

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 1, 2018 – Final Minutes – Swift River School

Present: Johanna Bartlett, David Briand, Karyn Briand, Beth Erviti, Jack Radner, Carl Seppala, Carla Halpern, Jennifer Haggerty, Kelley Sullivan, Bruce Turner

Public: Lisa Aubin, Teacher; Al MacIntyre – Wendell FinCom

Meeting Called to Order - 7:00 p.m.

A. Reorganization of the Committee

- a. Johanna Bartlett was nominated for Chair; Carla made the motion, seconded by Beth; 1 opposed – motion passed

B. Public Hearings - none

C. Warrants - signed

- a. #406-\$70,745.37, #806-\$25,850.55, #8060-\$78,827.24, #8061-\$33,824.17, #2805-\$3,655.47, #2806-\$86.24, #4009-\$8,679.15, #4010-3,294.77, #4011-\$2,347.38, #8006-\$48,651.73, #4012-\$3,000.00, #4013-\$8,692.62, #8001-\$555.02, #407-\$72,173.70, #807-\$25,850.55, #8070-\$79,994.98, #4014-\$21,917.36, #4015-\$1,769.32, #4016-\$18,226.92, #8080-\$83,486.12, #408-\$74,921.50, #808-\$25,850.55, #8012-\$56,084.27, #8081-\$34,400.85, #8090-\$79,916.71, #809-\$25,850.55, #409-\$71,921.97, #4017-\$2,664.66, #4018-\$3,755.73, #2807-\$3,565.16, #4019-\$1,000.00, #4020-\$24,185.02, #4021-\$15,834.99

D. Superintendent's Report

- a. Jennifer gave out handouts: Superintendent Goals, NS/W School Committee and Swift River Education Association Agreement (2 handouts)
- b. Jennifer spoke briefly about goals involving:
 - 1. Moving learning process from exploration phase to implementation phase
 - 2. Revising curriculum accommodation plans to align with current MA guidelines
 - 3. Create and administer a school climate survey to staff at all Union 28 schools
 - i. David asked clarification on the "Culture and Climate" goal and was referred to the handout after a short explanation.
- c. NS/W awarded \$21,657 from the Rural School Aid grant. This grant is awarded based on a formula involving the #students/mile² and the average per capita income in order to decrease funding disparity between urban and rural school districts. The grant will require proof that the District is monitoring efficiencies.
- d. Union 28 Curriculum Day held at Swift River School. Presentations by U28 staff were well attended and well received. Special thanks to Mr. Cortina for musical start and to the preparers of an excellent lunch.
- e. Jennifer to attend and present at the New Superintendents MASC/MASS Joint Conference

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- a. Bruce stated that he is waiting to hear from MSBA re: project and that the delay is typical and not alarming.
- b. There is a first draft of the new budget in production
- c. He has filed an End of Year Report
- d. Bruce is working on HSA information. Insurance company stated HSA not needed since insurance contract does not include any deductibles. However, other medical/dental/optical/etc out of pocket expenses still qualify. He will investigate further.
- e. Bruce asked that a 3 year audit proposal for FY 18, 19, and 20 be approved by committee. Carla motioned, Karyn seconded. Discussion: is the 3 year contract a money-saver over a single year? Yes, slightly. Is this a statutory regulation? No, not technically, due to the nature of the Union 28 system, but it is a smart procedure for our financial branch. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Principal's Report

- a. Kelley spoke briefly about enrollments, ongoing safety drills, and the need to begin reunification training. To date there is no designated building to which students can be evacuated. Search for same is ongoing.
- b. She congratulated the staff for an exceptionally well done Curriculum Day
- c. Kelley participated in publishing party in SR classrooms, attended three field trips, and noted fund raising projects; all very inspirational.
- d. The SR rubber membrane of the flat roof is still under warranty and has been inspected, resulting in some recommendations that should increase roof longevity
- e. Freezer needs to be replaced; door recently spontaneously fell off onto a staff person (luckily unhurt). Freezer is several decades old.
- f. Will follow through with suggestions that the Open House begin at an earlier hour next year.
- g. Johanna asked about salt levels in drinking water. Response: still not alarming. Refer to clickable link on web page.

G. Committee Reports

- a. Mahar Report
 - 1. Committee met 9/13/18. The committee changed the policy with respect to funding AP testing. Problem: school would prepay for tests that students would sometimes not attend, to financial detriment of school. Solution: parents of students intending to take tests pay for test. If student shows up and takes test, school reimburses parents.
 - 2. 8th grade traveling to DC in June to avoid conflict with MCAS testing date. Hoping to provide travel scholarships to some students.
 - 3. Approved trip to Quebec during April vacation
 - 4. Will put lawn care/maintenance out to lowest bid
 - 5. Some discussion about reinstating late buses
 - 6. Next meeting November 15, 2018 @ 6:00 pm
- b. Collaborative for Education Services Report

1. Next meeting November 14, 2018
- c. Budget and Personnel
 1. Budget concerns raised by Leverett members especially
 2. Jennifer mentioned that the Director of Learning Designs position has been increased with respect to hours/week to best accommodate need.
 3. Next meeting November 19, 2018
- d. Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – Monday, November 19, 2018 in Leverett
- H. November Items
 - a. Gun Violence Letter
 1. Carla submitted a draft copy of a letter addressing gun violence in schools. She sought answers to these questions:
 - a. Should this letter be from the unanimous voice of the committee?
 - b. To whom should the letter be sent?
 - c. What should the letter say?
 2. A discussion followed, with Karyn disagreeing with language in 4th paragraph, David initiating discussion of use of armed personnel in the school as a deterrent, and Beth supporting the intent of the letter with reservations about a shift in focus in the letter wording. Johanna pointed out the difficulties in placing all people with mental illness under the same umbrella and labeling it as bad or dangerous. Johanna asked David to speak with the State Police liaison in order to get data on the effectiveness of armed personnel as a deterrent to school gun violence. Carla ultimately asked that the committee review the letter during the next few months, and return to the next meeting with suggestions.
 - b. Policy Update and Review:
 1. GBEB – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff: Carla motion, Johanna seconds. policy voted through; one abstention
 2. KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools: Karyn motion, David seconds. policy voted unanimously
- I. Future Business
 - a. Gun violence letter
 - b. Next Meeting Date – January 3, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
 - c. New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – January 3, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
- J. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Tabled due to need to change wording in several places
- K. Adjournment – 8:18 p.m. – Beth motion, Carla seconds – All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Beth Erviti and Kelley Sullivan, 11/2/2018