

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MARCH 18, 2021
VIA ZOOM

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by School Board Chair, L. Picard.

L. Picard read the Right-to-Know meeting checklist, took roll call and all Board members advised if anyone was in the room with them. T. Kilanski advised his wife was at home. All other members were alone.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the public minutes of 3/4/21 as amended – changing under Budget Review \$1,283,079 to \$1,283,079 and approve the non-public minutes of 3/4/21 as printed; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Rokes – yes, MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – V. Carey:

Things are going very well with in-person instruction. Everyone is super excited to be back in the building four days a week. Cohorts rotate as to when students are in the building. There are approximately 275 students total – the remainder of the students are remote. There is a renewed sense of wanting to be in school and a renewed appreciation of connections for kids and adults. It is very positive. Remote-only students see teachers two times a day, every day. They have access to staff for support. V. Carey advised they will continue to review things and make adjustments as needed.

V. Carey sent a reminder to families regarding:

- *Parent/Teacher conferences have been moved to April 2nd. There will not be in person learning that day.
- *Need to observe the parking and drop off/pick up safety procedures.
- *Asked families to do their best to do the health screenings each morning by 7:50am. It saves school time if staff get them early.

Practiced bussing procedures; the second week was much better. Things are going really well with the return to school process.

Teacher vaccinations for this area – waiting for scheduling spreadsheet. Should come any day so they can schedule times for teachers/staff vaccines. Should be able to have first shots by the last week in March.

The Commissioner of Education and DHHS have forwarded new guidance regarding quarantine after exposure. V. Carey reviewed the guidelines with the Board.

T. Kilanski asked if the Board should make it so Administration is able to follow simple guidelines put out if it is decided kids can go unmasked, etc. Then they are not waiting two weeks for us to say they can.

V. Carey – Sometimes guidelines are not simple and require interpretation. Advised they would bring it to the Board. If there is something major, they would bring it to the Board prior to the next School Board meeting.

V. Carey feels because they can't be six feet apart with masks all the time, they should do contact tracing for anyone within six feet for more than 10 minutes and quarantine. She can't say they are always three feet apart and always with a mask on. She feels they should remove the two day deep clean and if three to six feet apart and consistently wear masks, can take the criteria out for a second cluster quarantine for 14 days and add follow DHHS recommendations, at that point.

**T. Perkins MOVED to change the language to remove two day deep cleaning; continue contact tracing within six feet and continue quarantine. Remove criteria for a second cluster close for two weeks and instead add DHHS protocol as needed; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED by roll call:
T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Rokes – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

V. Carey will reach out to the Winchester Police Department to see if they will assist with reminders/guidelines for the parking lot.

BUSINESS MANAGER – D. Jack:

Outsource Payroll – now there is no backup plan. It might be an option to mediate problems while transitioning.

D. Jack explained the process; what it would look like. It will take some time and something they typically do at certain times of the year. Explained they received the resignation of the Accounts Payable/Receivable person; brings some urgency. Even with a temp; the temp leaves. Outsourcing Payroll would give stability. Will continue the conversation as pieces come together.

D. Jack will discuss when they have an assessment for the Board and this will be part of it.

MFS Lease – Will address in non-public session.

D. Jack office continues to do what is the most critical at this point. Every day they get another curve ball thrown at them. Will get other things done in a timely fashion, but that does become a challenge.

FACILITIES REPORT – I. Spencer:

*Managed to meet the needs of reopening and satisfy furniture spacing requirements, etc.

Reduction in Maintenance staff is apparent; it's a struggle. Custodial staff in the area are on a critical needs list now. Lost temp; doing the best they can to replace them. That person did COVID specific cleaning. They are putting in some overtime; trying not to kill grant funds with overtime. The staff is extremely willing to do whatever is asked of them.

Ian Spencer advised he still has not heard from the Town about the Deliberative Session. He heard that it is now in the School gym.

L. Picard has asked the Town to reach out. They will not be using the tents. Need Facilities to be aware and give feedback. If they don't hear soon, maybe L. Picard and I. Spencer could go to Wednesday's meeting.

I. Spencer has concerns. They don't have the staff to do extra cleaning and set up. He needs to know how it will happen.

L. Picard feels they need the staff to basically set up and take down for the Deliberative Session. She will follow up if she doesn't hear. It is only a couple of weeks away.

I. Spencer - Should let the vendor know there is only one meeting they will need the tents for. He is assuming there will be a reduction in the cost.

L. Picard – If only setting up and taking down once, could they consider using the front lot now?

I. Spencer feels yes, they could.

T. Kilanski doesn't recall saying they would have it outside, but remembers voting for the tents. If it is going to be tough to have staff set up and tear down the gym and then set up outside, would it be a thought to have ours' inside, too?

V. Carey advised they can't keep things set up in the gym; only the chairs, as it is used for a place for mask breaks.

I. Spencer advised there is a huge difference between the Town and School Deliberative session numbers. The Town could stay reasonably spaced. Last year, the School's Deliberative Session was 175 voters plus other non-residents, staff, etc. They can't have appropriate social distancing with that number.

T. Kilanski asked about the rain, etc.

I. Spencer advised it is up to the moderators. The moderators said it is up to the Board.

J. Rokes asked why people couldn't stay 3-6 ft. apart.

L. Picard advised even with that, there would be a capacity issue.

After much discussion by the Board, **T. Kilanski MOVED to hold the School's Deliberative Session inside; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – no, E. Holmes – no, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – no, MOTION FAILED.**

L. Picard MOVED to continue with the process of holding the School's Deliberative Session outside under a tent as anticipated, on April 10th; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, after discussion, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski –no, J. Rokes – no, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

The Deliberative session will begin at 9:00am. on April 10th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:

*Received a call from the Administrative Assistant at Keene High School regarding reports for sending schools. Winchester's report from KHS will be on April 15th via zoom at the Board Meeting.

L. Picard advised they will put KHS first on the agenda.

L. Picard asked if the Keene High Committee will have information prior to the meeting on the 15th.

K. Dassau doesn't think it is unreasonable to expect to look at the information before.

V. Carey advised they have received it before the meeting in the past so they could ask questions.

L. Picard – That is what her expectation would be.

K. Dassau and V. Carey will follow up.

*A non-public session is needed to discuss contracts and lease.

CHAIR REPORT/COMMENTS – L. Picard:

*KHS Committee: Meeting on Thursday next week at 6:00pm. J. Rokes is available; will be via Zoom.

*Policy Committee: Attempted to meet, but had technical difficulties. Will bring policies for the next Board meeting.

*Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Night for Winchester students will be on June 2nd. T. Perkins will bring information back to the Board.

*Next School Board meeting will be held on April 1st. Will get information/documentation ready for the Deliberative Session.

*Voting Day: The School Board needs to have members there and available during voting day for the School. There needs to be three people available; could be someone acting on the Board Members' behalf. At a future meeting, they will set up a schedule. L. Picard asked the Board to think about their availability. Voting is from 8:00am. to 7:00pm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Bridget Pearce and Doug Franklin thought both Deliberative Sessions would be outside. Todd Bushey wants it outside; will be in the 60's coming up.

Bridget Pearce and Todd Bushey thanked the Board for voting for safety.

As J. Rokes wasn't able to review the Manifests, he abstained from the votes.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$199,705.31; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – abstained, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$256,993.93; SECONDED by T. Perkins, VOTED by roll call: T. Perkins – yes, E. Holmes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – abstained, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:02pm; under RSA 91-A:3 (b and d) 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.

T. Perkins MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:47pm, 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.

While in non-public session the Board discussed two nominations and a lease.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm; 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary