

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
OCTOBER 6, 2022
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY

Board Members Present: L. Hildreth, L. Picard, J. Blake, J. Hadler arrives at 6:37 p.m. Absent: J. Rokes,
Administration Present: L. Carey, M. Pouliot, T. Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. by Board Chair, L. Hildreth.

MINUTES

L. Picard moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of September 15, 2022; SECONDED by L. HILDRED,
Voted: 3/0, JB-Abstention, Motion Passed

BUSINESS MANAGER

Review of the Manifests:

L. Hildreth moved to approve Accounts Payable Manifest dated 9/23/2022 in the amount of \$153,464.24, Seconded by L. Picard, Vote 3-0, Motion Passed

L. Hildreth moved to approve Accounts Payable Manifest dated 10/5/2022 in the amount of \$400.00, Seconded by L. Picard, Vote 3/0, Motion Passed

L. Hildreth moved to approve Accounts Payable Manifest dated 10/7/2022 in the amount of \$830.90, Seconded by L. Picard, Vote 3/0, Motion Passed

L. Hildreth moved to approve Accounts Payable Manifest dated 10/7/2022 in the amount of \$211,454.26, Seconded by L. Picard, Vote 4-0, Motion Passed

L. Hildreth moved to approve Payroll Manifest dated 10/7/2022 in the amount of \$217,758.96, Seconded by L. Picard, Vote 4/0, Motion Passed

T. Taylor -Year-to-date was reviewed figures are currently same as August 31, 2022. Unassigned balance right around million dollars. We are still using ESSER funds to pay for expenses.

L. Picard – great work breaking out codes. Any ETA on Audit.

T. Taylor – will be done by December. – Grants are now being applied for through the Business Office.

L. Picard – When will you have the tax rate?

T. Taylor d– Will have the DOE 25 at the next meeting. Requested an extension on the DOE 25.

T. Taylor – discussed the extraordinary needs grant – funds are unrestricted – can use for anything. \$600.00 per student if at 46% poverty rate. Rough estimate of \$157,500.00. The two choices were discussed – can use to offset tax rate for FY23 or hold a special meeting to determine use of funds. This grant will be received in the same manner as the adequacy aide.

L.Picard Motion to allow extra grant in the amount of \$157,500.00 be accepted without special hearing. Second – L Hildreth, Voted: 4/0, Motion Passed.

T Taylor informed the Board of a donation of I Home Speakers and Headphones from Sousa Enterprise in Ashburnham, Mass. L. Hildreth thanks Alison Noel for picking up and delivery to the school. Much appreciated.

T. Taylor discussed First Student's request to change location of drop-off and pick-up of students from the back to the front of the school. Discussion regarding the number of students on the buses. Loss of First Student for athletics', they are down seven drivers. Have reached out to other transportation companies. Discussion about closing Parker Street off during drop off and pick up times for students. L.Picard will bring to Selectmen's meeting.

M.Pouliot the goal would be no parents are leaving there cars to pick-up students. Staff would transport students to parent cars.

It was decided to have the Transportation Committee convene and look at the request of First Student, number of students per bus and bus routes. Committee members (L. Hildreth, T. Taylor, L. Carey, M. Pouliot, M. Hill, J. Hadler and 1st Student).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Received a Technology Advisory from the Department of Education – update on COVID response 10/3/2022.

The updates were made and posted to the district website.

L.Picard any concern for parents who will withdraw students or want outside services?

L.Carey no response – the student would receive 504 plan and the school would work with the parent and doctor.

L.Picard any feedback from the WTA? M.Pouliot -Not yet, waiting 'til after the meeting and will send an email to staff.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

M. Pouliot The school had an evacuation drill today – grades 5-8 meet at the Town Hall and grades PK-4 meet at the ELMM. Everything went great. Staff were set up at the crosswalks. The entire drill took 40 minutes.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS/REPORT

2023-2024 BUDGET REVIEW

T. Taylor reviewed budget numbers for:

Professional Development – no change will be level funded. L.Hildreth will need prior expense reports and if the full not was not spent need to explain reason.

L. Hildreth will review information tonight and revisit with motions at next meeting.

School Board – L. Hildreth discussed board stipends can see both sides civic duty vs. volunteer. Has heard the board would be voting for their own raise. Discussed having a warrant article and let the public decide.

T. Taylor - Other districts have had warrant articles. L. Picard if money was the reason I would not be doing this. We take advantage of our volunteers, the same people do it. It is putting a value to the service but at the same time can see both sides. No issue with a warrant article. L. Hildreth that makes the most sense. Give voters the choice. Have their voices heard.

L. Picard discussed the Board Secretary salary – T. Taylor will check with other districts for rate of pay.

Transportation – We have a seven year contract with First Student, the last year if FY 27. Cost per regular bus is \$481,388 and Special Education \$80,231, plus an additional fuel surcharge of \$6,565.00

J.Hadler would combined routes/buses save us money? L.Hildreth – The Transportation Committee will need to review the information. T. Taylor – PK students must ride in a car seat we also have bus monitors on PK buses with a cost of \$25.00 for a total of \$100.00 per day for four buses which is an additional amount of \$100,000 per year. Currently we have no late buses running from KHS.

L. Picard – an additional \$100,000 for FY 23 would we be able to tap into any unanticipated funds? T. Taylor we may be able to use ESSER funds will have to look into it. L. Picard this needs to be accounted for in FY 24.

L. Hildreth discussed deliberative session dates – school / town same date February 4, 2023? L. Picard will bring to the select board for discussion and will also touch base with the School/Town Clerk and School/Town Moderators.

L. Picard Warrant articles should be done by 1/10/2023. Budget committee will hold its first meeting on October 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall and will see committee dates/times

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

T. Kilanski – here on behalf of the Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 Wreath across America. Here to challenge the school, hoping school will print flyer to hand out to students and spread the word. Would like to place a wreath at every Veteran's headstone in Winchester, we currently have a total of 467 wreaths needed. The ceremony will be on December 17th at 12:00 p.m. All graves will be marked with a flag.
The cost of the wreath is \$15.00.

M.Pouliot – Will speak with Stephanie T. about working with the middle school students.

L.Hildreth Thanked Todd for coming.

L. Hildreth MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm; SECONDED by: L. P., VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.