

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, September 6, 2018
Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Carl Seppala, Carla Halpern, Amy Palmer, Johanna Bartlett, Karyn Briand, Jack Radner, Anna Wetherby (minutes), Jennifer Haggerty, Kelley Sullivan, Bruce Turner

Public: Karen Nelson (school psychologist), Nan Mead (school nurse). Al MacIntyre – Wendell Fin-Com

Meeting called to Order 7:00

A. Public Hearings – none, welcomes to Karen, Nan, and Al

B. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

Payroll: 8050, 8041, 4041, 405, 805

Vendor: 2804, 4007, 4008

C. Superintendent's Report

- Welcome Back theme "Hope" (August 27th). All staff received U28 bumper sticker with #no barriers
- Learning design integration team – Professional development opportunities on UDL
- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents: Equitable Education, need for legislature to support public school (21st Century learning expectations on 1993 budget)
- **1.5M for rural aide – decisions still being made, based on students per square mile**
- Union dues are same as union fees – clarification only

Non-agenda items discussed

- ❖ Attendance issues (of school committee membership) brought up
 - Karyn and David's attendance is not a joint position, both are elected members
 - Carla iterates that attendance and agreement to signing warrants is crucial
 - Johanna reminds group to immediately to notify Pamela Rogers regarding attendance
 - Especially important as number of meetings have been reduced
- ❖ Johanna proposes creating a sub-committee to review teacher health care and appointing members to attend other meetings (CES, Mahar)
- ❖ Update on Gun Control Letter: Letter read aloud to group. Carla does not feel this is an effective letter. Specifically, the problems are:
 - ❖
 - ❖ 1. Legislative changes are needed; such a letter should be addressed to lawmakers, not to the executive branch.
 - ❖ 2. Even if the president had the power to address this, the current occupant of the White House is highly unlikely to be sympathetic to such a letter.

- ❖ 3. The letter is poorly written, using expressions such as "assault weapons." Such a term is broad and confusing, since all weapons are assault weapons (a weapon is literally something used to cause assault or worse).
- ❖
- ❖ Carla then suggested that we should:
- ❖
- ❖ 1. Determine how we feel as a school committee and whether there is any language we could all get behind, and
- ❖ 2. If so, draft a letter to legislators (unsure whether local, state, or national), and then maybe
- ❖ 3. Share our letter with other school committees.
- ❖
- ❖ Carla believes we then determined that she should:
- ❖
- ❖ 1. Tell the writer of the letter that we support the sentiment but cannot sign onto the letter for the above reasons, and
- ❖ 2. Draft a letter to bring to the next school committee meeting.
- ❖

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Budget report came out this week, not all grants are reflected in the documents yet
- Sept. 27th is deadline for building grant. Full file for application is ready
- Upcoming town meetings to have town approval of building grant funding
- Town Meeting dates, New Salem 13th Wendell 25th
- Health Savings Accounts: Bruce would like to set-up meeting for teachers, committee members, Jennifer, to meet with expert
 - Information gathering meeting tentatively for a Tuesday in October (immediately afterschool)
- Transportation bid for regular transportation expires in June.
- Bruce proposes: Coordinating with other Franklin County schools to create a collective bid. Try a regional bid approach with Erving, Gill/Montage
- Proposal put to vote: Carl moves, Jack 2nd vote to accept Bruce's proposal
- Updates on funds transfers to clean up defecates on budget (recurring funds [preschool, Enchanted Forest] should not run a defecate)
- Move to vote to make transfers requested in memo* from Bruce Turner dated 9.6.18
- Carla moves, Jack 2nd – unanimous

E. Principal's Report

- Started year with 153 students, 33 school choice students
- Completed asbestos removal (kindergarten and psychologist's office). New sink area in kindergarten. New carpet in K, psychologist, teacher's room
- Still asbestos on the floor under a huge water tank under the music room. Already encapsulated

- New custodian, Eric Shufelt
- Cam Lewis, new PE teacher
- Peter Nolan new student support services
- Emily Neuberger, art
- Michelle Connelly, long term sub in K
- Michele Wolf and Erica Barns, new paraprofessional
- New watertight shed – built by Eric Harris with a wall ball built on. Getting new chickens, getting goats
- Bus breakdown Wednesday due to heat in New Salem

F. Report from Mahar Representatives

- Meeting next week. No report
- Labor Day weekend 24-hour run/walk. Raised \$1300 for Mahar general fund

G. September Items

- Policy Update and Review
Second Reading, First Vote on:
- GBEBC – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff
 - First page same as ethics law
 - Karyn moves, Carla 2nd – passes, one abstention
 - Need to bring back to lawyer for clarification
- KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools
 - Jack moves, Karyn 2nd – unanimous
- **Approval of new DESE teacher rubric/MOU**
 - Department Elem and 2nd education: new rubrics for classroom teachers. Removed some standards and elements to make rubric more streamline. Teacher's Association has accepted new rubric
 - Motion to accept memorandum of understanding: with regards to new DESI rubric
 - Anna moves, Karyn 2nd – unanimous

H. Future Business

- **Next Meeting Date – November 1, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – November 1, 2018 – 6:15, Wendell 6:30, New Salem 6:45 p.m.**
- **Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, September 17, 2018**

I. Approval of Minutes of July 5, 2018

- a. Carla moves with amendments , Amy 2nd – passes with 1 abstention

J. Adjournment

Carla moves, Carl 2nd – unanimous 8:19