

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

PRESENT: Johanna Bartlett, chair; Dick Baldwin, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, David Briand, John Fitzgerald, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Nan Mead, school nurse; Aaron Osborne, U28 Director of Finance; Horace Liversidge, parent of child being homeschooled.

Johanna called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Warrants:

- a. Bill- 4025, 4026, 4027, 8008.
- b. Payroll- 411, 412, 810, 811, 4110, 4111, 4112, 4120, 8100, 8110.

Student/Teacher Presentation: Nan spoke to the committee about the success of the 100-mile club. She announced that there have already been 48 t-shirts presented. They club has so far reached 16% of their yearly goal. Also Nan was happy to announce that the club was awarded a \$500 leadership grant from the New Balance Foundation to use toward the Run for Kids at Mahar.

Superintendent Report: Jennifer was proud to announce that the PARCC results are in and Swift River is still a Level 1 school with their scores being in the 99th percentile. Next she spoke about how meaningful the professional development sessions have been for teachers. Another useful tool that Jennifer has been using is the Superintendents Round Table where she can discuss issues with the teachers that they feel are important, this has led to wonderful discussion. Jennifer also noted that she attended 2 publishing parties to listen to the amazing writing at Swift River School. Lastly she spoke about how pleased she has been working with Kelley on observations and feedback stating that the relationship between the teachers and the children is fantastic and fluid.

Director of Finance and Operations Report: Aaron reported that many of the staff salary positions were low relative to other U28 schools. He presented a chart demonstrating the pay rate discrepancy on average as well as potential new pay rates for these positions to bring them in line with other schools. The committee mainly agreed that there was a price discrepancy and will review the information for their next meeting. Aaron then spoke about a potential 10% increase in the budget for FY17 due mainly to several drivers, which cannot be altered. Aaron recommended establishing a budget subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing and recommending a budget for approval of the School Committee as a whole on February 2016. Carla nominated John D (although he was not present at the meeting) and John F. volunteered for the committee.

Homeschool Application: Mr. Liversidge attended the meeting. Carla moved to approve the Liversidge/Alden application, John F. seconded, and the committee approved AIF.

Principals Report: Kelley affirmed that enrollment is still at 162. She spoke about how Nan organized Thanksgiving food baskets for 9 families in need in the school community. She noted that Wendell hosted the Gobble Wobble, which donated its proceeds to the food pantry at the school and in turn helped feed these families. She also noted that the Swift River staff is holding a raffle whose proceeds are going towards gifts for those in need. Carla spoke of how

proud she is to be part of an organization that really cares. Johanna added that community like this is a reason not to regionalize, "We have something very special and it is not something you get in a region." Kelley then spoke of how the student writing has been, "truly amazing". She also added that she has started data meetings with the teachers in order to discuss all the data they have been collecting and what to do with it. The Winter Concert is on December 21st at 1:30 p.m., usually a standing only event! Lastly Kelley added that the plumbing is over 40 years old, the pipes are narrowing due to hard water buildup and there may be some repairs in the future.

Collaborative: Melissa reported that most of the meeting was focused on the audit, which was completed. She noted that the Director of Finance resigned and the remainder of the meeting was used discussing logistics. She added that the collaborative no longer has the building in Whately so now are looking for another building to use for meetings every other month. Kelley recommended the Sunderland Library Meeting Room noting it was quite large.

B&P: No meeting; as needed basis.

U28: No meeting, next meeting in January will be Jennifer's mid cycle review.

Mahar: Carla reported that the Mahar Student Council is doing a sock drive noting that there are many clothing and toy drives, but socks are not often collected and always necessary. The student council will be attending a meeting for student councils in Oregon in 2016. She also added that Mahar is adding 3 new classes to their course catalog; AP Physics, AP Environmental Science, and Financial Algebra. Carla noted that the staff had training on teaching students in poverty and the girls soccer team won the Western Mass Sportsmanship Award.

Forum on Testing: Johanna spoke to the committee about the caucus for information about testing which will be at Swift River School on January 14th at 5:00 p.m. The committee then discussed a bit about the next generation MCAS, supposedly a combination of the best of PARCC and MCAS. Kelley noted that teachers have concerns about the impact of assessment. She said some teachers would like to speak at the forum, but would like to discuss this with the committee first. The school committee meeting will begin early next month to accommodate this request.

Policy:

- a.KE- Complaint Procedure: Melissa moved to approve as amended. Jack second and the committee approves AIF.
- b. JIC-Student Discipline: Jess moved to approve, Melissa seconds and the committee approves AIF.
- c. Johanna thanks the policy committee for their hard work.

Minutes: Carla moved to approve the minutes from November 5, 2015, Jack seconded. There is a friendly amendment by Dick and the committee approves AIF.

Carla moved to adjourn, Jess seconds and the committee approves AIF. The meeting is adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessalyn Zaykoski, Committee Secretary