New Salem/Wendell School Committee Meeting Final Minutes THURSDAY, February 3, 2022, 7 PM VIA Google Meet

Attending: Barbara Doyle, <u>Carla Halpern</u>, Johanna, Bartlett, Miriam Warner, <u>Elizabeth Devlin</u>, Melinda Hazen, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Beth Erviti, School Committee Members; Jennifer Culkeen, superintendent; <u>Kelley Sullivan</u>, principal, Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance

Teachers: Jennylou Powers, Gosia Spooner, Robyn Vitello, Samatha Marsh, Samm Osborne,

Public: Karyn Briand, Sarah Vular, Dara LaPlant,

A. Meeting Called to Order 7 PM

Reminder: Town Election for New Salem in May, request for re-election candidates to pick up forms, forms due back in Mid-March.

B. Public Hearings

- Jennylou Powers read a <u>letter</u> from SREA regarding Critical Race Theory
- Carla thanks the teachers for the way they phrased their statement, asks if the statement could be put in the school's mission statement
- Elizabeth also thanks the SREA for the words and the way it addresses the audience

C. Warrants -

8141-\$85,138.60; 414 - \$79,529.89; 814- \$21,647.10; 8150 - 94,211.02; 415 - \$84,947.89; 815 - \$25,771.95; 8151 - \$32,547.21; 8152 - \$43,735.69; 8160 - \$92,827.99; 416 - \$83,805.18; 816 - \$25,755.11

D. Superintendent's Report

- Budget season progress is being made
- Mask mandate through February
- Met with Student Support Services
- Will meet with Michael Ewards from the Collins Center to look into Union 28 efficiencies and grants that will support efficiencies
- Looking into Professional Development
- The search for the .6 Curriculum Coordinator position to begin soon

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Governor's budget recently came out giving more detail to the school's budgets
- Not much has changed at this point

F. Principal's Report

- An engineer has been hired to address the PFAS in the water.
 - The camera will go down the well in April
- Very successful Scholastic Book Fair raised over \$900 for the library
- Holiday Fair raised funds to support families in crisis
- New Salem Congregational Church was connected with a family to provide a wonderful holiday
- Eric Schufelt helped fix a family's car when he delivered a holiday meal
- ESSER money to purchase snowshoes
- The outdoor gym class loves using the snowshoes to explore the nature trails
- 5th and 6th grade is staging small plays at JaDuke American Revolution based -February 11th
- The pizza drive is still going on as a fundraiser for Enchanted Forest and all classes

G. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - No report due to no meeting
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - No report this month
- Budget and Personnel Next Meeting None at this time
- Joint Supervisory Next Meeting March 21, 2022 6:30 p.m.
 - o Appropriation of funds from union towns for the U28 budget

H. February Items

- Collective Bargaining Subcommittee Member Selection and Vote
 - Carla moves to nominate Anna and Babara, Johanna seconded. Passes unanimously
- MASC Subcommittee Member Selection and Vote
 - Elizabeth Devlinvolunteers to give brief reports at meetings regarding MASC
 - Carla nominates Elizabeth to be MASC information distiller, Johanna seconds passes unanimously
- Critical Race Theory Discussion
 - Teacher's Union has distilled the wording beautifully and will share it with the committee
 - Some places are sanitizing reality and history
 - Students should not be required to unlearn what they learned in school
 - Keeping information age-appropriate is very important
 - The School Committee supports the work of the teachers and their view on curriculum and knowing what is appropriate
 - Clarification for what is the "mission" the school committee does not have the ability to change the wording of the school's mission statement unilaterally
 - The letter can be linked to the website, endorsed by the School Committee

- SREA needs to confirm if they would like the letter on the webpage and if the letter, which was addressed to the school committee, would be right for the website
- Elizabeth supports having a statement from both the School Committee and teacher's union
- Johanna moves that pending approval of the SREA that both the school committee and SREA CRT letters go on the website - Carla Halpernseconds
 - Beth would like to have time to read the SREA letter before voting on putting it on the website
 - Barbara agrees with Beth and would like to hear back from the SREA
 - Johanna withdraws the motion
- Home School Applications Discussion and Vote
 - Both Carla and Jen have reached out to the families but have not had any response
 - Families were given a week to respond
- First Draft of FY23 NSW Budget
 - o FY 23 goals for Swift River SEL, Learning gaps, After school/summer support
 - Decrease in allocation for U28 due to population decrease \$3,124
 - o Instructional increase \$88,620
 - School services decrease \$9,256
 - Plant operation and maintenance increase \$3,217
 - Fixed charges increase \$7,067
 - Decrease in Community Servies, Improvement of fixed assets, and programs with other schools \$7,853
 - Total use of funding increased 2.48%
 - Other revenues projected at \$126,180
 - Chapter 70 aide increase 7.8% (\$55,595 more than FY22)
 - Increase for the towns only .75%
- Policy Update and Review:
 - First Reading on:
 - ACAB Harassment
 - Second Reading, First Vote on:
 - GBEC –Drug-Free Workplace
 - GBGF Family and Medical Leave Act
 - HA Goals for Negotiations
 - HB Negotiation Legal Status
 - Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote, Beth seconds passes unanimously
 - Anna moves to pass the first vote on the four policies, Johanna seconds - passes unanimously
 - Final Vote on:

- DJ Purchasing
- EB Safety Program
- EBCD Emergency Plans
- ECA Buildings and Grounds Security
- EFC Free & Reduced-Price Food Services
- FA Facilities Development Goals
 - Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote, Beth seconds passes unanimously
 - Anna moves to adopt the policies listed above, Beth seconds passes unanimously
- Second and Final Vote for Deletion of Policy:
 - GBA-1 Harassment Policy
 - GBAA Policy on Sexual Harassment
 - H Negotiations
 - Anna moves to vote to delete in one vote, Beth seconds passes unanimously
 - Anna moves to delete the policies listed above, Beth seconds passes unanimously

I. Future Business

- Next Meeting Date March 3, 2022 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee March 3, 2022 6:30 p.m.
- Nominations for Swift River Action Award

J. Approval of Minutes:

- January 6, 2022
 - Johanna moves to approve the minutes, Beth seconds
 - Request to delete bullet point under the Mahar report
 - Minutes pass unanimously with the amendment

K. Adjournment

Johanna moves to adjourn, Beth seconds - meeting adjourned at 8:15