

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FINAL Minutes

November 5, 2015

PRESENT: Johanna Bartlett, Chair; Carla Halpern, Alyssa Rulf-Fountain, Melissa Burke, David Briand, Dick Baldwin, John Fitzgerald and Jack Radner, members; Kelley Sullivan, Principal; Danika Tyminski and Tina Newman, teachers; parents and student council members.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Johanna Bartlett.

Public Hearings – There were no public hearings.

Warrants – The following warrants were distributed and signed by the school committee members: Bill 4021, 4022, 4023, 4024 and 8007. Payroll 409, 410, 809, 4090, 4091, 4092, 4100 and 8090.

Student/Teacher Presentation – 5th grade teacher, Danika Tyminski reported on her students working on exercises in “mindfulness” based on a San Francisco program. These activities include walking the nature trail in complete silence followed by processing of the event, and participating in guided meditations. The exercise are intended to help students regulate their feelings, thoughts and bodies.

Tina Newman, 4th grade teacher introduced this year’s Student Council. Officers are Cirdan Kearns, Treasurer; Clair Thayer, President; Liam DiDonato, Secretary and Hannah Town, Vice President. The students reported on their activities, including writing to Touch of Home Soldiers and packing boxes of items for the soldiers and seeing where the boxes went. They are participating in Buddy Table, where student council members sit at a single table and welcome students to sit with them if they are alone. They will have Spirit Days once a month, and just had Pajama Day on November 6th. They will be collecting cans of food for Thanksgiving baskets, and their fundraisers will include selling bracelets, bake sales, fall baskets at FallFest. They have also created a mission statement.

Superintendent’s Report – The Superintendent was not present, therefore no report was given.

Director of Finance and Operations Report – Aaron Osborne was not present and therefore, no report given.

Principal’s Report – Kelley reported that the 100 Mile Club sponsored the Mustache Dash 5K Run to kick off PTCA’s Fall Fest festivities. Teachers and support staff participated in a successful curriculum day at Leverett Elementary School. Second graders presented their Air Movers, after spending weeks studying weather and being visited by Jennifer Paigeli from Channel 22News. Parent/teacher conferences were held in October and November, with the PTCA generously arranging for Dinner Angels to provide dinners for teachers during evening conferences. Larry and Walter are working on preparing the building for winter. The local fire departments have been walking the track with students on Wednesday nights; in response to the

earlier darkness, last Wednesday Firemen Dan showed up with glow sticks for all to light up the field while they walked.

Committee Reports - Collaborative for Education Services – Johanna reported on the progress of the Forum on Standardized which will be held at Swift River on January 14th. Teachers, parents, Principal and Superintendent will be panel members, and Glenn Koocher, Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee Members, will moderate the discussion. The intention is to invite interested members of the education community, including CES and Division 5, as well as members of the press. School Committee members discussed possible members of the panel as well as possible configurations. Alyssa expressed concern that the panel present a balance view, not just a venting session but an informational session. Melissa stressed the importance of arriving at practical action steps. Johanna believes that Glenn will be able to offer the necessary information on all aspects of the testing controversy.

Joint Supervisory Union #28 – Dick Baldwin reported that Jen had presented a PowerPoint on Superintendent Evaluation, goals, and Rubrics. Dan Hayes asked that members stay alert and more active outside of our individual towns as to what is going on in education in the state. Dick also reported that the Shutesbury custodian has been out sick and the whole school has been proudly pitching in to keep it clean. Also, there was a discussion of Central Office security. Doors are now locked and visitors must ring a bell in order to be admitted.

October Items – Policy Update and Review – KFB Use of Facilities policy was approved as a final policy. There will be one more reading of the Public Complaint policy (KE) and a final vote in December. There will be one more reading of the Student Discipline policy (JIC) and final vote in December.

Future Business – The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be on December 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. followed by the School Committee at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – The minutes of October 8, 2015 were amended. The minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Carla and seconded by Dick. Vote 7/0/1 with Alyssa abstaining.

On a motion by Carla and seconded by Alyssa, the committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Kelley Sullivan, Principal Swift River School