

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MARCH 2, 2023**

School Board Members Present: J. Blake, L. Picard, J. Hadler

Administration Present: L. Carey, T. Taylor, M. Pouliot, M. Hill

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the public Minutes of 2/16/23; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPALS REPORT - M. Pouliot:**

\*Reading with Ribby assembly was held. The Colonial Theater has donated 30-35 tickets to Dr. Kaboom for a teacher and class as a prize. They then donated 70 tickets plus 10 for staff so two other classes can attend Step Africa. Students will send a thank- you card.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT - T. Taylor:**

\*T. Taylor reviewed the year-to-date budget with the Board and answered questions. Explained there are no large fluctuations at this point. Reduction in the 2700 account is due to an adjustment related to bus monitors. There is about nine percent left - looking at finishing the year with a positive.

L. Picard feels as coming into Summer, need to have regular discussions about Regular Instruction as well as Special Education. Positions need to be filled. Open Special Education positions put the district at risk; won't be in compliance.

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/24/23 in the amount of \$1,909.71; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/24/23 in the amount of \$119,643.63 SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 3/3/23 in the amount of \$206,608.11 SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

\*Matt Hill, Tony Pasquerelli and Teresa Taylor attended a Facilities Conference in

Concord, returning today. There was a lot of good information on preventative maintenance, equipment, health of the building, etc. There were forty different vendors in one place.

**DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES - M. Hill:**

- \*Another Grant for Safety is coming up; targeting low income areas. M. Hill explained the Biden Grant they have received is vast; it comes out in sections. They will apply for it again.
- \*M. Hill reviewed the conference; vendors from Massachusetts, NH, Maine and Connecticut were giving classes - not selling. It was all networking and professional development.
- \*Over February break painted two floors; the glass hallway and then staff painted a frogger theme for students and finished the kiln room. Ready to have it wired.
- \*Every classroom got a deep clean to the floors.
- \*Finished touchless sinks.
- \*Music room with curb in place; won't take much to finish.
- \*RFP for Elementary and the remaining locker room comes up Monday. May need to extend the date; will probably have only one bid.

M. Hill appreciates all of the work done by his staff - it was a lot.

**L. Picard MOVED to sponsor an appreciation meal for the Facilities team at their discretion; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard advised the District has done an excellent job with projects and getting things done. She wanted M. Hill to know, if there is a specific project that needs to be done, but he doesn't know where the money would come from, to keep it in mind. If they are returning funds, they could discuss projects that are needed. Feels it is worth bringing up to the whole Board.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - L. Carey:**

- \*L. Carey shared a news release from the State of NH Division of Homeland Security regarding NH Department of Safety Monitoring School Threats. Need to be vigilant if they receive any threats; fortunately haven't had any.
  - L. Picard explained they now have two full-time police officers in Town. Posting nationally and offering bonuses to get people in.
- \*Strategic Plan - will wait until they have a full Board to approve. Will hold until after the Election.

L. Picard - to be sure all members of the Board are sworn in, discussed moving the first meeting after elections, currently scheduled for the 16th. After discussion, the Board agreed to move the second meeting of the month to Tuesday, 3/21/23. Will confirm with L. Hildreth and then ask Marie Braley to post.

### **POLICIES:**

**L. Picard MOVED to approve Policy BEDH - Public Comment/Participation at Board Meeting; BIE - Board Member Indemnification; DFGA - Crowd Funding; DN - Equipment and Supplies Sales as Second Readings; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Policy EBB - School Safety Program came to the Board as a first reading - should come back to the Board at the next meeting.

L. Picard reminded the Board that voting will be held at the School on Tuesday, 3/14/23 from 8:00am. To 7:00pm. Encourages everyone to be vigilant regarding Facebook posts and let L. Hildreth or L. Picard know if they see anything that should be addressed.

M. Pouliot advised there will be a group in the building; usually use the back or side doors.

L. Picard advised that wouldn't be a problem.

M. Hill advised voting shouldn't have a big impact on the gym for Wednesday.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

First Grade Teacher Rachel Gantt asked if there is a plan to make the paras' wages more livable. Advised it is one of the reasons she has decided to resign. Feels they are doing the students a disservice.

L. Picard explained it is not typically the process for the Board to reply to questions at the meeting. Did explain that over the seven years she has been on the Board, have consistently worked to increase the pay scale, every single year; still not high enough. Still needs to be supported at the Town level. The Board has worked very hard to get insurance and Warrant Articles passed. Doesn't happen fast enough, but it is moving. They have gained some ground. The conversation is definitely happening as to how to support our staff. The Board will make a conscious effort, with a full Board, to continue discussion.

L. Carey advised they are going into Negotiations in July. She is excited to have the opportunity to work on that piece.

**L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA91-A:3 II ( c) and (d) at 7:21pm; SECONDED by: J. Blake, J. Hadler - yes, L. Picard - yes, J. Blake - yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to leave non-public session at 7:55pm; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to seal the non-public minutes; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

While in non-public session, the Board discussed a contract negotiation; approved three updated personnel issues and reviewed an additional personnel issue.

**J. Hadler MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary