - Language different minor between the two drafts specifically including parent/guardian
- Regionalization Committee Representatives – Discussion and Vote
 - Two-town region vs. 'typical' region is only relevant when budgets are not passed by towns and how to proceed from there. Otherwise it functions the same as any other region
 - Acting as their own fiscal entity will be important
 - Tabled for next meeting

- Family Handbook – Vote
 - Time to re-evaluate the mission statement
 - Staff has strong input in the writing of the mission statement, process takes around a year
 - Beth moves to accept the Family Handbook as presented with the plan to have a revised mission statement for subsequent years; Kate seconds - vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously
- First Draft of FY24 NSW Budget
 - Enrollement is up over the past few years
 - New Salem portion has gone down due to the rolling 5-year average
 - Review of how the grant money is being allocated
 - Small increase in legal council retainer fee - first increase in a decade
 - Superintendent travel is now “U28 Travel” due to office restructuring
 - Biggest change to budget is Special Education to Mass Schools - the expense would go solely to the town of residence of the student
 - Still working on where the expense should be allocated
 - There is a circuit breaker for tuition for special education over a certain amount - there is a year lag on the initial year
 - U28 expenses - rent expense is for storage of records
 - Grateful thanks extended to Caitlin for the clarity of presentations and explanation of budgets

Policy Update and Review:

First Reading on:

- ACAB – Sexual Harassment Policy
 - Concern regarding structure of sentences; to be edited by subcommittee and brought back to full committee
- AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- JICK – Harassment of Students
- DD – Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects
- DBC – Budget Deadlines
- DBD – Budget Planning
- DBG-1 – Regional School Budget Adoption Procedures

I. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – February 2, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – February 2, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
- Begin discussion of Swift River Action Award

J. Approval of Minutes:

- November 3, 2022
 - Beth moves to approves, Mandy seconds - vote taken by roll call, passes with one abstention
- December 1, 2022
 - Beth moves to approve, Mandy seconds - vote taken by roll call, passes with one abstention

K. Adjournment

- Beth moves to adjourn, Steve seconds - meeting adjourned at 8:20