

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
October 8, 2015

PRESENT: Johanna Bartlett, chair; John DeWitt, Dick Baldwin,, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, David Briand, John Fitzgerald, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendant; Carolyn Croteau, Beth Haggerty, teachers; Aaron Osborne, U28 Director of Finance.; Barrett Grazioso, food service director; Mike Yohan,, prior committee chair.

1. Public Hearings: Barrett Grazioso, the new food service director presented a delicious soup to the committee. She spoke of how she is offering healthier options for children at lunch, cooking from scratch as much as possible and offering fresh vegetables. She noted that children are coming up for seconds and beginning to try new choices. Ms. Croteau spoke of S'cool Moves, a program of activities developed to help children focus. She did a wonderful demonstration for the committee showing a few of the "moves". Ms. Haggerty shared news of the 6th grade trip to Morse Hill, a ropes course the children attend for a day in the beginning of the school year. She explained how great it was for the children to work together and really get to know each other. The committee presented a cake and a plaque to Mike for his service on the committee.
2. Warrants: Bill: 4016, 4017, 4018, 4019, 8006. Payroll: 407, 408, 807, 808, 4015, 4070, 4071, 4072, 4080, 8070, 8080.
3. Superintendants Report: Jennifer first spoke about PARCC and MCAS noting that some initial data was out showing that in the overall results children who took the computer version of PARCC met less of the expectations for the test than those who took the paper version of the MCAS. Jen announced a charter school update. The state released the new cap on charter schools, which is 12 new schools per year. The state said this was an act to improve and expand education. She also spoke about the homeschooling regulations noting that local oversight does allow school authorities to oversee home school requests but it is also important to respect parent's rights.
4. Review of Expenditures: Aaron presented the budget for this FY showing how little has changed and salaries are relatively even. He then spoke about the importance of completing purchase orders for every order as well as keeping a record of all cash which comes in the building, especially lunch money, etc. He said he is in the process of putting a system in order.
5. Principals Report: Kelley announced there are now 162 children at Swift River and the influx is students from NS/W, not choice. She said the science fair kickoff and open house went well. She discovered a leak in the roof during heavy rain, but Titus came and repaired the leak (as well as a couple others) and will return in the spring for a full assessment of the roof. The roof is still under warranty. Kelley said that the benchmark data is completed, teacher evaluation meetings are this week and fire drills, lockdown drills and bus evacuation drills have been completed.

6. Collaborative: Melissa reported that the Collaborative reorganized with Dan Hayes as chair. They discussed school choice and charter schools. She noted that she did not realize how large of an organization that CES was. Jennifer added that it does wonderful things for schools and teachers. Johanna added that there was a presentation on social justices at the meeting. She also added that there is an Opiate Presentation at Mahar on October 13th at 7:45 A.M.
7. B&P: Jess reported that the meeting was very small. The committee was supposed to reorganize however there were not enough members so they will reorganize next meeting. She noted that Jennifer did a nice presentation for the committee about the new Superintendant Evaluations, which will be presented to the U28 committee this month.
8. U28: Dick reported Kevin Courtney was present as Jennifer's mentor. Johanna added that the committee decided not to have a U28 policy committee unless needed. She also added that Scott Bastarache is in the process of talking to the town of Erving about renovations for the U28 office, which is leased from the town. This is a two front approach, one front is about fixing the building up (paint, rugs, etc) and the second front is about security.
9. Mahar: Carla reported that the committee reorganized. She also noted there was a report from student council. Which spoke of the reader-to-reader program, a program set up to help kids attend college who do not have any family who has attended college. She told the committee that the MCAS results were mixed. She then spoke about the Techbooks program noting that middle school students have Chromebooks and are using the program, but this is very difficult for students with limited/no internet access at home. She also noted that children were signing up for the virtual high school program. Lastly she said the Mahar Committee was doing a walkthrough of Mahar and members of the NS/W Committee were welcome.
10. Home school request: Jennifer passed out additional information to the committee of the Maher/Morin request and the committee felt satisfied with the request.
11. CEP: Aaron presented the CEP program, which provides free lunch for all children. It is a federally funded program. John D. moved that the School Committee authorize the Superintendant or Director of Finance & Operations to sign a commitment for Swift River School to participate in the Community Eligibility Program during the course of the 2015-16 school year. Carla seconded and the committee approved unanimously.
12. Standardized testing: Johanna asked the committee what they thought a forum to discuss standardized testing would look like. She wanted the committees' opinion before contacting Glenn Koocher. Carla asked if there was statistics recording the efficacy of standardized testing. John D. wondered if the testing burden can be reduced, Johanna wanted parents to get involved and see what their ideas may be and Melissa spoke of hearing from teachers.

13. Policy: KFB- Use of Facilities: John D. moved to adopt the KFB-Use of Facilities policy. Carla seconded. AIF.
14. Minutes: Carla moved to approve minutes from September 3, 2015. Melissa seconded. AIF with 1 abstention (John F).
15. John D moved to go into executive session for approval of minutes and outside placement. Jack seconded. AIF

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary