

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2021
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

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

L. Picard MOVED to approve the 10/7/21 Public School Board minutes as written; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard requested to move the agenda of tonight's meeting around as J. Rokes has advised that he may need to leave early.

The Board had no issue with that.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The Board received class size counts and enrollment information, reviewed and asked questions.

T. Taylor advised she should have the Keene High School tuition rates by the middle of November.

Board:

The Board received a copy of the YTD-2021 budget for review and asked questions. The Budget documents will be loaded to the website by tomorrow afternoon.

T. Taylor advised there will be legal fees, auditor fees, etc. The lawsuit is still ongoing. She feels they should level-fund the 2022/23 School Board account.

L. Picard proposed to add stipends for the School Board members.

After discussion by the Board, **L. Picard proposed to add stipends for the School Board in the amount of \$1,000 for members and \$1,250 for the Chair; SECONDED by: T. Perkins; VOTED: 3-1(J. Rokes – no), MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard advised discussion will come up again when the Board meets as a whole.

Transportation:

L. Picard advised beginning this week, the fourth bus was added back in.

T. Taylor advised things seem to be going well.

T. Taylor reviewed the transportation portion of the Budget and the Board asked questions. She explained the contract includes pretty much a three percent increase each year.

T. Taylor explained we have received about an eight percent credit for remote days when transportation was not needed. The contract wasn't written to say if the bus didn't run then we don't pay. We contracted for that number of busses against a certain number of days that the school is operating. That is the anticipation of the contract and we agreed on it. This year there were times the busses didn't run. so we came to a middle ground that on the days in this school year that we combined those routes that we would be a 50/50 split with that one bus that didn't run. So we have been credited back those funds.

J. Rokes asked if the contract is on the website. He remembers when they went over the contract that one of things was, we only paid for what we used.

T. Taylor explained she only knows what she reads in the contract as she wasn't here for negotiations.

K. Dassau advised not sure the full contract would be on the web page as it is a seven year contract; it would be the same contract that was put up last year. They can check the wording tomorrow.

L. Picard so as of right now what they've agreed to is a 50% credit when we were combining busses?

T. Taylor correct – the agreement we came to is we would only get charged 50% for that one bus that was sitting. Regardless of it not running, the routes had to be expanded for the one bus, the driver was driving longer, more fuel.

L. Picard – So we were paying for what was serviced.

T. Taylor – Correct.

T. Perkins asked about fuel cost.

T. Taylor explained we got some credit back from last year when the busses weren't running. Even if the cost of fuel goes up, our price doesn't increase.

Lindsey Hildreth asked about field trips. In the past couple of years there was \$8,000 in that account, but this year \$1,000 and assuming \$1,000 for FYE 2023. Asked if that is a safe assumption – it is a big drop.

T. Taylor explained when she went back, it looked like it wasn't always just field trips; co-curricular, too. She thinks some things were combined from other accounts. Advised she can go back and break it down.

L. Picard feels there could be a couple of years when Nature's Classroom was part of those transportation lines. Her understanding is it has not been discussed for future trips and hadn't been for at least a year. That could be part of the reduction. She recalls a conversation regarding field trips being reduced as a whole.

T. Taylor will verify that line.

L. Picard thanked members of the Budget Committee for coming to tonight's budget session. The information discussed tonight will be included in the budget book for next time.

Deliberative Session:

The Board discussed possible dates. There was discussion regarding the possibility of checking to see if the Town would entertain holding both Deliberative Sessions on the same day.

T. Perkins MOVED that the School Board hold their Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 5, 2022; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED. The Board will firm up the time.

Warrant Articles:

L. Picard advised the Board will need the numbers currently in the Capital Reserve for Facilities and Special Education accounts. Will also have a Warrant Article for Support Staff and there might be a second one as well. She would like the Warrant Articles all ready when the Budget Committee gets their budget books. They are typically ready around the week of Thanksgiving.

The Budget Committee has set dates to meet with the School Board; 12/7, 12/14 and 12/2, if needed.

L. Picard asked that the Budget Committee consider moving the third meeting to the 12/16 School Board meeting, if one is needed.

J. Rokes left the meeting at 7:15pm.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT – T. Taylor:

- *Reviewed the YTD report as it looks, after the audit - \$361,000 of the approved appropriation has not been spent. The savings came from the KHS tuition.
- *Reviewed the balance on revenues.
- *Reviewed YTD balance – As of 6/30/21, \$205,389 was still left as a deficit without acknowledging the \$400,000 deficit Warrant Article.
L. Picard advised at the end of 2022 based on current information, we will have resolved and recouped the deficit.
T. Taylor – If all things go as planned.
K. Dassau – There may be some fund balance to return to the taxpayers.

- *Winchester School is actively working with ESSER 2 funds. Will move forward with ESSER 3; have done the Re-opening Plan and other filings. The Board needs to accept the funds; 80% is to be used for infrastructure, energy savings, etc. which will need to be spent over the next three years, including this year. This Grant is worth \$2.2 million with no less than 20% to be used for learning loss.
T. Taylor would like another set of eyes on this. L. Picard believes the Professional Development and Technology Committees are beginning to look at this and then the Financial Committee and Joint Loss Committee will then look at it.
L. Picard asked about a time frame.
T. Taylor doesn't think it needs to be during the budget process. Still capitalizing on funds from ESSER 2.
The Board will discuss at the next meeting and come up with a target date.
L. Picard is thinking a February/March time-frame. Will discuss at the next meeting.

L. Hildreth MOVED to accept the ESSER 3 Grant in the total of \$2,217,166.51; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

MANIFESTS:

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$91,356.88 dated 10/29/21; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard entered into the record the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 10/15/21 in the amount of \$594,023.35 and the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$235,054.65 dated 10/15/21.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$4,000 dated 10/29/21; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$231,003.67; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:

- *K. Dassau believes the Board should have a sample of the Warrant Article not filled in, in their packet. There is a draft available. He thinks there were questions about what was public information.
- *There is a non-public session needed tonight for one resignation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facilities – The next meeting will be held before the beginning of the next School Board meeting.

Professional Development – There will be ongoing conversation to come up with the skeleton of a three year plan, survey for staff and master plan; it is in the works. The next meeting is November 2nd at 2:30.

Technology- The committee met; need a five year plan. Looking into building an Asset Replacement Plan. The Committee will be putting together a proposal for live feed.

Joint Loss – Discussed issues regarding a tree stump and wood chips on the playground and leaking in the building. The door in the Girl's room doesn't lock and hand sanitizer needs to be moved.

Policy – Will bring additional policies to the Board at the 11/18 meeting.

T. Perkins MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:45pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: T. Perkins – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 7:55pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Board discussed the retirement of a very valuable employee.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary