

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
APRIL 6, 2023**

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

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

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

**MINUTES:**

**J. Hadler MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 3/30/23; SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPALS REPORT - M. Pouliot:**

\*Rachel Gantt brought a proposal to the Board for a new Math curriculum. She explained that the teachers met to discuss how they are assessing students if they are not using the same curriculum. They all got together and looked at three Math curriculums. The one they felt would be the best fit for the District, was Eureka Math Squared; they were given a presentation. Rachel Gantt advised the biggest positives were familiar language, very student and teacher friendly, already ties into UDL; provides differentiation for students - it doesn't have to be changed. There are 130-140 lessons vs. other curriculums that have 185; can't get through them. This curriculum would give flexibility. There is a price range depending on what is needed as far as types of books, etc. Would allow them to provide something to new teachers; currently don't really have a curriculum.

K. Jerome asked if they looked into purchasing a pre-assessment.

Rachel Gantt didn't look into that; thought it was included.

K. Jerome - it could be diagnostic; a way to learn what kids know.

L. Picard asked if they would use an assessment.

Rachel Gantt advised it would depend; worth researching.

K. Jerome asked what made Eureka Math Square their choice.

Rachel Gantt explained it stood out. Didn't look as much into the workings of the second one; the third one was Envision. She didn't hear great things from teachers who have used Envision.

M. Pouliot advised Envision doesn't go through Grade 8.

J. Hadler asked if they have talked to Ms. Woodward to see if she feels this curriculum would work.

Rachel Gantt advised they met with K-8. Ms. Woodward is on board; she will use the teacher's guide, but not the student workbooks. Everyone will all be on the same page.

Teacher engagement is pretty big in language-based curriculum. It takes a step back making it more user friendly for students. Explained it comes with a digital component that is made and ready to go. Currently staff have to create something based on the teaching plan, each time.

L. Picard feels if using the same curriculum consistently for Grades K-8, they are going to have better results.

K. Jerome is concerned with the lack of manipulatives in the plan.

R. Gantt advised they have them for all grades except Kindergarten.

A teacher advised they could look and see if they could get them. Haven't looked through the complete list of supplies.

M. Pouliot advised there are a lot of Math manipulatives that were purchased with ESSER funds just in the last year or so.

R. Gantt will look at what they have and what is needed to fill in the holes.

R. Gantt explained pricing.

J. Blake asked if they had any idea of the cost difference between this program and the current curriculum?

R. Gantt explained currently it is free, but they have to make copies, it takes a lot of staff time, there is no vertical alignment, etc.

M. Pouliot advised there is currently no digital piece.

L. Carey advised they are very fortunate that many teachers have agreed to work this Summer on vertical alignment with Math. Also, have two-day trainings, per grade level, on how to set-up during the school year. These are grant-funded and next year resources are grant funded.

L. Picard asked what happens on year three? She hates to commit to something that can't continue.

T. Taylor explained they do have curriculum lines in the budget; they have many lines and could curb those back if they had this program.

L. Carey advised Rachel Gantt put this together; worked hard getting teachers and meetings together. She did a tremendous job. She is so proud.

**J. Blake MOVED to move forward with Eureka Math Squared; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

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

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 4/7/23 in the amount of \$369,803.00; SECONDED by: J. Hadler, VOTED 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 4/7/23 in the amount of \$1,725.70, SECONDED by: J. Blake, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

\*T. Taylor brought a voided check to the Board for review. The Board policy doesn't require a Motion.

\*T. Taylor distributed and reviewed Reporting of Expenditures FY23 and the 22-23 budget YTD and the 2022-2023 budget vs. actual. Still coming in right around \$1,000,000.00.

L. Picard asked for staffing numbers. How many positions are open, etc. They didn't gain ground at the Deliberative Session. Need to be sure talking honestly to explain that we are tracking staffing needs.

T. Taylor explained encumbrances; wages, tuition payment for Spring enrollment, anything she can think of she has requested a requisition for. They still need to order food, but that is winding down. Other requisitions will come shortly, then they will have a better number.

\*T. Taylor advised the contractors who will be working on the music room called and advised they could come in. Came today and yesterday. She is hoping a week from now they will have the music room back. There may be some loose ends.

\*T. Taylor met with Maintenance staff. They do not have a Facilities Director this week, but they all know what they are doing.

\*There is a broken window that needs to be replaced; hopefully it will be done by April vacation. The glass has been measured and ordered.

M. Pouliot advised there was film on that window; is it possible to get that put back on? There is a company that does that.

T. Taylor will need to check on that. There is another window project that includes seven windows which will be done during the Summer.

\*T. Taylor will be at the trial, Monday, Tuesday and possibly Wednesday. Kevin Seaman, the new Facilities Director is starting next week. She has asked the Maintenance staff to provide a list of what they do and what wing they work in.

\*T. Taylor has a list of where they are with projects, what projects are coming up and a list of vendors from Matt Hill.

L. Picard – Before they go into the Summer schedule, she knows the Board would love to hear about upcoming Summer projects.

\*T. Taylor will be on vacation on 5/4/23 and at a conference on 5/18/23.

After discussion, the Board agreed to meet on 5/25/23 instead of the 18th.

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

\*Requested the Board commit to a Summer Board Meeting schedule. After discussion, it was agreed that the Board would meet once in the month of July on the 20th and once in August on the 17th.

\*Teacher Appreciation week begins May 8th. L. Carey asked if 5/8/23 would work for the Board to purchase breakfast at Panera for the staff.

**L. Picard MOVED that the Board will begin Teacher Appreciation week with breakfast on 5/8/23; SECONDED by: K. Jerome, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard thinks the Board might like to do more individually for Teacher Appreciation week.

M. Pouliot will send a copy of the week's agenda so the Board will know what is planned each day.

#### **BOARD CHAIR REPORT - L. Picard:**

\*NHSB orientation is Monday, 4/10/23. K. Jerome will attend. J. Hadler is registered.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Board reviewed committees and assignments were made.

##### **Budget:**

J. Blake, K. Jerome (alt.)

##### **Joint Loss:**

J. Blake, J. Hadler

**Finance:**

K. Jerome, J. Blake,

**Keene High School:**

J. Hadler, J. Blake

**Legislative Action Policy:**

J. Hadler, L. Picard

**Negotiations:**

L. Hildreth, J. Blake

**NHSBA - Board Rotate:**

K. Jerome, J. Hadler will attend orientation.

**Scholarship:**

J. Hadler

**Selectboard Rep. - All members**

L. Picard encourages all Board members to go.

**Sick Bank:**

L. Picard.

**Professional Development:**

K. Jerome, J. Hadler

**Technology:**

L. Picard - L. Picard advised she will assess the need and see if two Board reps are needed.

**Energy Conservation/Facilities:**

K. Jerome, J. Blake

J. Hadler feels the Board needs to discuss buses. She saw four buses leave Keene High today with about five students on each.

T. Taylor advised don't have control over KHS transportation.

L. Picard feels that could be part of Joint Loss. She thinks the flow and safety of this campus is an issue; feels that would fall under Joint Loss.

M. Pouliot is not sure if it would be Joint Loss, but feels it could be handled at the building level.

T. Taylor agreed. Need to do research before either issue goes to committee.

L. Picard would like regular updates on the safety issue in the parking lot before the Summer months.

Discussed collecting data as to who rides the bus and who is supposed to ride, but doesn't.

M. Pouliot explained the bus rides in general are chaotic; there are many discipline issues. Not sure it is a good idea to put more pressure on the bus drivers.

\*L. Picard- Kiwanis is doing their annual Bike Rodeo the first weekend in May.

M. Pouliot will put that in the newsletter.

\*Town-wide clean-up is 4/22/23 beginning at the Town Hall. There will be a bounce house for kids and lunch for volunteers.

\*L. Picard advised she was elected chair of the Selectboard this year. If the School Board member assigned to come to a meeting can't make it, they can check with another Board member to see if they can cover.

\*J. Hadler advised the ELM event schedule is coming out in May.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

None.

**J. Blake MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:19pm under RSA-91:A:3(b)  
SECONDED by: J. Hadler, K. Jerome - yes, J. Blake - yes, L. Picard - yes, J. Hadler - yes,  
VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:20pm; SECONDED by: J. Blake,  
VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

While in non-public session the Board discussed nominations and accepted a resignation.

**J. Blake MOVED to seal the minutes regarding nominations until letters/contracts are  
received; SECONDED by: J. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary