

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
February 5, 2015

PRESENT: Mike Yohan, John DeWitt, Dick Baldwin, Johanna Bartlett, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, John Fitzgerald, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, members; Robert Mahler, Superintendent; Tina Newman, Jennylou Powers, teachers; Matt Galman, U28 accountant.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Public Hearings: Tina Newman introduced the new Student Council, which she is advising. Members of the council reported that they have placed a donation jar in Wendell Country Store and have collected over \$100 so far. The council also has started a "word of the month" for the school. This month the word is "inspire". Another fundraiser the council initiated is a spirit day every month to raise funds for school activities. This month the money is going toward field trips. They have raised \$194. Another activity the council is working on is making "love boxes" for the Athol Nursing Home.
3. January 8, 2015 minutes: On a motion from Johanna and seconded by Dick, the committee unanimously approved the minutes.
4. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill - 4536, 4537, 4538, 8512.
 - b. Payroll - 415, 416, 815, 816, 4150, 4160, 4161, 4162, 8150, 8160.
5. Mahar - Carla reported that there will be a series of informational meetings for parents about PARCC. There is also a new drug awareness program for parents. She noted that the transportation money that was previously revoked will be restored to the school, however it is still unclear what the amount will be. Carla said there were new computer and math programs voted in as well as a nondiscrimination policy. The committee is still discussing a later start time for students in the morning as well as a later start date (September vs. August).
6. Collaborative: Mike reported that he had dinner with some of the local superintendents. Then there was a presentation from CES about their early childhood services. He said this was very good and they provide lots of professional development for early childhood. He presented a spreadsheet showing all the services that CES provides to schools. He also reported that the executive director evaluation process has begun and the executive director has submitted an action plan for the next year.
7. Principal's Report: Kelley announced that there were 3 new students enrolled this month and 2 students transferred out of the school. She said she sent out a survey to families about the robocalls last month and reported that 95% of families are receiving the calls. She also started sending out an email reporting cancellations or delays. The fifth grade set up arcade games based on books they had read. A parent volunteer, Jody Bird, brought Destination Imagination to Swift River. Destination Imagination is team of learners who compete in tournaments. There is currently a Kindergarten and a 3rd grade

- team. The first tournament will be in March. Kelley reported that the science fair is coming up in March. Next year it may be changed to the fall because March is a very busy time of year with testing, weather, etc. Lastly the new security system is officially completed and all teachers have a FOB to unlock the front door.
8. Superintendent's Report: Bob reported that the new superintendent will be Jennifer Haggerty and she will begin on July 1, 2015, pending negotiations. Bob spoke about how he makes his decisions on school closings and delays noting that safety is always the first priority. Bob also spoke about the Leadership Team and how helpful these meetings have been. The Leadership Team is an opportunity for Union 28 principals to meet and discuss a topic relevant to their individual teaching practice. Bob also reported that U28 was audited by the state for Special Ed and Civil Rights components. SRS (and the whole Union) did remarkably well under the audit with only a few minor changes to make. Carla said that she thinks it is really great that the state evaluates these components in the school.
 9. Review of Expenditure Report: Matt reported that everything is going well. He also reported that he signed on to an 18-month contract with Major Energy for 8.1 cents per kwh.
 10. NS/W FY16 Budget: Matt reported that he was able to get the budget under \$2 million. Once the committee reviewed the budget there was a lengthy discussion about the danger of becoming too reliant on school choice monies. This conversation will be resumed next month. John D. moved to recommend the Swift River budget to the amount of \$1,999,907. Carla seconded this and the committee unanimously accepted the motion.
 11. Community Action Award: The committee had a difficult decision and 4 wonderful candidates for this award. They voted Kathy Chamberlain as the recipient of the 2015 Community Action Award.
 12. Policy Update and Review: Johanna moved to accept the IHBG-R – Home School Policy and John F. seconded this motion. The committee unanimously agreed. Johanna moved to accept the ACAB – Prohibition on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Hazing and Bullying policy as amended. Carla seconded this motion and the committee unanimously agreed. John D moved to accept the ADDA: CORI requirements policy as amended, including changing “not less than” to “at least”. Carla seconded this and the committee unanimously agreed. The ADF: Wellness Policy was tabled until next month. John D. noted that he would like to see the goal about “promoting partnerships between health education resources...” moved nearer the top of the policy.
 13. Mike moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. and Johanna seconded. The committee unanimously agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary