

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
April 2, 2015

PRESENT: Mike Yohan, John DeWitt, Johanna Bartlett, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, John Fitzgerald, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Patty Savage, Danika Tyminski, teachers; Matt Galman, U28 accountant.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. March 5, 2015 minutes: On a motion from Carla and a second from Johanna the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill – 4544, 4545, 4546, 4548, 4549, 8514, 8515.
 - b. Payroll – 419, 420, 819, 820, 4190, 4200, 4201, 4202, 4547, 8190, 8201.
4. Mahar: There was no meeting, but Johanna noted that the Wendell FinCom was not in accordance over keeping the dam at Mahar for environmental reasons.
5. Principal's Report: Kelley reported that there are now 158 students. She spoke about the PARCC testing, stating that it is extremely time consuming, there is not enough room to accommodate everybody, and the test itself is too long. Danika spoke about how PARCC is affecting her students noting that the test is timed and the students were unable to finish the test in the allotted time. She told the committee that she took a section of the math PARCC test herself. The allotted time was 50 minutes and it took her, the teacher, 56 minutes. The committee reviewed the salary schedules for the staff personnel within the school, focusing on longevity. Johanna moved to change head custodian longevity from 20 years of service to 10 years of service. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was then tabled until next month under future business. Kelley also discussed the science fair. She noted it was a huge success but would like to move it to November for the next school year because March is a very busy month due to testing and the weather can be bad. Carla then spoke about some concerns that have been brought to her attention if the date is moved. The concerns are: it takes time to prep for the science fair, the kickoff event is hard to plan so early in the year, there may not be enough time for help sessions so early in the year, there may not be time to work with Sally to do art projects relating to the science fair, and the science fair has always been on the day before a curriculum day to allow students time to sleep in the next day. Kelley suggested a survey be sent to staff and families asking what works best for them.
6. Superintendent's Report: Beth Haggerty from SRS was awarded the John Coolidge Fund Award. Ben Rubin from Erving was awarded the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. There were two professional development activities, a full day event at Erving School and a Job Alike meeting at Shutesbury. Also there was a Books in Action event at Leverett

- Elementary School and included students from Leverett, Shutesbury and Swift River and honored the work of the students who participated in the Massachusetts Children's Book Award program. Thank you to Betsy Bergantino, Susan Wells and Heather Lobenstine for organizing this event. Also the science fair at Swift River was this month, thank you to Cathy Chamberlain for organizing this event.
7. Review of Expenditure Report: Matt noted that this is a tight year and Kelley agreed. The salary for teacher's aides went \$27,000 over budget due to two unexpected hires. However, Matt and Kelley think that it will still stay on budget through the year. Matt told the committee that the E&D was certified and \$13,000 was being sent back to New Salem and Wendell to split between the towns.
 8. FY16 Budget Vote: John D. moved to approve the FY16 budget of \$1,999,907. Carla seconded this and the committee was unanimously in favor.
 9. 2015/2016 Academic Calendar: The committee decided to ask BettyLou whether D1 or D2 has been accepted by other schools in the Union with the intention that all schools should be on the same schedule.
 10. Standardized Testing: Kelley suggested having teacher feedback about PARCC and Carla suggested a public hearing to discover how the public feels about PARCC. The committee decided to plan a public hearing for the June meeting.
 11. Meeting with FinCom: Johanna met with the Wendell FinCom and has been keeping them informed.
 12. Identification of School Choice Seats: Kelley is in the process of deciding how many school choice seats are available
 13. Establish Regional Transportation Fund: The committee decided to table this until Bob returns.
 14. Policy Update and Review: John moved and Johanna seconded to accept KBBA-Children and Non-Custodial Parents policy as amended. The committee agreed unanimously. John moved to accept ADDA: CORI Requirements policy as amended. Johanna seconded and the committee approved unanimously. The ADF: Wellness Policy was tabled until next meeting.
 15. Carla moved to adjourn at 8:30. Jack seconded and the committee agreed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary