

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, February 8, 2024

Swift River School – 7:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes

Attending: Nancy Slator, Carla Halpern, Barbara Doyle, Beth Evriti, Mandy Blackbird, Anna Wetherby (minutes); Caitlin Sheridan, director of finance and operation; Kelley Sullivan, principal

Teachers: Jamie Lefebvre, Samantha Marsh, Gosia Spooner

A. Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

B. Public Hearings - none

C. Warrants –

Accounts Payable Union 28

2817	1/12/2024	\$275.69
2818	1/26/2024	\$584.19
2819	2/7/2024	\$521.38

Payroll NSW

415	1/18/2024	\$95,599.56
416	2/1/2024	\$95,416.81

Payroll Union 28

815	1/18/2024	\$29,581.12
816	2/1/2024	\$29,581.12

Payroll Monthly Deductions

8150	1/18/24	\$104,499.33
8151	1/18/24	\$41,411.22
8152	1/30/2024	\$57,149.87
8153	1/25/2024	\$1,470.84
8160	2/1/2024	\$104,414.49

Accounts Payable NSW

4042	1/12/2024	\$4,939.59	
4043	1/12/2024	\$27,833.26	
4044	1/12/2024	\$28.25	
4045	1/26/2024	\$5,093.66	
4046	1/26/2024	\$250.62	
4047	1/26/2024	\$2,263.97	
4048	1/26/2024	\$16,248.68	
4049	11/30/2023	\$736.73	
4050	11/30/2023	\$312.55	Non- Check batch - FSA
4051	12/29/2023	\$1,455.27	Non- Check batch - FSA
4052	1/1/2024	\$110.00	Non- Check batch - FSA
4053	1/31/2024	\$1,481.56	Non- Check batch - FSA
4054	2/7/2024	\$4,509.95	
4055	2/7/2024	\$1,149.99	
4056	2/7/2024	\$21,344.91	

o Gifts: Acceptance Vote

Beth moves to vote to accept all listed gifts in one vote; Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

Beth moves to accept the gifts, Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

Remark: Thinks it is awesome to have such support

CNC Donations

Date	Received From		Amount
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8/30/23	Donation jar at Diemand Farm		\$ 32.51
9/20/23	Donation from Friends of the Leverett Library for Playgroup		\$ 900.00
11/1/2023	#1 Donation from First Light/Northfield Mt for summer playgroup		\$ 250.00
	2 Donation from First Light/Northfield Mt for summer playgroup		\$ 200.00
9/9/23	Clothing Closet Donation jar		\$ 15.00
11/13/23	Diemand Farm Donation		\$ 45.50
12/11/23	New Salem Library/ Friends for Playgroup		\$ 450.00
1/3/2024	New Salem Library \$450 for Playgroup /		\$ 450.00
1/3/2024	Wendell Library for Playgroup		\$ 900.00
		TOTAL	\$ 3,243.01

o Grants: Acceptance Vote

- Cultural Council for CNC \$435.00
 - Anna moves to accept grant; Beth seconds - passes unanimously approved

D. Superintendent's Report

E. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- Town meeting happened and Wendell and New Salem voted to accept the transportation contracts for U28
- Bringing superintendent candidate to meet various people within the Union
- Oil contract came in slightly under the fy 24 contract -Sprauge and Global
 - 9,000 gallons - \$2.8508 last year \$2.9280 (.0772/gallon or about \$694.80)

o FY25 Draft Budget -

- Question regarding the budget reflecting the payment options for paraprofessionals time at Nature's Classroom
- Increase in treasurer
- Working to reduce the assessment for New Salem - \$114,272.62 for not paying out of district placement
- Increase in office supplies
- Increase for teacher - ELL position
- Adjustment counlor no longer ESSER funder
- Paraprofessional
- Contractual increase in professional development
- Increase for state approved math
- Purchase of chromebooks no longer funded by ESSER
- Supplies - SNAP software, immunizaations records

- Plant operations - trash removal expense due to big bears and weekly pick up
- COunty retirement increase - 39.7%
- HEALTH/IFE INSurance increase - there was a deficit last year and need to better budget
- Health insurance for retirees in central office
- Grant lines - ESSER grant ends
 - Increase in theraputic spending lines
 - Increase in instructional supplies
- 6.67% increase - commiserate with other schools in union
- New Salem appropriation goes down due to out-of-district placement
- 11.09% for Wendell - this includes the 5 year rolling average
- Budgeted for level funded Chapter 70 - there will be a small increase in funding (about 3,000)
- Payments for Nature's Classroom - past payments, current year payments, budgeting for future payments
 - The payments were posted before the budget was drafted - 2,500 budgeted for next year, 1,600 for this year
- Recommendation to reach out to the Finance Committee to prepare for the Annual Town meeting for Wendell regarding the 11.09% increase
- Recommendation to wait on the principal longevity steps until more information is made clear from the Wendell Finance Committee

F. Principal's Report

- Completed benchmark assessment reporting for midterms - seen remarkable DIBLES and MAIS scores and universal math scores
- Graduate students from UMass in music and speech working with 1st graders
- Completed literacy walk-throughs - very positive meetings and reports
- UFLY curriculum with fidelity - showing great improvement
 - Huge improvement in kindergarten
 - Teachers from other schools are impressed with the investment of the students in the
- Mr. M - yoyo expert and 5th-grade teacher working with Enchanted forest
- Tested free of PFAS for the past three months
 - The bladder was not replaced, but had to deduct that cost from the invoice
- Longevity is given to all other employees - feels that the principal longevity would benefit the inclusion
 - Question if other schools have longevity
 - Other schools have higher salaries for principals
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G. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
- Collaborative for Education Services
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- Budget and Personnel – none at this time
 - Met on 29th - voted to create a sub-committee to negotiate a contract with new superintendent
 - Barbra Doyle and Becky Tew will be that sub-committee
- Joint Supervisory
 - Next Meeting – March 18, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

H. February Items

- Principal Longevity Stipend proposal – Discussion and Possible Vote

- Held for executive session
- o FY23 End of Year Report Audit – Vote to allow the Chair to sign the Audit Engagement Letter
 - Anna moves to sign End of Year Audit; Beth seconds - passes unanimously
- o FY23 New Salem/Wendell Fiscal Audit - Vote to allow the Chair to sign the Audit Engagement Letter
 - Beth moves to allow the chair to sign the Audit Engagement Letter; Anna seconds - passes unanimously

o Policy Update and Review:

First Reading on:

- o AC – Nondiscrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- o BGC – Policy Revision and Review
- o EB – Safety Program
- o EEAJ – Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds
- o GBEB – Staff Conduct

Second Reading, First Vote on:

- o JH – Student Absences and Excuses
- o ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
- o AC-R – Nondiscrimination Policy including Harassment and Retaliation

Anna moves to vote on the above listed policies in one vote - Beth seconds; motion passes unanimously

Beth moves to take the first vote on the above listed policies; Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

Final Vote on:

- o AA-1 Regional School District Legal Status
- o CHA/CHC Development and Dissemination of Procedures
- o BDFA-E – School Improvement Plan
- o BDFA – School Councils

Anna moves to vote above listed policies as one vote; Mandy seconds; passes unanimously

Anna moves to approve the four policies; Barbara seconds - passes unanimously

A brief discussion on efficiencies regarding policy recommendations and union-wide policy adoption

Second and Final Vote on Deletion of Policy:

- o JC – Student Attendance Policy

Anna moves to delete policy JC; Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

o Next Meeting Date – March 7, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

o New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – March 7, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

o January 4, 2024

Beth moves to approve; Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

J. Executive Session

In accordance with Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a), move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and possibly to return to open session for a vote

Beth moves to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and possibly to return to open session for a vote ; Barbara seconds - vote taken by roll call - committee moves to executive session at 7:43

Roll call taken to return to open session 8:08 pm

- Vote to entertain options for Nature's Classroom
- Beth moves Fund Nature's classroom \$1,600 for 2023, \$2,500 for 2024, and budget for future years; Mandy seconds
 - Amendment to motion - an MOA that prior years to 2023 are not entertained to be back funded and place a cap on the funding for enrichment activities
 - Will change yearly due to staffing changes - vote should be for payment of last year and this year
 - 1600, 2500. Intent to continue Nature's classroom, sign an MOA
 - New wording motion approved and seconded

K. Adjournment Beth moves; Mandy seconds meeting adjourned at 8:14