

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

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

L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the public minutes of 8/12/21; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 3-0-2 (T. Kilanski and J. Rokes – Abstained), MOTION PASSED.

The Board will review and vote on the minutes of 8/19/21 at the next School Board meeting.

PRINCIPAL – V. Carey:

*Currently Winchester has only one very consistent substitute. V. Carey explained there is a shortage of substitutes and one neighboring town is paying \$125.00; we pay \$80.00. Several districts pay over \$100.00. She is requesting that the Board raise the pay for substitutes in Winchester to \$105.00 per day which is about \$15.00 an hour.

After discussion, **L. Picard MOVED to increase the substitute pay to \$105.00 per day; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

*A number of staff were honored for longevity at the Teacher's Back-to-School Breakfast. Additionally two teachers who were not able to be recognized last year due to COVID, were honored this year; JoAnn Hobbs – 20 years and Tim Durr with 30 years at the Winchester School.

L. Picard and T. Perkins joined the teachers at the breakfast on behalf of the Board.

*Kids are glad to be back. It is nice to have all of the kids here at the same time. The staff are giving lots of support for one another. There has been a significant adjustment needed with transportation due to a shortage in bus staff.

*Boys' Soccer, Cross Country and Girls' Soccer have started. They are struggling to fill Girls' Soccer, but it is not too late to sign up for any of the three sports.

*Will be bringing back Student Council.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – T. Taylor:

*T. Taylor distributed a budget update from the last school year and reviewed with the Board. There was some savings in Keene High Tuition. The auditors were here last week. There will still be adjustments needed. There are a couple of more things they need to follow up on and then we will have a more concrete figure.

*T. Taylor advised it is only her in the office now. They previously had a temporary Payroll/Accounting person working up to 24 hours per week. That person has left and they have finally had a hit on a permanent person for that position. Advised she couldn't get the Accounts Payable Manifest done for tonight's meeting. She can send it via e-mail to the Board.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 8/20/21 in the amount of \$138,113.72; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 9/3/21 in the amount of \$212,121.56; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

M. Hill advised the HVAC project has been completely installed and is up and running.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – K. DASSAU:

*David Jack and Municipal Resources were supposed to give an assessment of the Business Office. They are short-staffed and have had some setbacks so they are not sure when the report will be ready. K. Dassau is hoping it will be by early October. He will keep the Board updated.

*A search committee for the Superintendent’s position will be formed to include the Board Chair, Business Administrator, Principal, Winchester Teacher’s Association Rep. and Winchester Support Staff Rep. Board members could review applications if they want to.

L. Picard advised she will put out a request to the WTA and WSS. If they have names for the next Board meeting they could take five minutes and pick a time for the Committee to meet.

*K. Dassau advised they will need a non-public session tonight and a non-meeting after the Board meeting adjourns.

T. Kilanski explained a parent told him they called the school to ask what they should do as they are homeless. The parent advised they had no response.

The Board will discuss in non-public session.

T. Kilanski asked about the Grant that paid for a teacher’s position. He asked what specific Grant it was.

It was an ESSER 3 Grant.

T. Kilanski asked what happens after three years.

V. Carey explained they evaluate the best positions to continue in the budget and which ones to be adjusted in another way. Everything is evaluated throughout the three years and also evaluated at the end of the three years. The staff in the Grant-funded positions know that it is not guaranteed for three years.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS/REPORTS:

POLICIES:

Budget Committee:

J. Rokes believes the next meeting is September 14th. He will double-check the date.

Emergency Operations Team:

Will meet at 9/7/21 at 6:30pm.

V. Carey will attend and M. Hill will check his availability.

Facilities:

The meeting is being rescheduled to 9/16/21 at 5:30pm.

Finance:

The Committee meets at 6:15 on Board meeting nights.

Negotiations:

A meeting was held last week.

Policy Committee:

Will meet next week, 9/16/21.

Professional Development:

V. Carey advised a survey has gone out.

L. Picard would like to change the second Board Meeting of next month to either October 14th or the 28th.

After discussion, the Board agreed to hold the Board meeting on 10/14/21 instead of 10/21/21.

L. Picard asked Board members to leave Thursdays open in case additional meetings are needed.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Rene Miner came to the Board with concerns about her children who both attend Winchester School. Explained she received a call from the Vice-Principal advising that her daughter was missing for an undisclosed amount of time after recess. Another teacher made nametags for students and Rene Miner feels that is why they realized her daughter was missing.

Rene Miner was of the understanding that the bus situation would resume as in the past as transportation was put back into the budget. The afternoon bus schedule wasn't posted and she didn't receive an All-Call until the Saturday before school started. When she asked questions of the bus company, she received inconsistent answers. She was told that the bus routes have been consolidated and there isn't room on the bus.

Rene Miner advised she is advocating for all children. Feels citizens need to voice concerns. When she contacted the school she was told that the students' safety comes first. She is asking what the school plans to do. Rene Miner gave a copy of her statement and questions to L. Picard.

V. Carey responded to Mr. Allen's questions from last week's Board meeting.

V. Carey advised there are a number of times that a three foot distance between students/staff is reasonable and healthy and practical; but there are other times it is not practical. It does happen that students and teachers are within three feet from each other. The three foot distancing is not a hard and fast rule; they use it when it is possible and reasonable. There are no consequences or repercussion if they are closer than three feet apart. The School uses that as a reminder about minimizing close contact.

Mr. Allen asked if the School was aware of the effects of long term mask wearing.

V. Carey advised that she is aware that many concerns are regarding the sanitization of masks. Need to wash cloth masks and limit the number of times you wear paper masks before discarding them. She is aware of concerns, but need to do what is required as a School District. Feels it would be wonderful if there was a universal health agreement, but there isn't.

T. Kilanski asked what the procedure is if the Governor requires the flag to be flown at half-mast.

M. Hill advised one of the maintenance staff brings it to half-mast and he brought it back to full. He follows the Stars and Stripes publication daily.

T. Kilanski explained several days after flags were ordered to be flown at half-mast, the school flag still wasn't. T. Kilanski did it himself. He feels it is bad for the School that it was not done.

L Picard MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,III(c) at 7:41pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: T. Perkins – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:16pm. SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board discussed a potential change to the Payroll/AP position.

L. Hildreth MOVED that in the current Payroll position, which is currently to a maximum of 24 hours, the person could work up to six additional hours per week, if needed; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 3-2 (T. Kilanski, J. Rokes – Opposed). MOTION PASSED.

T. Perkins MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm, SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary