

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

Attending: Barbara Doyle, [Carla Halpern](#), Johanna, Bartlett, Miriam Warner, [Elizabeth Devlin](#), Melinda Hazen, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Beth Erviti, School Committee Members; Jennifer Culkeen, superintendent; [Kelley Sullivan](#), 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 [letter](#) 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 Edwards 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.
  - 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 Devlin](#) volunteers 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



- 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