

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2020
VIA ZOOM**

Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Kilanski, J. Rokes, T. Perkins, E. Holmes
Administration Present: K. Dassau, V. Carey, I. Spencer, David Jack and Jennifer Heise

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. by Chair, L. Picard. L. Picard read the right-to-know checklist for a Zoom meeting. She took roll call attendance and members advised if anyone was in the room with them.

MINUTES:

T. Perkins MOVED to accept the 12/3/20 minutes; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED by roll call; T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT –V. Carey:

*Parents have expressed a wish for snow days instead of remote learning on those days. Will send out a survey for the rest of the Winter, will collect data and ask teachers how today went. V. Carey will bring the recommendations back to a future meeting.

L. Picard asked about data regarding assessments that were done.

V. Carey explained she hasn’t been able to dig through it. Nothing has been received from the State.

*The Town discussed having the Deliberative Session at the School. V. Carey has reached out at the school. Advised it would depend if they had students back as to set up and breakdown. It seems like it could work. There were no major concerns from Administration.

BUSINESS MANAGER – D. Jack:

*The Board received the MS4 and D. Jack reviewed the Default Budget with the Board. The budget we are in now is \$11,927,757 and the Default number is \$11,610,865. The Default Budget does not include transportation to Keene, Kindergarten, Pre-School or additional teachers. It is a bare bones budget. The Board needs to educate the public on the Default Budget. It means a lot of things will not be in there.

L. Picard MOVED to accept the amount of \$11,610,865 as a Default Budget; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

The Board will receive and approve via email, the Payroll and Accounts Payable Manifests. They should let D. Jack know if there are any questions.

L. Picard - Thank you to D. Jack. The Board is in the middle of things that needed attention. She has heard positive feedback on the transition.

SUPERINTENDENTY REPORT – K. Dassau:

*There will be a nomination in non-public tonight and also a non-meeting after tonight’s Board meeting.

*Will discuss the deficit Warrant Article and Revised Budget later in the meeting.

FACILITIES MANAGER – I. Spencer:

*Discussed the request from the Boosters Club for both Boys and Girls Basketball. They will pay the rental fee for six hours per week for each team. I. Spencer needs to confirm that it is Monday through Friday; has a commitment from his staff to work overtime during the week.

A couple of things need clarification. Administration is definitely in support of Sports. Would overspend that line, but would be receiving revenue from the Sports Boosters.

J. Rokes is concerned that the Board voted to keep kids home because it is not safe for them to be at the school; but then we let them play sports at the school. Feels it is important that the kids can play sports, but he has an issue with safety.

I. Spencer advised the School group is a much larger group even with hybrid learning.

V. Carey explained they still have students in the building. We currently have 15-20 identified students, max. It is not a school activity. It is a little different situation.

L. Picard feels the concern is felt by many in Administration, parents, etc.

Joan Smalley, President of the Sports Boosters, advised that some teams are planning to play soon and there are others they are waiting to hear back from. She has advised that they would use the gym Monday through Thursday.

T. Kilanski MOVED to allow the Sports Boosters to use the gym; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard thanked the Sports Boosters for their support of Winchester students in Sports.

The Budget Committee has reached a compromise on the 21-22 budget. The key point was additional teachers in Option 2; they were removed. The Budget amount recommended by the Budget Committee is \$12,353,676.98; additional cuts were made by Administration per the list provided to the Board. L. Picard will send a list of cuts and deficit and default information to the Budget Committee.

T. Perkins MOVED and recommended to put on the Warrant Article the proposed budget of \$12,353,676.98; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED by roll: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard thanked the School Board for all their hard work. She is always pleased when they get through harder stuff and the budget is one of those things.

Deficit Warrant Article – D. Jack reviewed the Warrant Article with the Board. He explained there is a negative \$745,402 unassigned fund balance. The School gave more back to offset the tax rate than the auditors found, in addition to a revenue short fall. He explained other districts bring auditors in, in August to do a preliminary audit to get an idea of the YTD fund balance. It would help the district and over time in the future. He would rather think they have less and then realize they had more. It could be returned the next year.

L. Picard feels maybe while D. Jack and MRI are here, he could do some analysis for Winchester so we know what things we need to look at in the business office.

D. Jack advised he can certainly do that; best while he is here.

L. Picard asked that it be put on the agenda in January under Board Chair Report. She asked members to think about it.

The Board could do a Public Hearing and elect to use Special Ed funds to reduce the Deficit Warrant Article.

The Budget Committee could request that the Town use money from their unreserved fund balance. Money from the Town would be an increase in revenues but would not be an increase in the tax rate.

With an assessment from D. Jack, we could look at staffing needs and Business Manager practices to alleviate this from happening.

L. Picard explained the reason they can look at using Special Ed fund monies is because the Special Ed fund was over in the past. Not that it can always be utilized. Don't want to drain it. Advised she was thinking they could use one half; there is currently \$325,000+ in the fund so they could use about \$162,000.

L. Picard advised the Attorney will need to put language together for the Warrant Article and they can bring it to the Budget Committee on January 5th, then they could have the Public Hearing before the 1/7 Board Meeting.

V. Carey thinks the Board would want to either recommend or not recommend the Warrant Article on 1/5/21. After discussion, it was agreed that the Board would hold the Public Hearing at 5:30pm. on 1/5/21 to finalize the Warrant Articles and then meet with the Budget Committee.

Warrant Article One:

T. Perkins MOVED and recommended Warrant Article One as written, to the ballot; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

Warrant Article Two:

T. Perkins MOVED and recommended Article Two with a Budget amount of \$12,353,676.98 with a Default Budget of \$11,610,865, to the ballot; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

Warrant Article Four:

T. Perkins MOVED and recommended Article Four to the ballot; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

Warrant Article Five:

L. Picard MOVED and recommended Article Five in the amount of \$25,000 to the ballot; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

Article Six:

T. Perkins MOVED and recommended Article Six to the ballot in the amount of \$125,000; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

Article Seven:

Will do this Article at the 5:30 Public Hearing on 1/5/21.

Article Eight and Nine:

L. Picard MOVED and recommended Article Eight and Nine to the ballot; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

V. Carey advised HB 1129 allows the Public Hearing to be virtual.

L. Picard – Annual Report letters are due by 1/15 from department heads and the Board Chair. A citizen asked about doing a dedication for the Annual Report. It is something that was done before the School went together with the Town. L. Picard advised the Board could discuss it on the 7th and bring suggestions and take a vote at that time.

K. Dassau advised they will make that a non-public discussion.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Trevor Croteau asked about monies returned to the Town.

D. Jack explained the monies do not move through the Town; go directly to offset taxation. Not allowed to have revolving accounts that carry money every year.

L. Picard MOVED to go into RSA91-a:3(b) at 8:45pm; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:53 pm; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board reviewed and accepted a nomination for an open Special Ed position. They should be able to announce it at the next Board meeting when the contract has been signed.

J. Rokes asked about the Selectboard meeting on December 30th; he will be attending.

L. Picard advised he could let the Selectboard know the School Board agreed and recommended the Budget number, Default number and Warrant. The Board will review at the next meeting, a potential return to in-person instruction.

T. Kilanski MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sincerely,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary