

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2021  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Perkins, L. Hildreth, T. Kilanski, J. Rokes  
Administration Present: K. Dassau, V. Carey, M. Hill  
Absent: T. Taylor

The meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:44pm. after an issue with the live stream.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Minutes of 8/19/21 with the addition of the wording on Page 1, above Principal's Report, upon review, it was noted that appropriate notice was provided to all members; and adding on Page 2 after the Motion and Second on masks, T. Kilanski asked if parents could speak before the vote on masks, but no action was taken and the Vote was called; SECONDED BY: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the 9/16/21 Public and Non-Public minutes; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard reminded the Board that there is another meeting next Thursday, 10/14. The minutes of tonight's meeting will not be ready to be included in next week's packet.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

T. Taylor is on vacation.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 10/1/21 in the amount of \$230,356.92; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

The Board will review the Accounts Payable Manifest later in the meeting after all members have had a chance to review it.

L. Picard thinks T. Taylor might be able to provide information on the bus contract and have information from the transportation company soon.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:**

**\*Policies:**

Policies BCA, BDD, BEDB, BEDH, and EEAG were brought to the Board for review.

No action was needed, but in policy BEDB, Paragraph 3, need to correct the spelling of *discussed in...*

After review, **L. Picard MOVED to approve Policy EEA; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Hildreth advised there was a typo in Policy BEDH #6; need to change rules to *ruled* out of order and she advised the Board does not have Citizens' Comments at the beginning of the Board meeting, although the policy says they do.

After discussion, it was decided to change the wording in #1 to at the beginning *or end* of each regular Board Meeting. L. Picard advised she will bring changes to the Policy Committee at their November meeting and provide an update to the Board.

\*A brief non-meeting will be held to discuss current Support Staff Negotiations.

J. Rokes advised his printout of the Accounts Payable Manifest was missing every other page. He had a question regarding investigating Play-Based Kindergarten.

V. Carey explained. It is a change in curriculum; the line item pays for a mentor. We will be reimbursed with ESSER funds.

L. Picard advised Board members will wait to sign the hard copy of the first Accounts Payable Manifest until they see the whole thing.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the second Accounts Payable Manifest of 9/27/21 in the amount of \$220,683.20; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Facilities Committee:**

The Committee discussed an issue with vehicles on the playing fields; more damage has been done. They want to add a fence around the field which is being added as part of the Capital Plan. M. Hill reviewed with the Board. He explained it will have to go out-to-bid as the cost will be over \$25,000. The Committee will be presenting the updated Capital Plan. The fields will need to be fixed from all of the damage that has been done and a fence is needed so the damage doesn't continue to happen.

M. Hill advised they will bring information back to the Board after they review the bids.

#### **Transportation Committee:**

T. Kilanski explained the Committee met and discussed the lack of bus drivers. Received word that possibly two additional drivers are coming to Winchester so we will be fully staffed. They haven't received confirmation on that yet.

L. Picard explained Keene High School busses and Elementary runs are not overcrowded, but they had to rearrange runs so they had to reduce to three busses condensing two routes into one. The routes will go back to normal. We are not paying for the fourth bus without it being provided.

First Student has met with Keene High and discussed traffic flow.

V. Carey explained delays have improved on this end and they are working on traffic at Keene High School. More kids are being driven to school.

L. Picard advised the bus contract is being reviewed by the Business Manager. It allows for pro-rated services. First Student is looking at last year's services and looking at providing a rebate for remote days when services were not provided. She thinks they will have information from T. Taylor on both issues when she returns. Still struggling with athletic services as well. That probably won't change until First Student is fully staffed.

L. Picard explained when First Student came out this year to discuss transportation services, there were some stops provided outside of what First Student would normally have said was appropriate. Apparently some bus drivers were picking up/dropping off outside of what the route was supposed to be. The School and bus company went through and there were a lot of new bus stops set. L. Picard explained the State statutes with regard to transportation are pretty clear. We have policies with regard to transportation and we are providing all of our students according to safety protocol. The School actually goes above and beyond by contracting for Pre-K and Kindergarten because that is not required under the State Statute.

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR – L. Picard:**

Technology Committee: Will meet Monday, October 18th at 2:30pm in the Library.

Joint Loss Committee: Will meet October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Library.

**BUDGET SCHEDULE:**

L. Picard advised the schedule has been tweaked just a touch – reviewed with the Board.

All budget documents from last year can be viewed on the website.

L. Hildreth feels the Board needs a long-term and mid-term plan to increase salaries; including teaching staff.

K. Dassau explained typically Support Staff and Winchester Teacher’s Association are operating under two year contracts. He agrees with L. Hildreth, but that would require a legal process to open negotiations.

L. Hildreth advised not looking for that, but feels instead of 2-3% the increase needs to be 4-5%. Need to look at a range where Winchester can become more competitive. Explained will need to come to you for those people that are not part of the bargaining agreement and we are always looking to be competitive with those positions.

The Budget Committee will meet on 10/19/21.

V. Carey reminded the Board that they won’t have the new Keene High School tuition rates until somewhere around 11/18. They will have class size and projected enrollment, but that will change.

T. Kilanski asked how many kids are at Keene High school right now.

V. Carey – 155 and the projected number is 163; 42 Special Ed and 41 is the projected number.

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:**

None.

**L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm, SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary