

NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 THURSDAY, September 7, 2023
 Swift River School Final Minutes

Attending: Mandy Blackbird, Kate Woodward, Beth Erviti, Miriam Warner, Carla Halpern. Steven Binder, Nancy Slator, Barbara Doyle, Anna Wetherby (minutes), members; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations; Kelley Sullivan, Principal

Teachers: Lisa Aubin

Public: none

A. Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 PM

B. Reorganization of the Committee -

- Anna nominates **Carla Halpern for Chair**, Beth Erviti seconds, acknowledgment of great work, passes unanimously
- Carla nominates **Anna Wetherby for Secretary**, Beth seconds, acknowledgment of great work, passes unanimously
- CES Rep - brief overview of the position; Beth nominates **Steve for CES rep**, Mandy seconds, passes unanimously
- Health Savings Account - when it became part of the Union agreement, a committee member needs to be appointed - Carla nominates **Beth as Health Savings Rep**, Beth seconds - passes unanimously
- MASC Distillation Rep -
 - Is the positions necessary?
 - Carla found the condensed report helpful
 - Kate suggest a written report from the rep that can be shared with committee members
 - Carla moves to create a position of an MASC rep to deliver a written report to committee members ahead of the monthly meeting, Beth seconds
- Carla nominates **Barbara as MASC report creator** Beth seconds, passes unanimously

C. Public Hearings - none

D. Warrants – Record in minutes with numbers

Accounts Payable Union #28 Vouchers

2827	6/16/2023	\$407.75
*FY23		
2801	7/1/2023	\$31,687.66
2802	7/12/2023	\$1,749.00
2803	7/27/2023	\$645.73
2804	8/9/2023	\$541.81
2805	8/21/2023	\$3,535.20
2806	9/7/2023	\$12,819.78

Accounts Payable NSW Vouchers

4070	6/16/2023	\$5,844.39
4071	6/16/2023	\$4,625.78
4072	6/16/2023	\$40,868.23

*FY23		
4001	7/1/2023	\$196,788.92
4002	7/12/2023	\$9,862.93
4003	7/27/2023	\$5,103.75
4004	7/27/2023	\$61.55
4005	7/27/2023	\$456.97
4006	7/31/2023	\$1,901.26

4007	8/9/2023	\$1,090.00
4008	8/9/2023	\$80,794.54
4009	8/21/2023	\$2,242.11
4010	8/21/2023	\$31,102.27
4011	9/7/2023	\$166.90
4012	9/7/2023	\$21,864.46
4013	8/31/2023	\$1,183.95
4014	8/30/2023	\$26.43

Payroll NSW

426	6/22/2023	\$92,713.87
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*FY23

401	7/6/2023	\$80,628.71
401.1	7/6/2023	\$2,121.26
402	7/20/2023	\$80,680.62
403	8/3/2023	\$83,202.77
404	8/17/2023	\$84,023.18
405	8/31/2023	\$98,899.19

Payroll Union #28

826	6/22/2023	\$28,142.87
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*FY23

801	7/6/2023	\$28,796.77
802	7/20/2023	\$28,425.01
803	8/3/2023	\$28,907.09
804	8/17/2023	\$29,422.15
805	8/31/2023	\$28,783.44

Payroll Monthly Deductions

8260	6/22/2023	\$101,537.64
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*FY23

8011	7/6/2023	\$2,066.71
8020	7/20/2023	\$91,548.50
8022	7/28/2023	\$52,173.91
8030	8/3/2023	\$94,332.18
8040	8/17/2023	\$96,037.69
8050	8/31/2023	\$115,077.55
8051	8/31/2023	\$47,940.40
8052	9/1/2023	\$53,905.74

E. Superintendent's Report - submitted written report

F. Director of Finance and Operations Report

- SRS hosted Department of Revenue reps, very supportive
 - E&D certification due November 29
 - DOR certifies free cash for towns and certifies E& D for regional schools, not DESE
 - Good for building relationships and garnering state level support
 - Other sch
 - Sept 29 end of year report, October meeting will need signatures
 - Expenditure report different as grants are in
 - Teacher salaries are shifting to grant funding
 - Gym lights were a sizable unexpected expense
 - For safety, it was necessary to replace the lights
 - Will there be more money as rumors are suggesting?
 - See an increase in rural aid each year and hope it will continue.
 - Are grant-funded positions going to be terminated or picked up by the towns?
 - The ESSER 3 money funding full time school adjustment counselor

G. Principal's Report

- Summer Work
 - Replaced rotting fence
 - Touched up paint throughout the school and repainted the cafeteria
 - New air conditioner unit in Music Room
 - Valuable to the equipment and the instruments
 - New LED lights in the Gymnasium
 - Lights started failing last year
 - Parts not replaceable due to age of the light system

- Student safety was primary concern
 - There will be dimmer switches in the future
 - Will need to paint the gym now
 - Barriers in the front of school
 - Part of safety plan from the police
 - Weigh about 1,000 Lbs each, placement supervised by police
 - Last part of the safety plan - will need one more
 - Tree removed from playground
 - New garden beds built
 - Hoping to tunnel the beds for winter greens
 - Replaced many old bookcases with new ones built by Eric
 - PFAS System installed
 - Inspected by Tigh and Bond on Septmber 7
 - State inspection next week
 - Replacing water tank bladder on October 9
 - Purchased water for the first month
- New Staff
 - Cristie LaJoie, Preschool Para
 - Carole Richard, Nurse
 - Hazel Emery, EF (alumni)
 - Frank Chiodo, EF (alumni)
- UMass student interns in first, third, fourth and speech
- Safety meeting completed
 - Police and fire department would like generator purchased by grant
 - Walkie-talkies with Shelburne Dispatch recommended for the school to purchase
 - Estimated cost \$1000 each
 - Could be fundraised by Rabbit Run?
- Classrooms
 - Pk started today
 - K started on August 31
 - Surviving the heat
 - Assessments are taking place
 - Universal Math Screener for Number Sense is our new benchmark system
 - Dibels Next
 - Quick Phonics Screener
 - Curriculum Discussion will begin later in the month
 - MCAS scores embargoed, scoring has changed, curriculum discussions continuing
 - Request for enrollment trends over five-year span

H. Committee Reports

- Report from Mahar Representatives
 - Committee members attended a retreat -
 - working on community outreach,
 - will be attending Garlic and Arts festival - meetings underway to make this happen
 - Presentation from MASC
 - Business manager invited members to come in and discuss things
 - Creating new School Committee Manual - hopefully complete by January
 - Next meeting will be September 14
 - Diane Salsato (Orange member) sadly passed away

o Collaborative for Education Services

- No report

o Massachusetts Association of School Committees

- No report

o Budget and Personnel

· Next Meeting – September 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

First draft of the budget has been created and will be shared with B&P representatives

o Joint Supervisory

- Next Meeting – September 18, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.
- Next meeting is important as Erving is discussing leaving U28
- Erving School Committee meetings are available online
- Recommendation that all available members attend the September 18th meeting
- There are many steps a town would need to take, and it would have to be a majority vote from all town representatives to start the process
- Will need to be approved by the state

I. September Items

o Amend FY24 Academic Calendar (adding PD ½ day/early release for students on November 8) –

- Opportunity to have Ron L James present (life coach on board of Mary Lyons Foundation)
 - Hour long sessions on building communities and sharing circles with students (all students at Shutesbury) and teachers
 - Hold parent night on how families and schools need to work together, November 9 - 6-7 pm
 - School will host dinner
- Steve moves to change the calendar to have an 11:30 early release on November 8th, Beth seconds
 - Question if EF will be available families - it is a Wednesday which has high numbers already
- Vote passes unanimously

o Policy Update and Review:

· Vote to Waive School Committee Policy: BGB Policy Adoption for the purpose of adopting Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students in one vote –
Beth moves to waive policy BGB in order to adopt Policy JLCD, Mandy seconds;
Carla appreciated the explanation of policy waiver - passes unanimously

· Reading and Final Vote on:

o JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students

Beth moves to approve policy JLCD, Mandy seconds

- What if the nurse is not on campus that day?
 - Kelley and Ariel are designees should the nurse not be available and have been trained
- For self-administrated medication, supervision by the nurse (or other planned adult) is still required
 - Students may carry medications on their person but most students
- Vote passes unanimously

Second Reading, First Vote on:

o JB – Equal Educational Opportunities

- o JFBB – School Choice

Beth moves to vote on JB and JFBB as one vote, Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

Beth moves to pass first vote on JB and JFBB - passes unanimously

Clarification on asterix in policy

Final Vote on:

- o JIC – Student Discipline

- o GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity

- o GCF – Professional Staff Hiring

Beth moves to perform final vote for above polices in one vote, Mandy seconds - passes unanimously

Beth moves to take the final vote on JIC, GBA, and GCF, Mandy seconds - final vote passes unanimously

- Carla will monitor what transpires with COVID-19 levels and prepare to return remote should it be necessary

- o Next Meeting Date – October 5, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

- o New Salem/Wendell Policy Committee – October 5, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. J.

Approval of Minutes:

- o June 14, 2023

Beth moves to approve June 14 minutes, Mandy seconds, passes with two abstentions

K. Adjournment

- Anna moves to adjourn the meeting, Kate seconds

- Beth comments on how great it is to be back with such a dedicated team of committee members

- Meeting adjourned 8:03