

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, April 6, 2023

Swift River School- 7:00 p.m. FINAL MINUTES

Attending: Steven Blinder, Carla Halpern, Miriam Warner, Mandy Blackbird, Kate Woodward, Elizabeth Devlin, Barbara Doyle, Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby (minutes); Kelley Sullivan, principal; Jennifer Culkeen, superintendent; Caitlin Sheridan, director of finance and operations

Teachers: Tina Newman, Patty Savage,

Public: Nancy Slator

A. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

B. Public Hearings

o FY24 Budget

Large increase to budget - looked over carefully for any places to make reductions

o Other Public Hearings

None

C. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

Accounts Payable:

2820	3/10/2023	\$1,400.46
2821	3/24/2023	\$599.84
2822	4/7/2023	\$501.31

4044	2/28/2023	\$477.21
4045	3/1/2023	\$264.00
4046	3/10/2023	\$748.49
4047	3/10/2023	\$14,164.84
4048	3/24/2023	\$3,266.91
4850	3/24/2023	\$23,317.60
4851	4/7/2023	\$1,386.92
4852	4/7/2023	\$34,583.22
4053	3/31/2023	\$614.57
4054	4/7/2023	\$600.00

Payroll:

419	3/16/2023	\$91,095.58
420	3/30/2023	\$86,935.40

819	3/16/2023	\$28,005.40
-----	-----------	-------------

820	3/30/2023	\$28,019.02
-----	-----------	-------------

8190	3/16/2023	\$99,304.33
8200	3/30/2023	\$101,432.49
8201	3/30/2023	\$52,654.01
8202	3/30/2023	\$51,474.07

D. Superintendent's Report

- Updates on Federal grants
 - Title 2 a 104 - \$3,935, new \$37 now \$ 3,972
 - Title 1 305 \$29,444 new \$41 now \$29,485
 - SPED IDEA 240- \$50,695 new \$227; now \$50,922
 - Early child 262 3036, new 12 3048
 - Steve moves to accept the new allocations as read; Elizabeth seconds - new allocations approved with unanimous vote
 - New student progress report - original plan in 2020, update in 2021, a new progress report submitted on Friday, March 31
 - Four commitments to improve direct areas of
 - High needs students
 - Students with disabilities
 - Increasing Tier 1 instruction for all students through UDL
 - Focusing goals on these efforts
 - More effort on intentionality in tier 2 and 3
 - Evidence-based Programs to close gaps
 - Literacy and math
 - UDL in practice
 - Science of reading
 - Access content at the level of the students with their peers
 - Targeted reading instruction
 - DESE outcome metrics reviewed and assessed for closing gaps
 - Engaging all families
 - Critical for ensuring success for all students
 - Practices were reviewed to be more accessible to all families

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- FY22 End of Year Report Audit
 - Swift River has locked in 9,000 gallons of heating fuel for next winter at a rate of \$2.93 (\$2.9287) per gallon. Last year we locked in at \$3.65 (\$3.6456) per gallon.
 - SRS has used approx 9,000 gallons this year and is over the \$21,000 budget by almost \$10,000. If next winter is comparable to this, we will only have expended about \$26,000 with the rate we have locked in.
 - Budgeted \$30,000 for fuel for next year.
 - Elizabeth moves to allow the chair to sign the audit engagement letter, Barabaa seconds, passes unanimously
 - Caitlin has registered for the School Project Designers and Owner's Project Managers Certification class through the Office of the Inspector General in May
 - Caitlin can apply for Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official designation at the end of this four-day class
 - Being MCPPO certified will allow Caitlin to understand the procurement process better and help navigate capital projects.
 - SR was awarded a grant for \$100,000 from the Department of Environmental Protection for the PFAS system. The grant will assist with the design, permitting, and installation of a PFAS treatment system using anion exchange resin to add to the applicant's existing drinking water

treatment system. The advertisement for bids has been posted, and any bids will be unsealed on April 14.

F. Principal's Report

- Tina Newman organized "Bake for Good" with King Arthur Flour and taught students 4-6 how to bake bread, cinnamon rolls, and pizza crust and provided students with flours and scraper
- Completed MCAS for English
- Wrapping up Parent-teacher conferences
 - Thanks to Dinner Angels for the food donations
- Thanks to New Salem General Store for Nature's Classroom fundraiser
 - Held raffle for a \$100 gift card to the store, raised \$550
- Custodians getting ready for winter clean up over April vacation
- Hired new nurse, Carol Richard

G. Committee Reports

o Report from Mahar Representatives

- Enrolment discussions - many families still home schooling
- Looking to keep the school choice out numbers down
- Maintaining enrolment and not losing students to tech school
 - Cannot offer duplicate courses as the tech school
- Next year's schedule - MCAS falls during Ramadan,
 - Looking for information from Muslim families
 - Similar concerns for events happening on Jewish holidays
- Social Justice League, Peer Coaching, Mahar Pride, all very positive and supportive

o Collaborative for Education Services

- Held public tours of the buildings

o Massachusetts Association of School Committees

- Superintendent Evaluation workshop on April 14 at 12:00
- May 4 - [Day on the Hill](#)
 - Request that Committee members become more involved in participating in these events

o Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – May 15, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

- Meet on March 27 - Jen presented her mid-cycle report
- Will present a final update on goals on May 15

H. March Items

o Amend the minutes for the November 3, 2022, NSW School Committee meeting

- Elizabeth moves to amend the minutes from November 3, 2022; Mandy seconds; passes with two abstentions: amended minutes from November [located here](#)

o FY24 NSW Budget - Final Adoption of Budget -

- U28 Funding levels cannot be changed
- Review of the reductions where they could be made
 - Big reductions on fuel and power
 - Overall reductions - approx. 22,000
- Increase on Chapter 70 by 137,800
- Total use of funding 12.51% increase
 - New Salem 14.1 % increase
 - Wendell 7.1 % increase
- Elizabeth moves to approve the budget; Beth seconds; the budget passes unanimously

- o 2023 Swift River Community Action Award Recipient –
 - Two nominees were presented and discussed
 - Beth moves to have the award go to, Mandy seconds
 - Motion withdrawn
 - Vote of two was taken with 3 abstentions,
 - Beth moves to award to the committee's choice, Barbara seconds - award approved with 3 abstentions

- o School of Choice – Vote
 - Steve moves to remain a school of if there are seats available, Beth seconds- passes unanimously

- o 2023-2024 Academic Calendar
 - Beth moves to approve the calendar; Mandy seconds - calendar accepted by unanimous vote

- o Policy Update and Review:
 - First Reading on:
 - o JIC – Student Discipline
 - o GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
 - o GCF – Professional Staff Hiring

 - Second Reading, First Vote on:
 - o DJE – Procurement Requirements
 - o DK-1 – Regional School District Payment Procedures
 - o KCD – Public Gifts to the School*

Anna Wetherby moves to vote on the polices in one vote, Beth Erviti seconds - unanimous
 Anna Wetherby moves to pass the first vote on polices; Steve seconds - unanimous

 - Final Vote on:
 - o ACAB – Sexual Harassment Policy
 - o DBJ-1 – Regional School District Budget Transfer Authority
 - o DGA-1 – Regional School District Authorized Signatures
 - o DH-1 – Regional District bonded Employees and Officers
 - o DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting*
 - o DIE-1 – Regional School District Audits*
 - o DJ – Purchasing*
 - Anna moves to vote on all polices in one vote, Barbara seconds - unanimous
 - Anna moves to approve and adopt policies; Mandy seconds - unanimous

- o Next Meeting Date – June 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
- o New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – June 1, 2023 – 6:40 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

- Beth moves to approve minutes, Mandy seconds - passes unanimously
- o March 2, 2023

J. Adjournment

Beth moves to adjourn, Barbara seconds - meeting adjourned at 8:20