

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
JULY 15, 2021  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Perkins, T. Kilanski, J. Rokes, L. Hildreth  
Administration Present: K. Dassau, V. Carey, T. Taylor, M. Hill

The meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:39pm. following some technical issues.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the public minutes of 6/3/21; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPAL – V. Carey:**

\*V. Carey advised the Return-to-School plan has been made public, along with public feedback which for the most part was very positive and supportive, The plan is a live document – trying it out now during the Summer programs. It is on the website and will be updated. For the most part, students and staff are not having to mask at the school if three feet or further away and not outside. It is working well. They are planning to stay with in-person learning this coming year unless otherwise told by the Governor’s order or the like.

T. Kilanski remembers when the policy was adopted it made masks required in school, but the Motion was made to adjust the rules to be less restrictive and allowed Administration the authority to do what was needed and then advise the Board afterward.

V. Carey feels it would be good to have approval from the Board on the Reopening Plan. She explained they only had 30 days to put the plan forward. She planned to bring it to the second June meeting, but the meeting was cancelled and they needed the plan or couldn’t access the funds.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Reopening Plan as presented; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

\*The 2021-2022 School Calendar was done as a draft and now as the budget has passed, the bussing of students to Keene needs to be added back in. V. Carey is asking for approval of the final calendar.

The new calendar will include a 7:25am drop off and 7:45am start-of-school along with a 2:15pm dismissal in the Elementary and Middle Schools. These time changes were necessary due to transportation issues. There will be no ACCESS in the morning. V. Carey explained the only change in the draft was the total number of days.

**T. Perkins MOVED to approve the 2021/2022 School Calendar as presented; SECONDED BY: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**T. Kilanski approved the change in school times; drop-off time to 7:25am, start-of-school to 7:45am. and dismissal to 2:15pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

V. Carey let both collective bargaining units know they were coming to the Board tonight with the final calendar.

**BUSINESS MANAGER – T. Taylor:**

After questions by the Board, **L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifests in the amount of \$220,156.23 dated 6/11/21, \$211,229.78 dated 6/25/21 and \$113,660.65 dated 7/8/21, SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifests in the amount of \$334,719.17 dated 6/9/21, \$391,126.28 dated 6/25/21 and \$395,584.02 dated 6/30/21, SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

T. Taylor brought a letter from the Trustee of Trust funds that requires Board signature so the money can be deposited.

After discussion, **T. Perkins MOVED that the letter from the Trustee of Trust Funds be signed for check dated 6/29/21 in the amount of \$75,000 from Charter Trust to the Capital Reserve, SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**Budget to date:**

T. Taylor advised the auditors are coming back at the end of August, then we should have some real numbers. She reviewed the y/t/d budget with the Board.

T. Taylor feels in order not to be short and in the hole, they should ask the Town in September for funds or TAN. Feels Keene High School would probably not be happy waiting for tuition monies.

K. Dassau explained the reality is \$400,000 was approved, but the check from the Town is in monthly payments. The KHS Business Manager has been informed. We need to keep them advised because it messes up their audit. Our saving grace is that all Articles passed in April, but we started with a \$750,000 shortfall.

Administration is not recommending any action at this time.

L. Picard did advise the Select Board that we were having discussion tonight and would report back to them with an update.

**DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES – Matt Hill:**

M. Hill explained the HVAC project in the Elementary wing is approximately 75% complete; waiting for coils to arrive. It will be pretty tight to the beginning of the year to get the project done. However, they are ready to go when the coils get here. Still have the locker rooms to do. Explained he would like to do additional work in other areas of the building that are not as efficient as they could be. We could use ESSER COVID money.

L. Picard advised Matt Hill that she would like the Board to have a tour of the building when they won't get in the way.

V. Carey discussed hiring. There are teaching positions in the budget that we have not been able to fill. We are not alone, but it doesn't make it better. The plans we have regarding class size and educational objectives will be contingent upon being fully staffed. V. Carey will check with KSC to see if they are doing any job fairs.

L. Picard advised the Board and the community need to speak supportively regarding Winchester's plan for the future in order to get people here.

M. Hill advised they are looking for a full-time custodian, but they have not received a single application.

L. Picard advised they are heading into Negotiations. It will be important to look at salaries at budget time.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Facilities Committee:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

T. Kilanski advised the Select Board has asked for permission to go around the back of the building for Santa's Bed Race.

T. Taylor will check with the insurance company and M. Hill will look into the request further.

### **Re-opening Committee:**

Will be meeting during the first week of August.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:**

\*Will need a non-public session for three nominations and one resignation.

\*Will have a short non-meeting after the Board meeting.

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR REPORT/COMMENTS – L. Picard:**

\*L. Picard advised she appreciates the entire staff; parents are happy with how things went, how students excelled in remote learning. These are parents who have a point of interest in other schools as well. She thanked the staff for their dedication.

\*Everything passed at the Town's Deliberative Session including equipment for livestreaming of meetings. The Community appreciates being able to tune into meetings; Facebook is not really working for them. L. Picard explained she has done research and there are options, including buying equipment and doing it ourselves. We would be encouraged at the School Board level to do the same as the Town is working on. There are a couple of different companies that would host it. The cost would be about \$250.00 per month. She wanted to bring the conversation to the Board and will present more information as she gets it from the Town.

L. Hildreth asked if the public would be able to ask questions during live stream.

L. Picard did not know for sure. She will check and bring information back to the Board.

T. Perkins asked about the cost; would it be separate for the Town and the School or just one cost.

L. Picard advised that is another question she will ask.

K. Dassau – David Jack with Municipal Resources is working on an assessment of the operations of the Winchester School District. He will see where he is with the assessment on August 12<sup>th</sup> and whether that is a viable date to report to the Board.

L. Picard would prefer to have the full Board there and T. Kilanski will be away on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

After discussion, the Board agreed to ask David Jack to come to the Board meeting on 9/2/21 with the assessment.

L. Picard advised they met with ACCESS and did an updated MOU. There were no changes except the dates.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to allow the Chair, L. Picard to sign the MOU with ACCESS; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Hildreth has been asked when students will know who their teachers will be for next year.

V. Carey explained very soon for those students who have teachers; some have not been hired yet.

V. Carey advised they will not be having the ‘Night before School’ Night this year as 2,000 people typically go through the building.

L. Picard gave a shout-out to Mrs. Nordberg. She did two classes remotely and did a wonderful job. She had 40 students every day.

### **CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:**

Amy Hill asked about busses – will there be an after-school bus as well?

L. Picard would have to look at the contract to see if it includes a late bus. She will follow up. Need to see when students would need to use it the most.

Amy Hill asked if ACCESS will be in the building.

V. Carey – No.

Amy Hill asked L. Picard if she finds there is a lot of school talk at the Select Board meetings.

L. Picard - No, aside from what she brings to the table. She does remind people about the School Board meetings.

Amy Hill asked about the need for having school staff at the meeting.

L. Picard advised she would never discourage anyone from attending, but they don’t ask why staff aren’t at the meetings and never say there is information they are not being told. Advised she would let Amy Hill know for the Union, if they need to be there. She encourages everyone to attend the Budget Committee Meetings.

Amy Hill explained Troy hosted a meeting in the past using a camera system. It might be worth looking at with a Grant.

T. Kilanski – Robert Spruill from the distillery might have pointers as he does the same thing in Massachusetts.

Amy Hill feels it would be a good way to get people involved. If she gets a reminder, she will look into it further.

Connor Hill asked about the new State Budget signed by Governor Sununu, HB544. He is very concerned; feels bullying teachers - calling the shots. He wants to hear from the School Board. Now there is a law. What is the plan; what’s the next step? With the current teacher shortage he can’t think of a worse way to get people in than to scrutinize what they say.

K. Dassau knows this is a very important conversation and the Board can put it on their meeting agenda rather than get the opinion tonight from each member.

V. Carey advised there is a Technical Advisory Committee coming. Feels we should hear something then, but would like to wait until the next Board meeting to discuss. She feels there is no point in having a plan now.

L. Picard explained the Board did hear about this bill from a retired staff member. They don’t have all the information as to how the DOE is going to interpret it, but the Board has begun discussion.

L. Picard advised it will be an agenda item at the next Board meeting.

Amy Hill advised the NEA Attorney did contact her and she can share the information.

L. Picard – And Amy Hill might be added to the agenda.

T. Perkins feels they need to rebrand Winchester. How do we make changes to outsider public perception of us? They don’t see all the effort that is put into it; how great our staff is, etc. How do we come together so we are a viable option for everyone to raise and educate their kids?

L. Picard will bring this up at the Select Board meeting, too.

Savings Bank of Walpole has been asking how they can work together with us as they are building their branch office here.

Amy Hill explained there is a very strong, supportive group in our childhood section, so we need to tap into that. Advised she can't speak for the older grades because she doesn't work with them. It is something to think about.

**L Picard MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,III(b) at 8:23pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: T. Perkins – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, R. Rokes – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:57pm. SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

While in non-public session the Board discussed new hires:

- \*Sueanne Hamel – Second Grade Teacher
- \*Kim Michael Caron – Part-time Special Ed Out-of-District Coordinator
- \*Caitlyn Watkins – Fourth Grade Teacher

And the resignation of Superintendent Ken Dassau.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

**T. Perkins MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm, SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

The Board went into a non-meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary