

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 5, 2023**

School Board Members Present: K. Jerome, J. Blake, L. Picard, J. Hadler

Administration Present: L. Carey, C. Mayberry, M. Pouliot, K. Seaman

The School Board meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:05pm.

MINUTES:

J. Hadler MOVED to approve the public minutes of 9/21/23 as printed, SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES – K. Seamans:

- *Window replacement that was started in 21-22 is finally coming to a close.
- *Received quotes for HVAC projects; they came in quite a bit higher than anticipated.
- *The shed will be here in a couple of weeks.
- *Building automation should be set next week.
- *Discussion about playground.

L. Carey introduced Cheryl Mayberry, the new Business Manager. Theresa Taylor, who was at the meeting, has been a great help with the transition.

BUSINESS MANAGER – C. Mayberry:

Much of the proposed budget is level-funded contingent upon review and proposed changes.

M. Pouliot advised the largest change is in Books and Printed Material. There is a new Math Curriculum and there is a cost to maintain it.

M. Pouliot gave a shout-out to Joe Hadler. He pulled them out of a bind. He is doing a really great job in Science.

MANIFESTS:

J. Hadler MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest Voucher 1046 in the amount of \$1,312.33 and Voucher 1047 in the amount of \$190,013.34, both dated 10/6/23 and the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$224,320.97, dated 9/23/23; SECONDED by: VOTED: 4-0, MOTION.

The Board stipend was not included in this Manifest. C. Mayberry will have it done for the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – L. Carey:

- *Have been working on the budget for the past couple of weeks.
- *There is a non-public needed tonight.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR/COMMENT REPORT – L. Picard:

- *The Selectboard held their first budget session.
- *The Policy Committee brought forward two updated policies and three new policies.

After review, **L. Picard MOVED to approve the (5) policies brought forward by the Policy Committee; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session at 6:20pm under RSA91-A:3III,(a); SECONDED by: J. Blake, J. Hadler – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Blake – yes, K. Jerome – yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to leave non-public session at 7:07pm; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board discussed hiring.

J. Blake MOVED to seal those minutes until the person is notified; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Board discussed ACCESS and conversations that have come up over the last couple of weeks. They will continue with use of the building that ACCESS has had and the MOU will be reviewed and updated as needed. Administration/SAU/Facilities will work with ACCESS.

Natalie Quevedo thanked the Board. She would like to see a little more communication with the School Board, School and ACCESS. Explained this is a new ACCESS Board, not the old Board. Parents are happy. ACCESS wants to foster the relationships they have with kids.

L. Picard feels perhaps one meeting per month the Board could hear how the program is going and then that will be in the minutes.

Natalie Quevedo feels conversations should come from the building level and be a collaborative effort. The grant is up this year. Feels it is super important to have a working relationship with the school. Would like to meet to discuss it.

L. Picard reviewed the non-public minutes of 9/28/23.

J. Blake MOVED that the contract under #2 and #6 be sealed; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED. The Board discussed the hiring of a crossing guard and they have hired a new teacher.

J. Hadler MOVED to accept the non-public minutes as written with typo correction; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

BUDGET REVIEW:

L. Picard advised she wants to streamline the review of the budget by breaking down and reviewing specific lines at each meeting.

J. Hadler asked about budget subscriptions. Advised the line was previously lowered to \$5,000 and now it has increased to \$10,000.

M. Pouliot explained they ordered an on-line Assessment System – STAR. The line was increased because they also increased teaching time.

J. Hadler asked if subscriptions were consolidated.

M. Pouliot explained they had 21 in the past, now have four or five.

L. Carey explained teachers need diagnostics to tell them where weaknesses are.

L. Carey advised there was a \$70,000 savings in Technology.

Page 1 – The Supply line was increased due to the supply chain; everything costs more. L. Carey put a savings of \$10,000 from the budget into the Supply line.

L. Picard requested that M. Pouliot bring some tangible items for the Budget Committee so they can see what the money in that line is being spent on.

M. Pouliot explained they cut Reading Intervention. The money wasn't needed and wasn't getting spent. Now it is at the same level as Special Ed.

K. Jerome asked about class sizes. There is a low teacher-student ratio.

M. Pouliot explained they have had a significant amount of First graders move out since the beginning of school. There was one classroom buffer for Kindergarten, then they made a K-1 combo. There are three main teachers, but it is the amount of contract services students are receiving. Many students are identified.

L. Carey explained they are still not able to hire paras which are needed when students are receiving services in larger classes. It is more difficult without paras.

J. Blake asked why Staff Development SAU was level-funded.

L. Picard explained it is level-funded for the time being until Staff/Administration go through the budget.

L. Picard advised the School Board's Warrant Articles need to be done by Tuesday, 1/9/24.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Deliberative Session will be held on 2/3/24 with a back-up date of 2/10/24. The plan is that the meeting will be with the Town and held at the School.

L. Picard will talk to the Town.

Warrant Articles – L. Picard reviewed the Warrant Article templates received by M. Braley.

There have been no requests to fill the empty Board seat. They will put one more push on Facebook to be sure people see it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

K. Jerome and J. Hadler had a good Professional Development meeting. Robin was very informative; she is there to guide the staff.

L. Picard asked for an updated list of pick-up/drop-off times from First Student. Need to be following up whenever possible with First Student

M. Pouliot advised the bus drivers are different every day because they don't have enough.

L. Carey explained they can save \$70,000-\$80,000 by eliminating one bus. They have requested modifying the schedule to three buses. One driver has been out, so they have been working with three buses. She would like to make that change in the budget for next year.

M. Pouliot advised they have been desperately trying to get the bus issues under control. There has been no communication with the bus company. She has tried to reach them for a video and information regarding an incident but have not heard back. The School is dealing with major fallouts.

L. Picard – If the bus company is not responding, we need to do something about that. Do other districts have the same issue?

L. Picard and M. Pouliot feel they should come together with other districts.

L. Picard asked M. Pouliot to keep a pulse on this and keep it part of the conversation with the Board.

M. Pouliot will request a list of the high school routes.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None.

Board meetings will begin at 6:00pm rather than 6:30pm from now on. There will be one hour of regular Board business and one hour of Budget review.

J. Hadler MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:10pm under RSA91-A:3,III SECONDED by: L. Picard, J. Hadler - yes, L. Picard - yes, J. Blake – yes, and K. Jerome - yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:23pm; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary