

Wales School Committee

Meeting of: October 16, 2013

Present: Dr. Erin Nosek, Mr. Jeff Zanghi, Mr. Richard Zinkus, Mr. Ed Boyce, Mrs. Susan Hubbell, Mrs. Christine Randall, and Mrs. Lynne Serrenho.

Absent: Mrs. Karen Blasco

Audience Present: Staff Members, Community Members

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

IMMEDIATE ISSUES:

None

MINUTES:

The minutes of September 18, 2013 were tabled until the November School Committee meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The financial report reflects that the amount expended to date is \$232,793. This is 15% of the budget, which compares to 17% expended at approximately this same time last year. The shortage showing in Teacher Salaries will be covered with the \$40,000 voted from School Choice toward operations.

Budget transfers need to be made to reflect appropriate starting balances to salary lines now that all contracts have been negotiated. There will be no net impact to the budget.

Motion made by Susan Hubbell, seconded by Ed Boyce, to approve the budget transfers.

MOTION APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was received from the Wales ESP requesting that negotiations be opened for the purpose of working toward the next contract agreement. Supt. Nosek stated that a Negotiation Subcommittee needs to be created for these negotiations.

Christine Randall and Lynne Serrenho were nominated by Ed Boyce, seconded by Susan Hubbell, to be on the negotiation committee.

MOTION APPROVED

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- ❖ The calendar for the months of October and November was presented.
- ❖ Student population is 154 students.
- ❖ The semi-annual building evacuation was held on Friday, September 13, 2013 at 1:30pm.

- ❖ There was a car accident in town on October 15, 2013 that necessitated Life Flight being called to the school. The School was unaware that rescue vehicles were coming to the school and students were outside at recess. No students were placed in danger and students were quickly ushered into the building. Notification to the school by appropriate rescue personnel will take place in the future.

It was suggested by a teacher that a mirror be placed near the rear of the building in order that vehicles entering the rear parking lot have visibility of any people in the schoolyard. Supt. Nosek stated that we will investigate the possibility of having the mirror installed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Zanghi presented the MCAS Report for the Wales Elementary School.

- Wales Elementary School has met the target of progressing toward narrowing the proficiency gaps.
- Wales Elementary School continues to be a Level 1 school.
- Data reveals that the Wales Elementary School continues to provide a “value added” experience for students.
- Wales Elementary School received an “On Target” or “Above Target” rating in ELA, Math, and Science.
- Wales Elementary School has “Met Target” in all student subgroups.

Wales Elementary School has developed MCAS Success Plans for every student who scored in the Needs Improvement and Warning Categories on the spring 2013 MCAS. Staff members will continue to review and analyze STAR Reading and Math data, common assessments, Aimsweb data, and data obtained in the individual classrooms to focus on specific weaknesses of students. The inclusion model will continue to be used in all classrooms to provide students with numerous opportunities to be successful. Teachers will continue with their discussions on how to best provide instruction to meet the need of all students.

Mr. Zanghi explained the “Math Pilot” that is occurring across the district. The reasons for the pilot include our current math program not being fully aligned with the new Massachusetts standards. The spiraling feature of our current math program does not lend itself to new standards. The new standards emphasize in-depth exposure to skills and mastery at grade level. In Wales, Grade 3 is piloting GO MATH and Grade 4 is piloting enVision.

PUBLIC ACCESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ed Boyce has suggested that we add a few additional agenda items:

- Tantasqua Representative Report
- Report of the Chair
- Minutes of Meeting should be posted on the Town Website

- After new business, there should be a 15 minute open forum.
- A former Wales School Committee member has suggested that each meeting begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Christine Randall to

- Start each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance
- After the Supt. Reports, there would be a Report of the Chair and the Tantasqua Representative Report.
- After new business, there will be a 15 minute open forum.

MOTION APPROVED

Ed Boyce stated that there is a subcommittee group formed to review the Regional School Agreement. Mr. Boyce will be following the work of this committee and reporting out at Wales School Committee meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Hubbell, seconded by Christine Randall at 7:30pm.

MOTION APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Richard R. Zinkus
Principal