

New Salem Wendell School Committee
 Draft Minutes
 Thursday, November 3, 2022
 7:00 PM Zoom Meeting, to be Recorded
 AGENDA

Attending: Mandy Blackbird, Steve Blinder, Angela Corey (6th grade faculty), Jennifer Culkeen (Superintendent), Elizabeth Devlin, Barbara Doyle, Beth Erviti, Carla Halpern (chair), Caitlin Sheridan (Financial Officer), Gosia Spooner (Instructional aide), Kelley Sullivan (SRS Principal), Miriam Warner, Kate Woodward

- A. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order.
- B. CES representative: Elizabeth Devlin (nominated by Carla, 2nd by Beth, unanimous)
 Health Savings Acct. Rep: Barbara Doyle (nominated by Carla, 2nd by Beth, unanimous)

C. Public Hearings: none.

D. Warrants:

Accounts Payable:

4009	9/6/2022	\$763.82
4010	9/8/2022	\$36,849.25
2807	9/8/2022	\$4,768.20
4011	9/20/2022	\$22,537.84
4012	9/20/2022	\$6,993.13
2808	9/20/2022	\$2,021.00
4016	9/30/2022	\$1,528.24
4013	10/5/2022	\$4,678.16
4014	10/5/2022	\$964.11
4015	10/5/2022	\$28,392.61
2809	10/5/2022	\$13,683.94
4017	10/18/2022	\$43,008.73
2810	10/18/2022	\$994.68
4018	10/20/2022	\$15,000.00
4020	10/31/2022	\$1,457.21
4019	11/2/2022	\$25,724.27
2811	11/2/2022	\$1,377.69

Payroll:

8042	8/29/2022	\$45,352.78
8072	9/28/2022	\$45,295.46
8093	9/30/2022	\$740.46
8092	10/18/2022	\$49,866.53

Grants: all Grants submitted for vote were passed unanimously as a group (group = Title I FC 305, Title IIAFC 140, Title IV FC 309, IDEA FC 240, EC-IDEA FC 262, CFCE FC 237)

E. Superintendent's report:

- SIMS reporting underway
- CPI training on de-escalating crises started with Nicole Suta trainer via grant funding
- Beginning lock-down drills with teachers mindful and supportive of students need for feelings of safety and calm
- Work underway on U28 budget for FY 24
- Working on roadmap for Student Support Services, including sending out surveys to students, families, staff, community to gather data for next steps
- MCAS performance at SRS above statewide results (YAY! Thank you teachers, staff)
- Schools anticipate a 14% increase in Chapter 766 school tuitions due to these schools' need to attract teachers/staff by increasing salaries/wages. Need for SRS students, families, staff, teachers, SC rattle legislator cages for increased Chapter 70 funding to cover such exigencies
- Learning Walks focusing on student engagement to re-start
- Application submitted for a Community Efficiencies Grant in conjunction with Shutesbury Elementary School with a \$32K price tag. If funded, grant will ferret out ways of blending needs at schools to increase overall efficiency and thus decrease budget expenses

Foundation Enrollment:

Superintendent Culkeen explained that the SIMS reporting underway is a mechanism the State uses to determine a school's Chapter 70 funding. The report determines the number of Resident Students in our school, which in turn determines funding. The definition of Resident Student is in turn predicted by factors such as actual student residence, incoming/outgoing SRS students, Special Needs student numbers, and other factors such as students who are non-English speakers, families that are low-income, etc. The final number of students determines the SRS foundation enrollment, which can then be used to determine our Chapter 70 funding. Detailed information is available on the MA Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education website.

Elizabeth Devlin: Any other funding opportunities? Sup. Culkeen: Hopefully an increased Circuit Breaker fund, push back on 14% private school tuition increase, grants.

F. Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Rough draft of FY 24 underway, EOFY 2022 sent to State. Vote to allow Chair to sign the EOFY

Certification Statement tabled until Jan 4, 2023 SRS SC meeting. EOFY report to be distributed to SRS SC before the Jan 4 vote.

G. Principals Report:

- 132 students presently, with another 6 applying for entrance (2 from Wendell, 4 from New Salem, with 1 grade 6, 2 in grade 5, 1 in grade 3, and 2 in pre-K)
- Have completed the Benchmarks and are beginning the Benchmark assessments
- Pandemic conclusions indicate there are some students who require more reading instruction. Some teachers trained in Wilson reading program to address need.
- Nexus Company installed effective remote heating controller and also replaced corroded pipes.
- Athletic fundraiser added \$900.00 toward \$20K needed to fund Nature's Classroom activity
- A new communication board installed in play area to enable children with communication needs to be able to communicate
- 8:45 Friday Community Sing has begun. COME JOIN and end your week with a song and a smile
- Over 2K miles logged in so far in 100 Mile Club GO SRS!
- Social/Emotional work underway
- 6th grade dissection of cow femur and chicken feet culminates series on Human Anatomy
- Towns approved installation of water treatment system into ground floor closet area. System awaits State approval prior to installation.

H. Reports

Mahar – most of work centered around Superintendent evaluation.

MASC – investigating possibility of increased funding, State mandating testing for dyslexia, Discovering Justice program rolled outgoing

B&P – all about FY24 U28 budget to kick off budgeting for schools

I. November Items

JEB – Entrance Age vote tabled until Jan 5, 2023 meeting

CES Capital Reserve Fund vote: Motion to accept Beth, 2nd Mandy (1 abstention)

Regionalization between Wendell and New Salem vote: tabled until after Principal Sullivan has discussion with legal re: pros/cons

Family Handbook: tabled until Jan 5, 2023 after Committee has more time to read

School Improvement Plan: much discussion about reading instruction methodology (Mandy, Elizabeth) with assurances from Principal Sullivan that approved methodology was in play. Elizabeth energetically suggested a literacy program authored by Nell Duke be investigated for use in SRS. Motion to accept via Beth, 2nd by Barbara, passed with 2 abstentions

FY 24 U28 Draft Budget – Reviewed by Caitlin whose only concern was that the draft indicated a point in time and could change depending on fiscal conditions.

J. Future Business

Jan 5, 2023 7:00 PM next SRS SC meeting, NS/W Policy Committee meets same date, 6:30 PM

K. Approval of Sept 1, 2022 minutes:

Moved by Beth, 2nd by Barbara (vote: 2 abstentions, none opposed)

L. Adjournment:

9:00ish Moved by Beth, 2nd by Steve

Minutes respectfully submitted by Beth Erviti, 11/4/2022