Wakefield School Board Public Minutes

August 18, 2026
Held in the SAU Conference Room
Draft

BOARD MEMBERS		ADMINISTRATORS	
Robert DeColfmacker, Chair	✓	Donna Magoon, Superintendent	✓
Heather Wilcauskas, Vice Chair	✓	Michele Lambert, Financial Manager	✓
Bob Ouellette	✓	Carol Keenan, Student Services Director	
Sandrea Taliaferro	✓	Aaron Nason, Interim Principal	✓
Ann Gehring	✓	Jennie Lovasco. Interim Asst. Principal	

Others present:
Selectmen Liaison Tom Daniels and Morgan Gehring of Clearview TV.

Call to Order
Mr. DeColfmacker opened the meeting at 5:32.

Agenda Review
Mrs. Lambert added the DOE 25 to New Business.

Non Public
Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to enter non public under RSA 91-A;3 II (c) at 5:34. Roll Call Vote: DeColfmacker aye, Gehring Aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Wilcauskas aye.

The Board returned to public session at 5:50.

Presentations, Public Hearings
To withdraw funds from the Maintenance Contingency Fund in the amount of $33,799.59
Mr. DeColfmacker opened the Public Hearing at 6:51.
Mrs. Lambert explained that Mr. Davis would like to expend funds from the Maintence Contingency Fund to purchase a new Hot Food Service Counter/Table in the kitchen which has to be replaced. The unit is forty-one years old and original to the kitchen. The wiring is dangerous and it has rusty parts. The unit is unsafe. Mr. Ouellette notes that in the packet 8/4/26 there were three quotes and Mr. Davis recommends Kittredge-Singer for quality and lead time. All three prices are comparable. She said this purchase has been approved by the DOE.
Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to withdraw the amount of $33,799.59 from the Maintenance Contingency Fund in the amount of $33,799.59 for the Hot Food Service Counter/Table. (Vote 5-0)

Mr. DeColfmacker closed the Public Hearing at 5:56.

NHSAS Presentation
Mr. Nason presented the results of the New Hampshire State Testing.
He said we are making progress and moving in the right direction. He said we have a lot of ground to make up. We also had twenty-four fewer students. Students can still opt out but we had fewer opt out that we did before. He explained what opting out actually means. There is a lot of misinformation. He said we have a threshold. If 5% of the student body or ten students opt out it's not counted for or against. If you go above 5% of the student body choosing to opt out everyone after that 5% counts as a zero.

All students were tested in ELA and math. Two grades were tested in science. They will be changing the approach on how they teach science in the school. The middle school students will have an entire year of science instead of a half a year. They now have a math program and have already seen growth. All these results are available on the state website.

Mr. Nason presented their plan for growth. They don't teach to the State test and have no plans to do so. They plan to set up some ways for the students to take this test seriously.

Our Plan for Sustained Growth

While celebrating our current momentum is important, our focus is firmly on the future. To close the achievement gap and continue accelerating student success, we are implementing a comprehensive, structured plan:

- **Shared K-8 Curriculums:** We have officially adopted iReady Math and Sadlier ELA as our unified, K-8 shared curriculums. While we anticipate needing a full year for these programs to take deep root, our recent progress proved that having a consistent, shared framework is exponentially more effective than having none at all.
- **Early Childhood Foundation**: We are fully adhering to the state's requirements for play-based learning in Kindergarten, ensuring our youngest learners build a strong, developmentally appropriate foundation from day one.
- **Targeted MTSS Support**: We are leveraging our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team to brainstorm and implement creative ways to improve student buy-in and motivation for the NHSAS.
- **Growth Incentives:** We are designing a new reward and recognition system specifically tailored to celebrate and incentivize students who demonstrate meaningful academic growth on the NHSAS.

Math - 24/25 vs. 25/26

SAS Summative Mathematics

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tests Taken: 286 Date Last Taken: 05/28/2025

Percent	44%	31%	16%	8%
Count	127	88	47	24

SAS Summative Mathematics

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tests Taken: 262 Date Last Taken: 05/28/2026

Percent	42%	27%	21%	9%
Count	111	72	55	24

24%

30%

ELA - 24/25 vs. 25/26

SAS Summative ELA

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tests Taken: 285 Date Last Taken: 05/23/2025

Percent	36%	30%	26%	8%
Count	102	85	73	23

SAS Summative ELA

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tests Taken: 263 Date Last Taken: 05/27/2026

Percent	37%	26%	28%	10%
Count	96	69	73	25

34%

38%

Science - 24/25 vs. 25/26

SAS Summative Science

Grades Tested: 5, 8

Tests Taken: 110 Date Last Taken: 04/16/2025

Percent	57%	25%	14%	4%
Count	63	28	15	4

SAS Summative Science

Grades Tested: 5, 8

Tests Taken: 80 Date Last Taken: 05/29/2026

Percent	58%	20%	16%	6%
Count	46	16	13	5

18%

22%

Public Comment
None

Report
Transportation
Mrs. Taliaferro gave an overview of the Transportation Committee items. She said that the current contract with First Student gives an option to extend the contract for two years, one year at a time. First Student was supposed to pay us $2,500 and they haven't so that amount will be deducted from the amount we will owe in September. She said there were two other companies that were interested in running our transportation and had reached out to her. She said the Board could put it out to bid if they wished and she handed out that REP. Or they could go with an extension.
Mrs. Lambert said if they Board chose to send it out for proposals she could have the Proposals back to the Board for the September 15th meeting. This is for next years budget.
Mrs. Taliaferro made a motion seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to send out the RFP for transportation. (Vote 5-0)

Meeting Minutes
Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the public minutes of 8-4-26 with corrections. (Vote 4-0-1)

Consent Agenda
Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to approve the Consent Agenda. (Vote 5-0)

Old Business
Library Budget Line
Mrs. Lambert said she could add notes on the line to make it clear how the money for books and other printed material is to be spent. The Board liked that idea. Mrs. Taliaferro asked about the binder that includes all the items that create a line. Mrs. Lambert said she has this for the past three years and said Board members can come in any time to look at it to see what is in each line.

Mrs. Magoon told the Board that they have a lot of unused books. Some will go into the new book vending machine, purchased from Title 1 money because we are now a Schoolwide School, and the rest will be put on a table for teachers to choose for their classroom.

Town Payment
Mrs. Lambert said the Town payment was moved to the second meeting of the month because it is due by the 10th. She said they received the August payment on the 7th. Mr. Daniels said the Town is looking into paying this electronically. They use the same bank. The Town is currently looking into the logistics.

New Business
Crotched Mountain Foundation Donation

Mrs. Magoon told the Board that the Paws Program students spend some of their time in a self-contained DOE approved classroom. Three years ago there was a program and when she came on board that program had been dissolved and the new program was run inhouse and the person running the program left. She didn't feel the requirements for those students with high needs were being met in this program. We were able to secure a $15,000 donation from the Crotched Mountain Foundation. They are helping to revamp the room and the staff will receive specialized training to work with those students. Being part of the foundation opens up other opportunities like adaptive equipment. The money pays for staff to be trained and our BCBA to oversee the staff. There is a certification process for the RBT's who have to meet monthly criteria.

DOE 25

Mrs. Lambert told the Board that the DOE 25 has been submitted to the DOE. The cover sheet that is submitted separately, was signed tonight. She said we ended FY25 with $13,511.86.

Follow Up

None

Nominations/Hires/Resignations

Catherine Martin – World Language

Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gehring, to accept Catherine Martin as the World Language Teacher. (Vote 5-0)

Samantha Gagnon – Substitute - FYI

Roland Lascala – IHI/SSC Interventionist - FYI

Non Public

Mr. Ouellette made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wilcauskas, to enter non public under RSA 91-A;3 II (c) at 6:45. Roll Call Vote: DeColfmacker aye, Gehring Aye, Ouellette aye, Taliaferro aye, Wilcauskas aye.

Adjournment

Ms. Wilcauskas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10. (Vote 5-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next School Board meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

School Board Secretary