

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 19, 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 6:04pm.

UDL PRESENTATION:

Lauren Elliott and representatives from the UDL Leadership Team gave a Power Point Presentation and answered questions of the Board. The team reviewed Goals; Identifying barriers and how to break through them; How to link core concepts of UDL to Winchester's ROARS, A seating library for flexible seating options, and other highlights.

There will be professional development for the staff to choose from in conjunction with UDL.

K. Jerome applauded the team. Feels it is powerful when all of the teachers are involved and the students are benefitting from it. She thinks it is great.

J. Hadler likes the idea of the chair library.

MINUTES:

J. Blake MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 10/5/23 as printed, SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

BUSINESS MANAGER – C. Mayberry:

MANIFESTS:

J. Hadler MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest Voucher 1052 in the amount of \$2,092.26 and Voucher 1053 in the amount of \$210,230.57, both dated 10/17/23 and the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$214,435.85, dated 10/13/23; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – M. Pouliot:

*STARS – There was some confusion about which of the tests classes should be taking, so the data is a little skewed. M. Pouliot was going to bring the information tonight, but some kids need to reassess. She will have that information for the next Board meeting.

*The staff met about Social-Emotional Learning. SEL was revamped for Grades Five/Six and Seven/Eight to keep students interested. They will also hold a school-wide event.

*Today was the Poetry Walk for Grades K-8. M. Pouliot thinks it was one of the best events at the School in a while. She wants to plan an evening event next time so parents can be there. It was a really nice event.

L. Picard asked about drop off/pick-up.

M. Pouliot advised it is going very well. There are still challenges with busing as there are different drivers every day. With the help of the crossing guard, using the full staff and giving the process time, it is going well.

M. Pouliot reached out for two weeks to get a student list from the bus company.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES – Shane Bryant:

Continuing to work on Medicaid and aligning IEP's with what Medicaid requires. Need supported language. The provider will be signing off on all billing sessions. We should start seeing some returns soon.

L. Picard asked about the expected turnaround on the decision as to whether a claim is accepted or denied; or is it a learning curve?

S. Bryant advised it is definitely a learning curve. They have had training. MSB manages it. They handle everything in case of an audit. They will be sure everything lines up, regarding service and date.

L. Picard – So when everything is submitted, we should expect to receive funds?

Explained, yes.

L. Picard asked when they could expect to receive funds.

S. Bryant is hoping December. Once things start moving, we will get checks pretty regularly.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – L. Carey:

*Very proud of the School coming together to have an event like today. This is what the kids will remember.

*Non-public is needed tonight.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Transportation:

C. Mayberry reviewed the lines with the Board. All are level-funded except the Crossing Guard.

L. Picard advised they should go to the Budget Committee with information on Athletic Transportation. Also, any information on combining routes, etc. will be good.

L. Carey explained she is not sure about cutting a bus, as discussed at the last meeting. One of the buses is very full; there is no room. Maybe Winchester high school kids could all meet at the School to get onto the bus.

J. Hadler – Maybe use the Town Hall location?

L. Picard will check with the Selectboard.

M. Pouliot explained bus behavior has been unsafe; the bus is very full.

C. Mayberry will check on Special Ed Transportation for the Summer Program. She will put in a number if it is not somewhere else in the budget.

School Board:

The only change is the addition of stipends. Per L. Picard's request, C. Mayberry will look at legal expenses for the next meeting.

L. Picard advised School Board stipends were put in a separate Warrant Article. Can the Budget Committee zero-out that line? She would like that clarified by Legal.

C. Mayberry feels it would have to be done by the Budget Committee, with a change in the Warrant Article.

School Administration:

Included an increase of up to 25% in Health Insurance and 4.7% Dental.

Teachers and Support Staff:

L. Picard asked C. Mayberry to provide increase calculations in the amount of 2.5%, 3%, 3.5% and 4%, for comparison.

C. Mayberry explained the biggest changes are mostly retirement, which is a byproduct of salary, 25% Health and 4.7% Dental. They have put \$18,000 in for a new Math Curriculum.

L. Carey explained they are cutting the number of paras from 27-15 because they know they won't get that number of paras. Hopefully it will bring them very close to a level-funded budget.

L. Picard advised it is vital to explain the staffing change. Need to explain that they worked through the curriculum changes to make the number work. There is not likely to be \$262,000 to return to the taxpayers.

L. Picard asked C. Mayberry about the Accounting Clerk. Is that position at a good point hour-wise; could you use more hours?

C. Mayberry advised it is always nice to have additional support to take on additional duties. Feels it will take her a little time to know. She is happy with the current hours for the position based on what she knows now.

Facilities:

L. Picard asked K. Seaman if he is happy with the number of staff.

K. Seaman doesn't think they would find a Facilities Director who would say yes. They are able to accomplish more than expected with the staff they have. He would say they are one-half to one full position short. May need to look at putting something in for additional staff next year.

L. Picard asked if there is any chart to cycle out furniture and bring new in. She feels it would be a good time to do something with that.

M. Pouliot feels that is something Matt Hill probably worked on and there should be a document set up.

K. Seaman thinks he can put together an estimated cost for each classroom for new furniture.

L. Carey advised upstairs is loaded with furniture. They have made great strides to use it.

L. Carey has made requests for Kevin Seaman and Shane Bryant to level-fund their budgets.

L. Picard asked K. Seaman to bring the document to the Board.

L. Picard will check with the Selectboard about the date for the Deliberative Session, at their next meeting.

During the Budget Review at the next meeting the following will be discussed: Projected Enrollment, Keene Tuition, Special Ed (Out-of-District placements) and Warrant Articles.

C. Mayberry advised M. Braley goes through the tuition bill. She is working on validating attendance, etc.

L. Picard would like the Board to be ready by 11/2/23 to approve the numbers they have.

J. Hadler asked if the Board could get the budget ahead of the next meeting.

C. Mayberry will try to get it a day ahead and e-mail it to the Board to look at prior to the meeting.

L. Picard advised it would be good to include corrections and tuition numbers.

L. Carey appreciates everyone working together. She feels discussions were very productive. She is dedicated to providing the best education, but not wasting money.

L. Picard announced the Board vacancy at the Select Board meeting. Once they get into December and are working with the Budget Committee, she doesn't see a point in getting someone for the Deliberative Session. They will see what interest comes in by the next meeting.

L. Picard explained the Town hopes that around Forest Lake will be completely open in a couple of weeks, provided the paving is done after the road gets finished.

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:04pm; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, K. Jerome – yes, J. Blake – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Hadler – yes, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to leave non-public session at 9:00pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler MOVED to seal non-public session minutes #1, #3 and #4, SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary