

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MARCH 30, 2023**

School Board Members Present: L. Hildreth, J. Blake, L. Picard, J. Hadler, Karen Jerome  
Administration Present: L. Carey, T. Taylor, M. Pouliot

The Board meeting was called to order by Superintendent, L. Carey at 6:33pm for nominations of School Board Chair.

L. Hildreth advised she would be taking a personal leave through the Summer returning in September. She doesn't feel she should entertain another term as Chair.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to nominate L. Picard as School Board Chair; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard continued the meeting.

L. Picard feels succession in the Board is very important; has said it many times during the years.

**L. Picard MOVED to nominate J. Hadler and J. Blake as co-Vice Chairs; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard advised she may ask J. Hadler and J. Blake to run a meeting so they get used to it.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 3/2/23; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 3-0-2 (L. Hildreth, K. Jerome - abstained) MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPALS REPORT - M. Pouliot:**

\*NHDH Residency Program K-4 - M. Pouliot advised there was a massive turnout; standing room only. The kids did an amazing job. Maybe next year they will split up the kids and do two grades at a time so they can fit everyone in the gym.

\*Presented Matt Hill with an appreciation gift and wished him good luck in his new position. Will miss him dearly.

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

\*T. Taylor reviewed Adequacy Aid Suit - School Versus the State. The State believes \$3,800 is the base cost to educate a student, but \$10,000 would be the cost for each child. T. Taylor and Ken Dassau are testifying April 11th in Rockingham Superior Court in Brentwood. The proceedings start Monday.

L. Picard will do her best to be there.

T. Taylor thinks there will be reporters there. Forty-five out of 50 states have filed suits for more adequacy aid.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 3/24/23 in the amount of \$884.03; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth VOTED 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 3/24/23 in the amount of \$345,949.06 SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 3/31/23 in the amount of \$213,228.67; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Blake MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 3/17/23 in the amount of \$219,495.87; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Matt Hill advised his last day is tomorrow. He thanked the Board and staff; everyone has been absolutely amazing! Explained he has worked with T. Taylor to help ensure a smooth transition.

L. Picard thanked M. Hill for all his work and a smooth transition when he came into the role.

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

\*Received notification from Winchester Support Staff to begin Negotiations for 2024-2025. Will need to contact them.

\*WTA approved the contract. L. Picard needs to sign it.

\*The Board received a list of Board Meeting dates through March 24, 2024 and reviewed.

\*Strategic Plan - Rachel Gantt worked with her peers regarding new math curriculum; materials were purchased with ESSER funds. She will be here at the next Board meeting. They are excited to be able to have the same core curriculum for grades as they move up.

\* L. Carey was looking for approval of the Strategic Plan.

J. Hadler was very impressed with the Math Program as well as the Reading Program they are using.

The teachers volunteered their time and Rachel Gantt put her own time into this.

**J. Hadler MOVED to approve the Strategic Plan as presented at the moment - it is a working document; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to have Board Chair, L. Picard, sign the approved teacher's contract; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

### **COMMITTEES:**

The Board reviewed the list of committees. They will come back at the next meeting to add who will be on which committees.

### **POLICIES:**

L. Picard advised the Policy Committee is recommending Policy EBB - School Safety Program, as written.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to add Policy EBB - School Safety Program as written, to the WSD Policies; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard advised the Policy Committee reviewed three policies today and they will be in the packet next week. One is an update to an existing policy which the Policy Committee recommended. The other two are optional policies with no recommendation. The policies will be in the packet for the next meeting.

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

L. Picard congratulated the newly elected School Board members and welcomed Karen Jerome. Advised the Board takes a lot of work; thanked her for stepping up.

L. Picard explained voting produced great ballot results. The Policy Committee needs to work on a policy regarding the requirement of attendance at meetings to receive a Board stipend. Will have it ready for July 1st.

L. Picard advised Winchester was one of the few locations in NH with a new ballot machine. It is very slick. This year's ballot was four pages long so it slowed it down a bit. It scans each and every ballot. There was good representation from the School Board and the Selectboard. The Secretary of State came through. Voting day overall went well. Will be discussing further the vote regarding voting location.

L. Picard advised the Town put on a Warrant Article for recording equipment and service and it did pass. Feels the School Board needs to up their game. Maybe there is current equipment they can use. Then they could look at adding that to the budget/warrant article. The legislative body is looking at requiring live streaming of meetings. Definitely want to be up and running with some sort of equipment by September for the budget.

### **CITIZENS:**

None.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:19pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) and (d); SECONDED by: J. Blake, K. Jerome - yes, J. Blake - yes, L. Hildreth - yes, L. Picard - yes, J. Hadler - yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

While in non-public session, the Board accepted a resignation and approved two new hires.

**L. Picard MOVED to seal the minutes regarding Negotiations; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary