

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
FEBRUARY 2, 2023
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Board Members Present: L. Hildreth, L. Picard, J. Hadler, J. Blake; Absent: J. Rokes
Administration Present: L. Carey, M. Pouliot, T. Taylor, M. Hill

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. by Board Chair, L. Hildreth.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

None.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Public Minutes of 1/26/23, amending, under the Motion to go into Non-Public Session, J. Hildreth to J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0-1 (J. Blake – abstained), MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – M. Pouliot:

*ACCESS will provide free childcare at the ELM main building starting at 8:45am. for Saturday’s Town/School Deliberative Session.

BUSINESS MANAGER – T. Taylor:

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 2/4/23, in the amount of \$214,476.85; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

*T. Taylor reviewed the year-to-date budget and answered questions of the Board.

Capital Reserve (Building Improvements):

T. Taylor advised as of June 30th, 2022 there was a \$220,624.43 balance in the Capital Reserve (Building Improvements) Fund. From July 2022 to December 2022, there was an investment loss of (\$6,858.65), which left a balance as of December 31st, 2022, of \$213,765.78. After a deposit in January 2023 for \$125,000, there was a balance of \$338,765.78. There is the anticipation of withdrawing funds in FY23 for projects.

Special Education Expendable Trust:

Balance as of June 30th, 2022 = \$226,765.70

From July 2022 to December 2022, there was an investment loss of (\$7,049.75), which left a balance as of December 31st, 2022, of \$219,715.95. After a deposit in January 2023 for \$25,000, there was a balance of \$244,715.95.

The Board reviewed Warrant Articles and designated who would speak on which articles at the Deliberative Session.

*Article Two – J. Rokes and L. Picard

*Article Three – L. Hildreth

*Article Five - J. Blake

*Article Six – J. Hadler

*Articles Seven – All members will participate.

Article Seven:

The School Board Attorney has suggested some amended language for this Article.

L. Picard advised the School Board meeting will be called to order before the Deliberative Session and the Amendment to the Warrant Article will be made at the Deliberative Session.

L. Picard advised in addition to documents previously requested she would like staffing numbers for the Deliberative Session packet. Would like information as to how many staff we should have, where we are now and what plans there are for bringing in additional staff.

L. Carey explained she has been in touch with the DOE; did need to adjust staff - we need people.

L. Picard thinks it is really important that when the Board goes through the budget, to explain that when the budget was cut, positions were cut. Now need to restaff. There is a teacher who worked here for many years; she is now in another district and has been nominated for teacher of the year.

J. Hadler explained we also need to be in compliance.

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES – M. Hill:

J. Blake reviewed today's Facilities Meeting with the Board:

*Discussed the third floor; finding things of an historical nature and trying to figure out what to do with them. Probably will keep some. Administration will pull pertinent policies and bring back to the Board. Otherwise, Facilities can keep/discard at their discretion. Can use the area on the third floor for an SAU office and one-on-one meeting rooms. There is money in the budget; need to get a contract.

*Discussed projects: Elementary bathrooms, flooring, sports fields, library at the Elementary School.

L. Picard advised everyone is feeling a similar crunch to find contractors. Suggested possibly changing the order of when projects will be done; if that is needed.

*RFP for the HVAC system in the middle school locker rooms, elementary offices, nurses office, and elementary common areas,

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – L. Carey:

*The Board received the School calendar for a second review.

After discussion, **L. Picard MOVED to accept the School Calendar as presented, *would like to hear from the Union and if there are any major changes, can revisit*; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

*Met with Megan Pouliot and Jen Heise – Summer School plans are in progress.

*Teachers have the Strategic Plan. L. Carey hopes to bring it to the Board after the budget is done.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION:

The Board discussed plans for Saturday's meeting.

L. Picard advised the Board will call to order at 11:35am. before the Deliberative Session; they will then recess the meeting and reopen it after the Deliberative Session. The Deliberative Session will be live-streamed to Facebook and YouTube and on the Town's webpage.

J. Hadler brought a citizen request to the Board regarding having a student on the School Board. They would be a non-voting member.

The Board wondered since we are a K-8 School, is it required.

L. Carey advised it is not required as we are not a high school.

After discussion by the Board, it was agreed that they could invite a student to join them; they would not be sworn in. L. Picard feels the Board might want a policy from the Policy Committee regarding a Student as a member on the School Board.

L. Carey advised that next Saturday, 2/11/23 there will be a Celebration of Life and Appreciation for Henry Parkhurst in the gym from 2:00 to 4:00pm. M. Hill has been working with Christy Frazier on getting the gym ready. The School will pay for the custodians needed to do clean-up as a way for the School to show support.

L. Hildreth MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:10pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, J. Blake – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, L. Picard – yes, J. Hadler – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to leave Non-Public Session at 7:22pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board discussed the hiring of a teacher through Emergency Authorization.

M. Pouliot asked about excused absences for students. In the past, students needed a doctor's note when they were out sick. During COVID, parents just had to call to say their child was sick and wouldn't be in. Now there are parents calling multiple times; some up to 30 days in a row. Advised attendance is kind of going backwards. Feels the policy needs to be updated.

L. Hildreth MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted:

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary