

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 7, 2023**

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

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

The School Board meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:07pm.

MINUTES:

J. Blake MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 11/16/23 as printed, SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

BUSINESS MANAGER – C. Mayberry:

MANIFESTS:

J. Hadler Moved to approve the Accounts Payable Vouchers #1070 in the amount of \$972,018.08 and #1071 in the amount of \$103.99 both dated 12/1/23; SECONDED by: J. Blake, C. Mayberry advised they are working on keeping track of students going in and out of Keene, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Hadler MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifests dated 11/23/23 in the amount of \$208,120.40 and 12/8/23 in the amount of \$208,403.07; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

POLICIES:

L. Picard advised some Committee members did not have a chance to review the policies with everything going on with the budget, etc. They will review them at the meeting on the 18th.

K. Jerome and J. Hadler met as part of the Development Committee on Wednesday. It was a good session with the teachers regarding Smart Goals.

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES – K. Seaman:

The Facilities Committee meeting was today. Things are going well. K. Seaman explained they removed the window project from ESSER funds; there is a lot of red tape and they hit a block. Some work needs to be done; will do it without Grant funds.

They have been approved for ESSER 3 – HVAC projects moving forward. The equipment is on order. The light project is 50% done.

L. Carey explained \$55,000 was approved by ESSER.

*K. Seaman would like to purchase an all-in-one washer/dryer for \$2,100. He would like to use monies from the line closer to the end of the year.

*K. Seaman explained the Fire Inspection was done on Saturday morning. It took four hours. The school currently has 210 cases of hand sanitizer that needs to be moved to an outside storage. Need to pair down what we have.

*Will continue to try to share it with the community and then find a way to dispose of the rest. They are still shaking out issues with the heating; the Fifth Grade is incredibly hot. He thinks it was part of the new work; will try to see what the issue is, how to fix it and if it is under warranty.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

L. Picard advised the Selectboard set the tax rate at \$31.68 last night, which is an increase. Need to be prepared for changes being proposed to the budget lines by the Budget Committee even though the budget is down \$400,000.

BUDGET REVIEW

C. Mayberry provided an update from the 12/5 meeting with the Budget Committee.

Two lines were questioned in Transportation. The lines and added expenses were removed.

C. Mayberry advised she needs to check the invoices to see if they are being billed to the correct line, ex. out-of-district placement, etc. C. Mayberry will try to have it ready for Tuesday night's meeting.

L. Picard feels the most important information for the Budget Committee is confidence in the number; that the Special Education amount of \$290,000 is supported. They could provide a list of what is being done to support the number for transportation.

L. Picard advised C. Mayberry will have information ready in the backend and be able to provide it and keep the budget clean. The Board reviewed the budget for additional questions that need to be addressed.

C. Mayberry has discussed with IT as to what is in that line. Microsoft and Google licensing, Alma (was Power School) and other software, etc. Will check to see what additional is in that line.

C. Mayberry advised the formula in Version 6 and 7 of the budget is not correct. She will e-mail the changes to J. Blake and he will get them to the Budget Committee.

L. Picard advised a Holiday Bazaar and Farmer's Market will be held Saturday at the Town Hall.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None.

J. Blake MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA91-A:3, III (a), (k) and (j); SECONDED by: J. Hadler, L. Picard – yes, J. Blake – yes, K. Jerome, J. Hadler – yes at 7:30pm, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to go back into public session at 8:10pm; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board accepted a resignation and discussed positions.

L. Picard advised the non-public minutes under (j) will be sealed and under (k) they will be sealed until the Board is done with negotiations.

L. Carey requested permission from the Board and the public to use \$92,500 of \$250,000 to begin developing an Autism program for the very youngest students. This is being preempted because of the high cost of out-of-district placement and is the least restrictive for kids. They would like to begin on 1/1/24.

S. Bryant explained it is a contracted position. They come in prepared with what is needed and work side-by-side with the teacher. He feels it is a good time to start to see what the interest is. A key piece is the training this company will provide.

J. Blake MOVED to give affirmative action to go with a \$12,500.00 contract and use, to be taken from ESSER funds; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to seal the resignation from non-public session until it is announced; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to seal the non-public minutes under (j); SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to seal the non-public minutes under (k) for six months; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Blake MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary