

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FINAL Minutes  
September 3, 2015

PRESENT: John DeWitt, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Lisa Aubin, Trudy Smith, teachers; Aaron Osborne, U28 Director of Finance; David Briand, probable new member of committee.

1. Jennifer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Reorganization of the committee: Carla moved that Johanna be chair of the committee. John D. seconded and the committee approved, AIF with one abstention (Johanna). Carla moved for Jessalyn to be secretary of the committee. Melissa seconded and the committee approved AIF with one abstention (Jess). Johanna took over the meeting from here.
3. Approval of minutes: Carla moved to approve the minutes from June 4, 2015. John D. seconded and the committee approved AIF with one abstention (Melissa). John D. moved to approve the minutes from June 29, 2015. Jack F. seconded and the committee approved AIF with one abstention (Melissa).
4. Warrants: 404, 405, 804, 805, 4040, 4050, 4051, 4052, 8040, 8050, 4006, 4007, 4008, 8004.
5. Mahar: Carla reported that the former principal took a position in Worcester; there are now 2 co. principals. There is also a new full time SPED teacher. She noted that grades 7,8 and 10 would receive Chromebooks to use everyday. Another addition is that there would be virtual high school classes available for juniors and seniors. Carla announced that the summer program was successful and the school is trying a new transition program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and a new algebra program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The DESE review was completed with no surprises. Carla informed the committee that the budget was passed and the strategic plan accepted but the Mahar Committee still needs to review and approve the student handbook. Also, there is a new union president, Chris Bailey. On another note the dam repair is still waiting on permitting. Last Carla informed the committee that there would be a presentation at Mahar on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m. about opiate abuse. Johanna added that Bruce Mitchell is the new student monitor.
6. Principal's Report: Kelley informed the committee that the enrollment is now at 162 students. She explained that there was lots of work completed in the school during the summer. Carla noted how nice the new paint looked. Also there are several new staff members; Michael Cortina (music), Nathan Gaetano (PE), Rachel Vitello (OT), Carla Becker (PT), Robyn Vitello (PK Para), Ciji Cody (2<sup>nd</sup> grade Para), Barrett Grazioso (food service director), and Mike Fenton (part time custodian). Also the school now has 2 interactive projectors, one for each of the Pre-K and K classrooms. Last, during the summer the school had a successful summer program for special education students.

7. Superintendents Report: Jennifer told the committee that she attended the ice cream social last week at the school to meet some of the students. She announced that opening day went well and noted that the central office staff is interested in visiting the schools. She also informed the committee that the leadership team is focusing on well-structured lessons, adjustment to practice professional learning and growth. Jennifer shared her entry plan with the committee and also informed the committee that Governor Baker is waiting to get the report of the results from PARCC and vote in November to keep or reject the test.
8. Parking lot safety update: Kelley noted that the New Salem selectboard did not give permission for fencing on Wendell Road. Dave voiced his concern on this issue. Kelley noted that the children know their boundaries very well and are not allowed to play in the field if they are not respectful of the boundaries. Johanna noted that the committee is unable to take the issue any further after being denied by the selectboard.
9. MCAS/PARCC: Carla noted the committee would like to set a date to host a meeting where stakeholders can discuss standardized testing as well any questions/concerns they may have. John D. moved to schedule a community forum for approximately January 15, 2016 to discuss standardized testing with families. Jack seconded and the committee approved AIF.
10. Family Handbook: John D. moved to accept the student handbook with edits and additions. Carla seconded and the committee approved AIF.
11. Home School Request: Carla noted that she felt uncomfortable with the Mahar/Morin home school request due to lack of sufficient information submitted. She stated that she was not antagonistic toward homeschooling, but cannot in good conscious sign off on the plan as it is. It is too sparse and needs to be more comprehensive. John D. moved to not approve the plan and request additional information. Carla seconded. John D withdrew the motion. After much discussion by the committee John D. moved to approve the homeschool request for Mahar/Morin but request additional information. Jessalyn seconded and the committee approved on a vote of 4 in favor to 2 opposed (Carla and Melissa). John D. moved to approve the Misra homeschool request. Melissa seconded and the committee approved AIF.
12. SIP: Jennifer noted the school improvement plan is a well-rounded plan. Johanna acknowledged the plan.
13. Policy Update: Suspension policy – Jennifer recommended to update the suspension plan to be in accordance with the law. KFB: Use of facilities – 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
14. Finance: Aaron Osborne reported that the school ended the year within budget. The committee viewed the FY15/16 budget and Aaron explained a bit about it.
15. Dick moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Jack seconded and the committee approved AIF.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessalyn Zaykoski, Committee Secretary