

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, March 4, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. FINAL MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING – GOOGLE HANGOUT MEET

Attending: Melissa Burke, Beth Erviti, Johanna Bartlett, Jack Radner, Barbara Doyle, Carla Halpern, Anna Wetherby (minutes), members; Kelley Sullivan, principal; Bruce Turner, treasurer; Jennifer Culkeen, superintendent

Teachers: Robyn Vitello, Goisa Spooner, Jennylou Powers, Lisa Aubin, Ciji Cody, Michael Cortina, Tammy Richard, Rachael Basdekis

Public: Doug Tanner (Wendell Finance Committee), Domenic Poli (Greenfield Recorder), Rachael Basdekis, Michelle Wolf, Shad, Anna Seeger, S. E. Vular, Azure Greninger, Kirsten Lamotte, Shad, Gillian Budine

- Call Meeting to Order - 7:04
- Public Hearings
- Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers
 - #417 2/18/21 \$74,138.76; #418 3/4/21 \$72,135.18; #816 2/4/21 \$26,222.31 ;#817 2/18/21 \$26,222.31; #818 3/4/21 \$26,222.31; #2816 2/8/21 \$488.34; #2817 2/17/21 \$784.11; #4036 2/8/21 \$540.00; #4037 2/8/21 \$32,224.00; #4038 2/17/21 \$39,992.15 ;#8170 2/18/21 \$84,210.05 ;#8171 2/18/21 \$33,906.05 ;#8172 2/18/21 \$44,136.70, #8180 3/4/21 \$82,258.70
- Superintendent's Report
 - Commissioner O'Reilly will make a decision on reopening schools- based on Biden's recommendation open k-8
 - Asking the board of ed to return students and staff to full 5 days a week
 - Schools will not have the choice to be remote, families have the option
 - Schools that are not fully in person after April 5, the days will not count and will need to be made up
 - Teachers will need to teach both remote and live students, including live streaming
 - All schools in U28 are in school in some fashion
- Director of Finance and Operations Report
 - FY22 Draft Budget – Discussion and Possible Vote of Preliminary Budget
 - Made revisions since published
 - 85k for school choice has been adjusted 60k
 - Brings increase to 87k (3%)
 - Projecting to use 40k of E and D
 - Assessment of the budget is \$2,029,033 New Salem - decrease 21k, Wendell - increase 54k
 - New Salem Finance Committee requests Bruce, Kelley, and Jen to attend the next meeting (joint with Wendell) on March 12, 9:30 am
 - Request for preliminary approval
 - \$32,836 net increase to the towns
 - Beth moves that we give preliminary approval of the budget draft of \$3,044,766 of which \$2,787,766 is the responsibility of the towns, Melissa 2nds
 - passes unanimously
 - Green communities - grant funding for freezer and weatherization

- Freezer in this month
- Weatherization to start in June after students leave for vacation - spray foam
- \$35,000 in awards
- COVID grant- HVAC updates give computer control to the air exchange
 - In conjunction with the Esser grant
 - Overall \$50,000 in updates

·Principal's Report

- Welcomed ½ of school (PreK-2 started this week)
- The school does not look the same but the children are happy
- A student said the day was 'perfect'
- 61 students in cohort A, 59 in B, (35 students staying remote)
- Working out the kinks of busing and lining up
- All teachers are returning apart from 1 staying remote
 - 1st grade has enough students remaining remote so the entire in-school group can attend 4 days
- Hope to return everyone to full days but cohorted after April vacation, but does not wish to have an extra 60 days of school added to the calendar
- Doctors are reporting no difference in transmission between 3 to 6 feet.
- MCAS is still on - reducing the time of the testing but the tentative starting date for MCAS is April 5
- Excited for grades 3-6 to join next week

· Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Report from teacher's association on reopening is going smoothly (hybrid, ½ days, 2 days for each cohort)
- Collaborative for Education Services
 - No meeting
- Budget and Personnel – Next Meeting - none
- Joint Supervisory – Next Meeting – March 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

· March Items

- 2020-2021 Reopening
 - Letter from the SREA read - reflecting on gratitude to the committee, patience, dedication to science, flexibility, allowing for room and time to adjust and adapt
- 2021 Swift River Community Action Award Recipient – discussion, nomination, and vote
 - Respectfully request to table the item until next month
- 2021-2022 Academic Calendar - Vote
 - The staff starts August 30, students on September 1

- Last day of school June 16, 5 days of inclement weather June 17-23
- Would like to have all schools in U28 start on the same day and in-person
- Melissa move to accept the calendar as presented, Barbara 2nds
 - Vote by roll call - passes unanimously

· Identification of School Choice Seats

- At this time, there are no available seats

· Policy Update and Review:

- First Reading on
 - BDB – School Committee Officers
 - BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee
 - BDFA – School Councils
 - BEDF – Voting Method
 - BEE – Procedures for Conducting Public Hearings

Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote Beth 2nds - vote by roll call, passes unanimously (this was a reading, no vote needed to be taken)

- Final Vote on:
 - JBB – Educational Equity
 - IHBEA – English Learner Education*
 - BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

Anna moves to vote on all policies in one vote, Beth 2nds -

Vote by roll call - passes unanimously

Anna moves to approve the policies under consideration, Jack 2nds - vote by roll call -passes unanimously

· Future Business

- Next Meeting Date – April 1, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
- New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – April 1, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

· Approval of Minutes:

- Melissa moves to accept the minutes of February 4, 2021, as amended, Barbara 2nd
 - Vote taken by roll call - passes unanimously

· Adjournment

Anna moves to adjourn, Melissa seconds, vote by roll call - passes unanimously
Meeting adjourned 7:47