

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Perkins, E. Holmes, T. Kilanski

Board Members Absent: J. Rokes

Administration Present: K. Dassau, V. Carey, D. Jack, I. Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by School Board Chair, L. Picard.

L. Picard read the Right-to-Know Meeting Checklist, took roll call and Board members advised who, if anyone, was in the room with them.

E. Holmes MOVED to approve the Public and Non-Public minutes of the December 17th Board meeting; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – V. Carey:

V. Carey discussed with the Board the decision that had been made to go to remote learning and provided an update.

V. Carey explained data has not changed for the better; it has changed for the worse. In the past couple of weeks there has been some leveling-off, but not better than when they made the decision to go to remote learning. Advised we are seeing some sporadic new changes.

V. Carey shared information with the Board from DHHS and reviewed. She explained we are still in the substantial range; three times what the number was when we went to remote learning. Two things considered when making the decision to go to remote learning, is Community spread and impact on the school. Staffing is still an issue. The staff is significantly strained; don’t have the staff they used to as 23 positions were cut from the budget.

V. Carey advised according to DHHS there has been more discussion about giving vaccines through Phase 2A to K-12 staff in March.

Numbers are starting to trend downward, but V. Carey advised it is still too soon to say how that will continue. They haven’t seen all the results of gatherings from Christmas. Winchester school had their first positive case this week.

L. Picard asked about compensatory services; will there be issues?

V. Carey advised if some students can’t do remote learning, they will continue to bring students in to the school starting 1/19. They are not recommending a return to in-person learning, but are able to handle the cohorts for specialized services coming in to the building.

L. Picard advised the Board will revisit and touch base at each Board meeting.

T. Perkins feels they should take it meeting-by-meeting and see where they are.

T. Kilanski asked whether they needed a Motion to continue to touch base at every meeting.

T. Kilanski – Do we want to revisit every week or hold off for a month so parents have a heads-up?

L. Picard feels that is reasonable.

After discussion, **T. Kilanski MOVED to revisit a return to in-person instruction at the first Board meeting of each month until it is decided that the kids can go back to school; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

V. Carey advised she could bring updated numbers to each meeting.

MANIFESTS:

L. Picard advised the Manifests went out via e-mail with signature pages.

T. Perkins MOVED to enter into the record, the 12/24/20 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$194,201.50; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

T. Perkins MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 1/8/21 in the amount of \$175,257.51; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

T. Perkins MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 1/5/21 in the amount of \$140,033.26; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call, T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard advised Board meetings are now on schedule with the Payroll Manifest. The Board will review and approve the Accounts Payable Manifest at the same time.

BUSINESS MANAGER – D. Jack:

The Board received the year-to-date budget report for the end of December and D. Jack reviewed. He expects the numbers to look a lot different once additional purchase orders, etc. are received and processed.

L. Picard is hoping they will get updated information from D. Jack and MRI regarding staffing, etc. They will at some point need to look for a new Business Manager.

D. Jack advised they will be doing a study regarding the Business office, i.e, requirements, workload, number of staff, etc. Will gain information and get input and see how the Business Office is running today and give recommendations and data for the cost of doing business. Hopefully they will have the report to the Board by the first week in April. If that changes, he will update the Board. D. Jack advised the fact that he is on-premises will help with the cost of doing the report.

Ian Spencer advised they have done the next section of four rooms with HVAC. Originally there were 26 rooms to do; this section of nine rooms is progressing quicker than he expected. If they continue this way, by the end of March they would be done with those rooms they had funding for. Then there will be nine rooms left at \$24,000 per room; would use half of the funds this year from the Capital Plan and then half in 2022 and be done in the Summer. Ian Spencer advised they could house the entire student body without those rooms, if needed.

T. Perkins asked about State COVID monies.

I. Spencer advised no one from the State has contacted Winchester regarding additional COVID funds. If it comes out, advised he will be all over it so they can say in September, we will have the building operational.

L. Picard thinks they did sign-ups for the Sports Boosters. Due to COVID case impact can they come in before 1/19/21?

V. Carey explained the building has been deep cleaned; kids could practice. Grades Six through Eight are not here due to staffing; but younger kids with specialized services, are still here. Advised they are in a holding pattern now.

Gary Carle, President of the Sports Boosters would like to start when they can.

L Picard advised he should reach out to Ian Spencer for scheduling and entrance to the building.

V. Carey will get Ian Spencer's cell phone number to Gary Carle.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:

* K. Dassau advised the Board held a non-meeting prior to the Board meeting tonight.

L. Picard advised the Budget Committee met Tuesday night. All Board members were present.

The Budget Committee recommended the following Warrant Articles:

Article Two: 5-0

Article Five: 5-0

Article Six: 5-0

The Board discussed the Deficit Warrant Article prior to the Budget Committee meeting and held a public hearing to utilize \$125,000 from Special Ed fund. That would leave a deficit balance of \$620,402. The Board did vote to recommend the Deficit Warrant Article. The Budget Committee voted to reduce the deficit amount to \$400,000 and the Motion passed 4-1. The Budget Committee is anticipating that the School Board will have at least a surplus from Adequacy Aid that they did not appropriate. The Board can Move to reconsider Article Seven.

After discussion, **T. Kilanski MOVED to reconsider Article Seven in the amount of \$400,000; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard advised if everything goes as planned, they can resolve this issue. Being very optimistic, we may not need to use all Special Ed monies.

T. Perkins MOVED to raise and appropriate \$400,000 and recommend Article Seven; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard advised the Negotiation Team has reached a negotiation contract with the Teachers Union for the school year 21-22 and 22-23. They have worked diligently. She is proud of the work that both groups have done. She feels they came to a good resolution. She thanked T. Perkins and J. Rokes for their hard work.

Article Three:

Total Year One:

\$64,117.66; \$53,717.00 – Wages and \$10,400.66 Associated Benefits

Total Year Two:

\$63,902.79; \$53,550.00 - Wages and \$10,352.79 Associated Benefits

Both the School Board and the Teachers have ratified the contract.

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

There was one absence from the School Board tonight.

The Budget Committee will post their Public Hearing for Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:00pm.

The meeting will be in-person at the Town Hall with both the Budget Committee and the School Board. The Town voted for a mask ordinance for the meeting for Budget Committee members and the Public.

L. Picard reminded the Board and the Public of the Governor's order and explained the Town voted to enforce a stricter mask ordinance.

L. Picard – This Saturday's meeting is for Town Moderators. K. Dassau can provide information when received regarding the Board's Deliberative Session scheduled for Saturday 1/30/21 at 9:00am. The School Board will call to order before the Deliberative Session, then recess and go back into the Board meeting, if needed.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Ben Kilanski asked what the percentage of raise was in the teachers' contracts.

K. Dassau advised he would have to go back to the document. The percentage would shift based on each teacher's step, etc. He will get back to him on that.

K. Dassau advised when they have the document it will be public.

Ann Bazan advised Cheshire County is trending slightly downward more than other areas in NH.

A member of the public asked about the amount of money being spent from the budget.

L. Picard advised if they have a specific question and are looking for an answer, they should send their question to be addressed by the School Board/Administration at the next Board meeting.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm; SECONDED by: E. Holmes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sincerely,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary