

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #64  
@ School Administration Unit #101  
Wakefield School District Board Meeting  
Paul School Library  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

**School Board Members in Attendance:**

Wakefield School Board Members, Milton School Board Members: Douglas Shute, Peg Hurd, and Emily Meehan

**SAU Representatives:**

Earl Sussman- Superintendent of SAU #64, Jan Radowicz, Principal Nute Middle High School, Jennifer Leavitt, Assistant Principal Nute Middle High School, Robert Qua, Special Education Director, Lisa Burrows, High School Guidance Counselor, Donna Marie Currier, Middle School Guidance

**Public in Attendance:** Travis Corriveau

**Public Hearing:**

1. Called to Order/ Flag Salute:
  - a. Presentations: Milton School Board Members and Milton School District Administrators
    - Peg started the meeting by discussing why Milton would like Wakefield students to come to Milton. In doing this, the thought would be to start next year with an eighth-grade class, which will be going into their ninth-grade year, so as to not interrupt any students currently attending other schools. We know your questioning why there is a petition on our Warrant Article asking us to look into other schools for our students, the answer is that we are establishing a committee to enter into discussions with other schools to determine the feasibility of our options for Milton Middle/High School students and also options for receiving Middle/High School students from other school districts. Earl- The trend here is school choice. All that is being done here is exploring and affording the chance for schools to allow students and their parents to choose where they think they will go for maximum success. The important thing to stress here is that parents and students having a choice. Jan- So why should you send your students to Nute? We offer the same opportunities as Spaulding High School does but in a smaller and more supportive environment. Students can still apply and attend CTE studies at Dover, Somersworth, and Spaulding. They also have an opportunity to do a Running Start credit for Intro to Business Course and get credits for the courses they take. We offer, through our extended learning opportunities, internships, Independent study, HiSET, Project-based learning where we can design a program based on what their career interests are (i.e., apprenticeship in welding, early childhood development at a day care, dentist, veterinarian office, etc.). Also, students can take online courses and our seniors can go to Great Bay Community College, we will pay for them to go if there is enough money in the budget, with some taking 2 courses. Nute's administrative staff discussed the rapport they have with the students

being in a small school, as well as the ability to see their growth. Wakefield School Board Member (Relf)- Are you proposing to take all of our students that are going into grades 9-12? Jan- They would be staggered in, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students going into 9<sup>th</sup> grader, then the next year the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Not all coming in at once. Wakefield School Board Member (Ralph)- But is the school big enough if all the kids coming out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade who want to go to Nute and want to do that 4 years on a row, would you be maxed to capacity? Jan- I think we could absorb the first 2 years, then we would have to hire new staff after that. Wakefield staff member- Currently our area agreement is 10% of the students can attend other schools, as long as it is a school established under RSA 194, so that would mean they can go to Nute under this agreement. We have not pursued expanding the 10%. Wakefield School Board Member (Sandy)- What programs handle the STEM component that has come up? Jan- All our 8<sup>th</sup> graders go through a semester of STEM and the rest is incorporated into their math and science classes. In the High School it is within their math and science courses. Wakefield School Board Member (Relf)- Has Nute got its accreditation yet? Jan- We are actually applying for it, but unfortunately it has been cut out of our budget the last 2 years. I am very active in NEASC and I have chaired over 10 committees. We are already doing the steps to get it; it just needs to remain in the budget in order for us to apply. Wakefield School Board Member (Relf)- Do you think it would be around the same amount of tuition as we are paying Kingswood? Peg- We have a bond that is going to be paid through this fiscal year and depending on the number of students that we would be taking in and paying the bond off, we are estimating a \$2,100.00 drop in our cost per pupil. If we took in 10 students, it would be an estimated amount of \$16,912.00; 20 kids would be an estimated amount of \$15,848.00; 30 kids would be an estimated amount of \$14,911.00; and 40 kids would be an estimated amount of \$14,708.00. Wakefield member- Would like to elaborate on the capacity. Jan- Fire code wise, I do not know that off the top of my head, but like I was saying, the first 2 years I could fit into my teacher capacity now and after that we would need to hire more teachers. Earl- A student is assured a seat all 4 years which is a part of most area agreements. Wakefield School Board Member (Relf)- If Wakefield decides to create a Voc. Tech, is Milton open to working in a partnership with Wakefield? Doug- I am open to anything to bring a way to save money and improve our kids' education. I'm all for it. Wakefield School Board Member- I think our numbers are farther apart than you think. Wakefield would pay the tuition rate from Rochester which is considerably less. Jan- That is a negotiation you would need to have with the Board. Wakefield School Board Member (Relf)- Rochester wants 90% of our students and they base their operating budget on that tuition. In the past, it was like pulling teeth to have them concede to 10% of the student population overall and not just per class. So, if they lose students, they would be inclined to raise the tuition to a higher number to cover their operating cost. So that would be the biggest obstacle I would see. Wakefield member- Because the Department of Education (DOE) approved us in sending our kids to Spaulding, it would take many years and the approval of the DOE to move our kids to another school. And I believe they would not offer us anything else if our kids went below the 90%, we have tried this the past 2-years. So, are you willing to take any 10% of the kids willing to go to Milton? Earl- Yes. Peg- I have

looked at the Area Agreement and did not see an end date on it. It sounds like every January they will send you the clause for the following year. The cost to send their students to Spaulding and Governor Wentworth is \$14,522.00 for next year. Based on the agreement calculation for the new career technical renovations (they did get aid from the State).

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Crandall, Secretary  
Minutes Approved: March 11, 2020