

Winchester School Board Meeting Minutes
Winchester School Library
January 9, 2018

Board Members Present: K. Bazan, L. Picard, S. Thompson, V. Cole (arrived 6:40)
Absent: B. Kilanski

Administrators Present: A. Genovese, Superintendent; E. Jackson, Business Manager; M. Duprey, Principal; V. Carey, Vice Principal

The meeting was called to order by Chair, K. Bazan at 5:27 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent's Report:

✓ **Discussion of Winchester Support Staff Association (WSSA Contract)**

It was noted that contract negotiations began in September and both parties reached Tentative Agreement on articles proposed and a wage proposal schedule on December 27, 2017. The School Board's objective was to attract and retain quality support staff through a more competitive wage schedule while also recognizing the longevity of present staff. The Board believes this was accomplished and will benefit services provided to students.

Some articles were housekeeping and/or streamlined to provide greater efficiency in processing financial and other information. The District will have more flexibility in the hiring process in awarding credit for educational/medical experiences outside the district.

Negotiations was a collaborative process and both parties will need to stress the educational benefits to students when promoting passage of this Article. The Board's Negotiation Team is recommending ratification of the Tentative Agreement with WSSA.

Review of FY 19 Remaining Line Items

- ✓ The Board continued reviewing the proposed budget and noted changes. Highlighted were some of the modifications made since the January 2nd meeting. It was noted that changes were made to revenue projections and modifications were made to some of the proposed reductions. Among a number of examples of restorations were: Nature's Classroom, Field Trips and Adjustment Counselor.
- ✓ The Board was informed that the President of the Teacher's Association was asked if the teachers would agree to a reduction of 3 days in next year's calendar if that was necessary. All the teachers present for an emergency meeting supported the reduction. The Superintendent recognized the cooperation, understanding and support offered by the

teachers and wanted to be sure to recognize them for their timely and supportive vote. When asked if 3 days was part of the present reduction the Superintendent indicated that it wasn't. The Board was informed there will need to be a process that would have to be followed to implement such a reduction, i.e., *Memorandum of Agreement* approved by both the Board and the Association. At the present time, this reduction is not required. However, if the Deliberative Session further reduces the budget, it may be necessary. Agreement language may be crafted in the interim.

FTE Head Count Comparison: FY 18 to FY 19

- ✓ The Superintendent disseminated a document that listed present staff by category. It was noted that the actual FTE count went down. It was explained that existing positions (Re-titled) have been reorganized with more responsibility and additional time to handle them in an effort to accommodate the needs of the district.

Superintendent's Note: These re-working of current positions would have been recommended to the Board for discussion and implementation as part of the Superintendent's Report at the conclusion of the School Year. However, with the resignation of key positions, it became prudent and efficient to implement this year.

Discussion of Warrant Articles

- ✓ The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed Operating budget for the FY 19 year in the amount of \$11,516,567.
- ✓ The Board reviewed and discussed the default budget in the amount of \$11,860,952.
- ✓ The Board reviewed the Building Capital Reserve Fund Article and noted that \$85,000 was requested last year.
- ✓ The Board reviewed the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund and noted last's years request was to appropriate up to \$25,000.

Action Items:

- ✓ **Ratification:** L. Picard moved to ratify the Tentative Agreement between the School Board and the WAAS for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 years. Seconded by K Bazan. (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)
- ✓ **FY 19 Operating Budget:** K. Bazan moved to approve the FY 19 Operating Budget in the amount of \$11,516,566.97. Seconded by L. Picard. (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)
- ✓ **FY 19 Default Budget:** K. Bazan moved to approve the FY 19 Default Budget in the amount of \$11,860,952. Seconded by L. Picard. (Vote, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)

Action Items .. continued

- ✓ **Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund:** K. Bazan moved to approve an article to be placed on the Warrant asking the voters to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 to be placed in the Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Seconded by L. Picard. (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)
- ✓ **Special Education Expendable Trust Fund:** K. Bazan moved to approve an article to be placed on the Warrant asking the voters to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2018 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2018. Seconded by L. Picard. (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)

The Board recessed from their meeting at 6:55 to participate in the Budget Committee meeting beginning at 7 pm.

The Board reconvened their meeting at 8:43 pm.

Action Items .. continued

- ✓ **Authorize Special Meeting:** K. Bazan moved to approve Article IV and placed on the Warrant as printed. Seconded by L. Picard (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)

"Shall the Winchester School District, if article #3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #3 only?"

- ✓ **Receive Reports:** K. Bazan moved to approve and place Article VII on the Warrant as written. Seconded by V. Cole (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)

"Shall the Winchester School District receive the reports of its agents, auditors, and committees and officers?"

- ✓ **Transact Other Business:** K. Bazan moved to approve and place on the Warrant Article VIII, as written. Seconded by S. Thompson. (Voted, approved unanimously 4 – 0.)

"Shall the Winchester School District vote to transact any other business as may lawfully come before the meeting?"

Remaining Action:

- Vote to approve and place on the Warrant Article III.
- Vote to recommend all Articles.

Other Comments:

- It was suggested that all staff pictures should be posted on the District Website. The Superintendent commented that although this may be a good idea, he is not clear if this is possible without staff permission. The Superintendent will include his picture as requested. In place of pictures, perhaps a standard icon can be displayed next to the name of current staff.
- It was suggested that all staff members should be listed on the website. The superintendent will talk with IT and Technology Coordinator.
- It was suggested that budget materials should be available on the website. The Superintendent agrees and will speak with IT to establish a page for these items to be available in a manner that they can be easily found. Perhaps a tab to quickly access information will be helpful. He will speak with the Technology Coordinator and IT.
- It was suggested that the Management Team should discuss what documents should be available at the Deliberative, and how best to communicate with the public on the FY 19 budget prior to the Deliberative and prior to the March vote. This should be a topic for a future meeting.
- In general, it was suggested that the District Website should be undated in a number of areas. Presently, this has not occurred because of a lack of personnel. This makes it difficult to happen promptly. However, this may be accomplished in segments over time.

Adjournment: On a motion by K. Bazan, seconded by L. Picard the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan D. Genovese
Superintendent