

New Salem/Wendell School Committee
 THURSDAY, February 2, 2023, 7:00 PM FINAL MINUTES
 Via GOOGLE MEET

Attending: [Kate Woodward](#), Mandy Blackbird, Steven Blinder, Carla Halpern, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Elizabeth Devlin, Miriam Warner, members; Corrina Wcislo, director of student support services; Caitlin Sheridan, director of finance and operations; Jen Culkeen, superintendent, Kelley Sullivan, principal

Teacher: Rachael Basdekis, Paige Smith, Gosia Spooner

Pubic: Samatha Weaver, Dara LaPlante, Molly Bremner

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Public Hearings - none

Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

Accounts Payable:

2816	1/12/2023	\$2,089.44
2817	1/26/2023	\$506.28

4034	1/12/2023	\$5,037.50
4035	1/12/2023	\$28,955.86
4036	1/26/2023	\$478.67
4037	1/26/2023	\$2,437.49
4038	1/31/2023	\$1,470.60

Payroll:

414	1/5/2023	\$86,480.50
415	1/19/2023	\$85,079.31
416	2/2/2023	\$86,945.66

815	1/19/2023	\$28,005.62
816	2/2/2023	\$27,982.33

8150	1/19/2023	\$94855.22
8215	1/18/2023	\$678.45
8152	1/19/2023	\$47,818.32
8151	1/19/2023	36634.67
8160	2/2/2023	\$96,474.71

Superintendent's Report

- The budget has been approved as of January y30th
- Continuing to work on budgets for four schools and working with Finc Com and Selectboards of 5 towns
- Aaron Saunders (rep) reached out to discuss PFAS issue, legislative and financial.
 - Will be visiting with people from Boston on Feb 10, 2023
- Sent out U28 quarterly newsletter
- Four rural aides, rural school reports required by DESE completed
- Amendments submitted to SOA - comprehensive updates from student opportunity act plans revised from 2021
 - Addiotnal ESSER funding
- DESE has a new IEP improvement act
 - New guidelines, updating IEP forms
- Readiness and emergency school training offering new training

Director of Finance and Operations Report

- U28 budget approved, no longer drafts
- The wellness advisory council met
 - Assess practices and policies for all aspects of student health
- Attending Mass Association of Financial Directors

Principal's Report

- Pumps for heater replaced
- Worked with custodial staff to remove downed trees on nature trails and around playgrounds
 - Grounds are safe again
- Updating the capital improvement plan
 - Challenging to get quotes from companies
- Collaboration with the fire department for hot chocolate and bonfire night on February 10
- Sheriff's office coming in to do reading with Pre-school
- Thanks to the DPW of both towns for keeping the driveways open and the roads of the towns safe
- Question: should the school get a generator? Shared expense between the towns
 - The is an ongoing discussion
 - Currently not eligible for grant funding for one
- Question: Is there a plan for alternative sites if the school closes for extended periods?
 - Blizzard bag days no longer count as school days
 - Physical relocation is not a completed plan - many factors
 - The days will need to be made up, possibly over a vacation

Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - January 12 Meeting
 - Review for school improvement
 - Grant updates
 - Special education
 - Moving to a 4-period day and adding five new classes
 - E&D certification for FY22
 - Wendell will receive 14,098, New Salem 15,818 in returned excess funding
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - CES board meeting happened, encouraging people to write a letter regarding private school reimbursement funding net
 - Joy and Justice team expanded
 - Good upcoming workshops and conferences
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
 - Update on the state accountability system
 - SOA - where there are deficiencies, specifically in the area of disabilities
 - Cost of transportation
 - Support of schools accepting migrant students
 - Include school leaders in IGGA
 -

Joint Supervisory

- Budget voted and approved
- Jen shared the start of work with Collins Center regarding efficiencies; the study will last for 6 months

– Next Meeting – March 20, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

H. February Items

- Regionalization Committee Representatives – Discussion and Vote
 - Update from DESE and Legal Counsel
 - In order to change articles of agreement regarding the language of the Swift River School

- agreement, the towns will need to file special legislation with the state
- Mahar gets the regional transportation funds for the towns; for Swift River, the individual towns get the funds
- Swift River is similar to all other regional school districts apart from the transportation funding, and there is a difference in the rules regarding the budget for two towns if there is no agreement
- Reimbursement comes after each town has submitted the End of year report
- There are some advantages to regionalizing traditionally, especially with personnel turnover and learning the way a two-town region functions
- Swift River can apply for grants as a region

o FY24 NSW Draft Budget

- Question about Professional Development Funding
 - Those funds are usually central office funds
 - Each school has a different PD funding line, recently from ESSER
- The curriculum coordinator position explained
- No changes to the budget since last month, it has just been approved and is no longer Draft
 - Admin portion is mainly U28, small increases mainly, overall 3.4%
 - Instruction based on new contracts -8.7% increase
 - Other school services - accounts have shifted with new budgeting projections - 23.2% increase
 - Biggest change to the budget is Special Education for Mass Schools
 - Reimbursement and circuit breaker money will come in in future years to offset the incurred expense
- Wendell town treasury requested of a committee member if there is a possibility to add a buffer to the transportation line to avoid needing to call special town meetings to adjust the funding as needed
- No official vote taken

o In-Person NSW meetings – Discussion and Vote

- Beth moves to return to in-person meetings in April; Anna seconded, Beth withdrew motion
- Beth moves to return to in-person meetings in March, and Steve seconds
 - Vote taken by roll, the vote fails with unanimous nay. Will return to in-person meetings in the media center in April

o 2023 Swift River Community Action Award Recipient – Discussion, Nomination, and Vote Policy

- Nominee list started

Update and Review:

First Reading on:

- DBJ-1 – Regional School District Budget Transfer Authority
- DGA-1 – Regional School District Authorized Signatures
- DH-1 – Regional District bonded Employees and Officers
- DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
- DIE-1 – Regional School District Audit*
- DJ – Purchasing*

Second Reading, First Vote on:

- JEB – Entrance Age
 - AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- JICK – Harassment of Students
- DD – Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects
- DBC – Budget Deadlines
- DBD – Budget Planning
- DBG-1 – Regional School Budget Adoption Procedures

Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote; Beth seconds - vote taken by roll, passes unanimously

Anna moves to conduct the first vote on all policies; Beth seconds - vote taken by roll, passes unanimously

o ACAB – Sexual Harassment Policy - still being worked on. Not to be voted on this evening

I. Future Business

o Next Meeting Date – March 2, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

o New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – March 2, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

J. Approval of Minutes:

o January 5, 2023

Beth moves to approve the minutes, and Mandy seconded - vote taken by roll, passes with one abstention

K. Adjournment

Beth moves to adjourn, Elizabeth seconded - motion passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM