

THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FINAL Minutes
May 7, 2015

PRESENT: Mike Yohan, John DeWitt, Johanna Bartlett, Jessalyn Zaykoski, Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, John Fitzgerald, Jack Radner, Melissa Burke, Dick Baldwin, members; Bob Mahler, Superintendent; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Upcoming Superintendent; Carolyn Croteau, Teacher; David Briand, Parent.

1. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Public Hearings: David Briand presented before the committee his concern about the absence of any safe demarcation of 2 areas around the track. The first is between the parking lot and the south end of the track, the second is the area where the track parallels Wendell Road. He suggested that for the area between the parking lot and the south end of the track either cement blocks or large boulders be installed on the parking lot side of the fence. This would prevent any cars from breaching the fence and potentially injuring children. He suggested that a mesh fence be installed between the track and Wendell Road as a barrier to keep children from entering the road. He offered to help in any way he could to get these 2 areas of concern mended and noted that these were 2 low cost solutions to defer an "accident waiting to happen". The committee agreed with Mr. Briand, decided boulders may be a better choice aesthetically to mesh with the landscape of the school, and decided to move forward with the project.
3. April 2, 2015 minutes: On a motion from Johanna and a second from Jessalyn the minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Warrants signed:
 - a. Bill: 4550, 4551, 4552, 4553, 4554, 4555, 8516.
 - b. Payroll: 421, 422, 423, 821, 822, 823, 4210, 4220, 4221, 4222, 4230, 8210, 8220, 8230.
5. Mahar: Carla reported that there was a presentation about the graduation rates from Mahar. The graduation rates were in the 70's, however the guidance councilors at the meeting noted that these were not the true rates because these rates did not include children attending the Gateway program, a program designed to help students graduate in 5 years if they could not graduate in 4 years. Johanna also noted that Mahar was evaluated by DESE and there were no areas of major concern.
6. Budget and Personnel: Johanna reported that there was a meeting about the Finance Director position. She added that the committee discussed raising the salary for the position to attract more eligible applicants. They plan to discuss this at the next meeting.
7. Principal's Report: Kelley announced that the Wendell Open Space Committee gave \$8,000 to the school for green projects. This came from proceeds from the logging on the Phelps land, a piece of land granted to the town in the late 1800's. The family stipulated that proceeds from logging go

- to local schools. Kelley also told the committee that Lisa Aubin ran into Bobby Curley from the North Quabbin Train Association and mentioned the Swift River Nature Trail. Mr. Curley offered to bring in Americorps to repair the trail. Kelley also noted that the science fair will be around the 2nd week of November with the kickoff at the Open House. She noted that the teachers agreed fall was a good time for the fair. Kelley also spoke to the committee about her idea of opening the computer lab to the public after school. She said this would be a chance for the school to give back to the towns.
8. Superintendent's Report: Bob first thanked Ms. Haggarty for attending the School Committee meetings. He noted that the FY 2016 budget has been passed in 3 of 5 towns so far. He spoke about the start of a transportation fund, instead of putting the money in E&D. Johanna moved to start a Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund and Carla seconded the motion. The committee approved unanimously. Bob noted that Melissa Murphy in HR spoke to the insurance company and discovered that staff can have the option of life insurance policy up to \$50,000 if the school committee votes approval. Johanna moved to offer staff a life insurance policy of up to \$50,000 if they choose. John D. seconded this motion and the committee approved unanimously. Another area Bob spoke about was his desire to install a Maker Lab in the school as a technology component. This lab would eventually contain a 3D printer. This would allow children to create an item and then print it! The school received a grant of \$3,750 from Lowes Home Improvement to begin a Maker Lab.
 9. Review of Expenditure Report: Kelley reported we are tight at the end of the year, but still in line.
 10. Academic Calendar: John D. moved to approve the FY2016 academic calendar as amended, including the change of the second curriculum day to May 6th. Johanna seconded this and the committee agreed unanimously.
 11. School Choice: Johanna moved to be a school of choice this year, Alyssa seconded the committee approved, AIF with 1 abstention.
 12. Longevity: Tabled until next month.
 13. PARCC vs. MCAS; Johanna reported that Glenn Kutcher is willing to meet with the union regarding questions about these tests.
 14. Future Business: Discuss a subcommittee for school choice.
 15. Johanna moved to go into executive session for contract negotiation. Carla seconded and the committee approved AIF.
 16. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessalyn Zaykoski
Committee Secretary