

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MAY 6, 2021
WINCHESTER SCHOOL GYM

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

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

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Public minutes of 4/10/21 and 4/15/21 and the non-public minutes of 4/10/21; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

KEENE HIGH REPORT:

KHS Principal, Cindy Gallagher gave a snapshot of how Winchester students are doing at Keene and reviewed data with the Board. Advised information is up on the Keene District website. She reviewed 2019-2020 data; much of the changes were due to COVID and remote learning.

Explained this was the first full week back to in-person learning; they had a wonderful opening. She is new and only saw the whole school this week. She would like to be invited back to Winchester in the Fall so she can provide information during post-COVID learning.

One big change is differentiated work-ready skills and separation from compliance scores. It was a big shift; more hands on learning. Will bring pilot activities to students next year.

KHS transcripts and report cards will pretty much look the same next year as this year.

L. Picard explained our Eighth graders have learned a different metric. She wants to be sure they can match them up with what Keene is doing.

Cindy Gallagher explained she is not sure they can do it for the incoming Eighth Grade, but will get with V. Carey to see how Winchester is doing it.

How is Keene and NH comparing in SAT scores to other States?

Cindy Gallagher will get that information for L. Picard.

Theresa Sepe asked if there is a plan to work with the Seventh and Eighth graders and the High School students in Keene to be sure students get what they need since Keene is doing things differently.

Cindy Gallagher advised V. Carey did an awesome job during COVID working with Keene.

V. Carey advised they were doing some vertical alignment in Keene that other schools were also invited to. She feels it will be easy to get back to that.

I-Time – Doing well; more enrichment. If students need help, extra help is given.

The Board thanked Cindy Gallagher for coming and providing information to them.

PRINCIPAL – V. Carey:

*Kindergarten registration will open soon. Need to know what the budget looks like first. They anticipate by the third week in May registration will open. It will be posted in multiple places. She

believes the number is now around 37.

*Part time teachers have been hired for remote learning: Alison Bowman, in Language Arts/History and Sue Vincent in Math/Science; both for Seventh/Eighth Grade. Also, Mollie Dery has been hired for Fifth Grade. All are experienced with remote learning.

*The last scheduled day of school is Monday, June 14th. V. Carey explained students will have all their hours; had originally adjusted the calendar to go past the required number of hours. It is the Seventh and Eighth grade that still need the most. Will have them completed on 6/10/21.

KHS is graduating on 6/18/21 which is not an issue for us. NHDI will be held in June this year on the 12th which would make practices and performances difficult for Eighth Graders participating.

V. Carey is suggesting Winchester hold Eighth Grade graduation on 6/9/21 and the last day for Eighth Graders will be on the 10th.

L. Picard MOVED that the last day of school for students other than Eighth Graders will be Friday 6/11/21; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

V. Carey advised the Board often gives out some awards; it is nice to have the School Board Chair do one or two presentations and sign certificates of completion. It is nice to have as many School Board members there and Board members can contribute to the event if they want to.

BUSINESS MANAGER – T. Taylor:

L. Picard introduced new Business Manager, Theresa Taylor. This is her first in-person Board Meeting.

T. Taylor advised they will be off schedule with the Payroll Manifest.

L. Picard advised Board members will sign the Manifest and it will be entered into the record at the next Board meeting.

T. Taylor reviewed the year-to-date report with the Board. She is trying to get a handle on things as to where they are when rounding out the year. There is currently \$3,328,323 in encumbrances – a huge chunk is Keene High School tuition. She reviewed overages in the budget with the Board.

L. Picard appreciates T. Taylor's attention to detail and taking the time to make sure everything is being accurately accounted for. She thanked her for all her work. She came in during a very busy, budget time.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 4/29/21 in the amount of \$240,204.51; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 4/30/21 in the amount of \$202,151.23; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Taylor advised she has the new contract agreement for the Ford Building and has e-mailed it to I. Spencer who is sending it out. It will start on 5/1/21.

First Student has been purchased. They have reassured us nothing will change in our contract.

L. Picard – I. Spencer is on vacation and not able to join us tonight. She asked T. Taylor if they are moving forward with updating the nine rooms.

T. Taylor advised yes and explained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:

- *Welcomed T. Taylor to the first in-person Board meeting.
- *K. Dassau brought a request to have L. Picard sign the General Assurances for Grants. After discussion, **T. Picard MOVED to have the Board Chair sign the General Assurances for 2021-2022; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**
- *Received a letter from the Chair of the Winchester Support Staff requesting to start negotiations. After the May vote will select a Board Chair and do Committee assignments. Both the Winchester Support Staff and School Board attorneys have been talking.
- *Five or so candidates have been interviewed for the Facilities Manager position. The Committee consisted of T. Taylor, D. Jack, K. Dassau, V. Carey and I. Spencer. They would like to allow K. Dassau authorization to sign the contract for a candidate without having to wait weeks for another Board meeting.

T. Perkins MOVED to give the Superintendent the power to enter into a contract with a candidate of their choice as Facilities Manager prior to the next Board meeting; SECONDED by: L. Picard,

T. Kilanski thought they would hear about the candidates in non-public session before making a decision.

L. Picard remembers that the person being nominated would be discussed in non-public, but not all applicants would be.

T. Kilanski believes they have discussed all in the past. He would like the chance to get information before making a decision.

L. Picard – there is a time crunch.

K. Dassau explained he could give a status of the person interviewed, but not personal information or review of the application.

L. Picard advised the Board will table the Motion and discuss it in non-public session.

CHAIR REPORT/COMMENTS – L. Picard:

***Policy Committee:**

Policy JFABD and JFABE were reviewed by the Policy Committee.

After discussion, **L. Picard MOVED to adopt as written, Policies JFABD and JFABE; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

***Teacher Appreciation:** The PTA does a thank-you with food, snacks and fun things for the staff. L. Picard gave a shout-out to the staff. Can't compare the last year to years past. She knows it has been tough on staff; a lot of tension. They continue as a district to excel and be as good as they can be and doing wonderful things for students. She thanks Mrs. Oberacker, her Third Grade Teacher, for shaping her into the person she is today.

***Senior Night:** L. Picard explained Senior Night is a Board function and will be held this year on June 2nd. She would like members to attend. T. Perkins advised they are starting to get gift cards; reaching out to businesses to make the event extra special. She will have more details at the next meeting.

***Keene High School:** Looking at more ideas for student recognition.

***Voting Day:** The School Board needs a schedule for voting day. Each member advised when they were available. L. Picard will provide a list to the Moderators.

L. Picard thanked Emily Holmes for stepping in during a hard time. She thanked her for her time and dedication and also thanked the other members of the public that were interested in being on the Board at that time.

Voting Day:

L. Picard explained they had presented a lot of information on April 15th and at the Selectboard meeting. Trying to reach as many people as they can by 5/11/21. There are lots of priorities for the District and they are all important. The proposed budget number reinstates a lot what was cut. It is a step in the right direction. If Article Two fails, the Default Budget will not allow reinstatement of much of what was cut.

Article Three - Teaching Contract Two Year: WTA worked very hard to find a middle ground for salary, ins. etc. It goes a long way to say we believe in our teachers and support them.

Article Six - Capital Reserve: Just as important as a professional plan. We don't need another bond.

Article Seven –Deficit: L. Picard advised the deficit was explained in detail on 4/15. The public can feel free to contact her with any questions. L. Picard gave her phone number, e-mail address and can be contacted on Facebook as well.

L. Picard thanked the Board for all their efforts. They had to learn how to do things in a strange environment. It is not the same due to COVID. Thanked the public for their feedback.

T. Kilanski asked about the statement from L. Picard in the Deliberative Session Minutes in the 2020 Annual Report. L. Picard said the District was not carrying a negative balance. He also found it misleading to hear at one meeting that there was a deficit in the amount of \$88,000 from ACCESS but in the 11/5/20 Minutes were told there was an \$85,000 shortfall; numbers aren't adding up.

L. Picard believes \$85,000 was an estimate.

K. Dassau explained there were two presentations from the Auditor and he also gave one to the Select Board, too. Explained he had received a question from Bill McGrath at the Deliberative Session: \$85,000 or \$88,000 - \$3,000 is a little wiggle room in \$745,000.

T. Kilanski feels they need to have the number the same throughout; the number has to be what it is.

K. Dassau advised it was presented by the auditor. That is the only document you should be looking at. Year-by-year it is an accurate number (comprehensive review of each year's audit).

T. Kilanski feels when presenting to the Board it needs to be continuously the same number.

L. Picard explained when she answered the question at the Deliberative Session she was going by the information in 1/2020. Since that time the Board has learned a lot of other information. When Bill McGrath asked about it, it wasn't relative and she was unaware of the deficit.

L. Picard appreciates T. Kilanski bringing the information, but the timeline was well before receiving information from the auditors.

K. Dassau reiterated L. Picard's comments.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

T. Sepe asked about recommendations from the Facilities Committee to the Board. She agrees that the conversation should be in non-public, but disagrees that the Board can't have information including the applicants' names, their applications, etc.

K. Dassau explained Board members have the right to know names of those nominated only; not all applicants.

T. Sepe advised all the Board members have a right to know the names and to see all applications.

K. Dassau advised that is not true.

K. Dassau explained in non-public he is going to offer criteria that the committee is using during the hiring process. Advised that could be done now and not in non-public.

After discussion, **L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public under RSA91-A3:(b) and RSA91-A3:(d) at 8:09pm; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 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 8:33pm; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board discussed a resignation and the hiring process.

L. Picard MOVED to seal the first non-public minutes for two weeks; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Gina Bushey has been reflecting on what, in weeks/months to come, the Town and School Committees will look like. The next meeting could have very different faces. Knows what the Board has done. She led a round of applause for L. Picard. Advised the Town/School is a better place with her help. Thanked her for her energy, drive, dedication, etc. Grateful to the entire Board. Wants L. Picard to know she and others have been speaking on her behalf for all she has done and putting every ounce of herself into it.

L. Picard thanked her for her comments. She doesn't know what things will look like. Hopes she has positioned the Board to continue the ground work for all the work the Board has done.

MOTION previously made to give the Superintendent the power to enter into a contract with a candidate of their choice as Facilities Manager prior to the next Board Meeting, SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Board reminded people to vote on May 11th.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary