

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

School Board Members Present: K. Jerome, J. Blake, J. Hadler, L. Picard arrived at 6:14pm.

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

The School Board meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, J. Hadler at 6:03pm.

MINUTES:

J. Blake MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 10/19/23 as printed, SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES – K. Seaman:

- *Things are going well. The light project is underway; about half of the Thayer Building is done.
- *Working on asbestos regulations. There has been training by the staff. Winchester needs a Management Plan. The plan was mailed to K. Seaman last week so they now have one.
- *Working on heating issue.

BUSINESS MANAGER – C. Mayberry:

MANIFESTS:

J. Blake MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$219,972.61, dated 10/27/23; Accounts Payable Manifest Voucher 1058 in the amount of \$752.11 and Voucher 1059 in the amount of \$355,555.17, both dated 11/3/23; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard arrived at the meeting at 6:14pm.

J. Hadler MOVED to approve signing of the MS25 and DOE25 for the tax rate; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – L. Carey:

- *Topics to discuss during budget.
- *Administration/Staff did a great job on the budget.
- *Needs a non-public tonight.

POLICIES:

Ten policies were presented to the Policy Committee for approval tonight.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the following policies: ACN – Nursing Mothers Accommodations; BEDG – Minutes; DFGA – Crowd Funding; EBCC – False Alarms, Bomb, Active Shooter and other such Threats; EHAB – Data Governance & Security; FA Facilities Development Goals & Preparation of Capital Improvement Plan; IKL – Academic Honesty and Integrity; JCA – Change of School or Assignment Policy/Best Interest & Manifest Hardship; JKAA – Use of Restraints & Seclusion; KCB – Public Gifts/Donations; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler asked about the SAFE Grant.

S. Bryant explained they are on it. He will bring it to the Board once he has more information.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

L. Picard asked that current budget information be kept uploaded on the School's website.

Projected Enrollment:

The Board reviewed the lines with C. Mayberry.

L. Picard asked about the 2022 numbers for the Elementary and Middle School.

C. Mayberry will get that.

L. Picard asked how many full-time, part-time, contracted and non-contracted employees there are.

C. Mayberry will get those numbers. She advised there is no anticipated change in staff.

The Board would like a survey done to see which Eighth Graders are planning to go somewhere other than Keene High next year.

M. Pouliot will do that.

C. Mayberry advised on the latest bill from Keene, there were 114 Regular Ed and 32 Special Ed students; expects that number to be less next year.

S. Bryant will start looking around February for information as to whether there are Seniors who will be staying for year 13.

KHS Tuition:

*C. Mayberry reviewed the lines with the Board. She doesn't know if the tuition cost from Keene has changed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION (Out of District Students):

S. Bryant explained there are 16 out-of-district students from Winchester, as of right now. He discussed a new placement,

previously, with the Board. The cost is just under \$100,000. They need to budget for \$580,000+ and recapture Catastrophic Aid monies. It takes about a year to get it.

L. Picard feels they need to contact Kathy Piehl. She is concerned about not knowing how much will be coming in in revenues. Wondered if they could have funds automatically go into the Special Ed Trust Fund and reword the Article? Can they write a Warrant Article for the Special Ed Trust so that CAT Aid returns go directly into Special Education? The way it is currently written, it comes out of whatever is left. If there is nothing left, there would be nothing for the fund.

L. Carey asked for clarification; what is needed from Kathy Piehl?

S. Bryant explained Medicaid is up and running. The first reimbursement has been processed through MSB.

The Board reviewed the lines in the budget regarding Athletics and C. Mayberry answered questions.

C. Mayberry advised a large part of the increase is for new soccer goals.

L. Carey advised the Athletic Director gave Administration a list of what is needed and that is reflected in the budget.

The Board discussed money from the Boosters Club for Athletics.

After discussion, L. Picard asked L. Carey to check with K. Piehl. As the School's name is attached with the Booster Club, should they send a letter to see where the money is?

K. Seaman explained there is furniture in the budget in the amount of \$10,000 with \$2,500 of that for UDL seating; \$7,500 would be for classrooms. He would like to redo an Elementary classroom, as they stay pretty consistent through the years. The budget is \$10,000 more than in the past, but things could get done.

K. Seaman explained one moving piece is they offer teachers an option of different furniture for their rooms. He works in collaboration with the teachers. He can move furniture around to different classrooms as they can use it. They will be working on the Capital Plan in Joint Loss.

L. Picard – Maybe they could do two rooms and then next time three, with the Capital Plan.

K. Seaman advised he has a list of projects for the Capital Plan.

K. Jerome advised there are no clubs in the Middle School. It doesn't seem part of the budget. She feels it is very important. When the kids go to Keene, they haven't been exposed to any.

M. Pouliot advised Winchester does have Student Council. It will be starting very soon.

ACCESS did a lot of clubs in the past, but they have lost staff. Kids stopped signing up.

M. Pouliot explained transportation is the issue. Student Council is held during the day.

She would like an academic club at the end of the school day. Doesn't want kids not to be able to attend because of transportation issues.

J. Hadler feels it is a possibility that ACCESS can provide transportation. She will check with them on Monday.

M. Pouliot advised the Eighth graders went to KHS to tour the campus and ate at the restaurant at the Cheshire Career Center. Jen Weisenberger advised that it was the most welcomed Winchester has ever felt in Keene. It was great. All classrooms were filled. They got to see kids participating.

L. Picard hopes they keep up the momentum.

A citizen advised that KHS is looking to develop more with introductory classes for Freshman.

The Board received comparisons for Teacher/Support Staff salary increases. Three percent is currently in the budget. They can make a shift.

L. Picard asked C. Mayberry if she thinks there will be any additional shift to the budget.

C. Mayberry hopes not. There could be a shift in Eighth graders, depending where they go as Freshman.

At the next meeting the following budget items will be reviewed:

- *Capital Reserve

- *Revenue

- *Staffing

- *Other discussion/follow-up

The Budget Committee has the Board scheduled to meet. L. Picard believes it is 12/5, 12/7 and 12/12.

L. Picard advised the next Board meeting will be held on November 16th; there is no other Board Meeting before December 7th, which is the same date as the meeting with the Budget Committee. They need to get the budget done and voted on.

J. Hadler asked if they can send questions ahead of time so they can get information by the 16th and get the budget done.

L. Picard advised if the Board has questions, they can send them to L. Carey and C. Mayberry and copy L. Picard.

Deliberative Session:

L. Picard explained it was the general consensus of the Selectboard that the Deliberative Session will be held on 2/3/2024 with the Town and School. She is not sure, yet, where it will be held.

Warrant Articles:

A draft of the Warrant was included in the Board packet and reviewed.

L. Picard explained if there is an updated Warrant Article to raise and appropriate directly from taxation. It would probably be voted down, but is that the most responsible thing to do?

L. Picard advised L. Carey that she will send the requests to K. Piehl regarding the Expendable Trust, Medicaid Funds, funds next year from CAT Aid and the Booster Club.

After discussion, the Board agreed it will dedicate the entire meeting on 11/16/2023, except any Manifests, to the budget.

Rob Bushee asked for working copies of the budget for the next meeting.

L. Picard advised they will provide them.

J. Blake MOVED to go into non-public Session under RSA91-A(c) and (k) at 8:00pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, K. Jerome – yes, J. Blake – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Hadler – yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler MOVED to go leave non-public session at 8:50; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard advised - The School Board has started the process of reviewing the current tuition contract, and a non-public session was posted for 10/26/23 with the Hinsdale School Board. The School Board hopes to have an opportunity to meet with members of the Keene School Board or their representative soon, as well. The School Board is dedicated to community engagement and they look forward to providing more information when they can.

J. Blake MOVED to seal discussion #1 of the non-public minutes; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to seal the non-public minutes specific to RSA91-A:3,III(k); SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary