

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2022
WINCHESTER SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

Board Members Present: L. Hildreth, T. Kilanski, L. Picard, T. Perkins

Absent: J. Rokes

Administration Present: K. Dassau, T. Taylor, V. Carey, M. Hill

The meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:33pm.

MINUTES:

T. Kilanski MOVED to approve the Public Minutes of January 6, 2022; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – V. Carey:

*V. Carey gave an update on COVID protocols. She explained they received updated guidelines from the CDC and definitions from the DHHS. Winchester has put together what they believe is a clear explanation of all of the various complicated scenarios that could apply. Then today, they received ambiguous language in an e-mail from the DOE that needs more clarifying.

The Board received a copy of the plan in place and V. Carey reviewed. This is the plan that the DOE Attorney has agreed is appropriate and allowable. She will advise the Board if that changes based on today's e-mail. This process has taken a lot of time. It is a living document; it will change.

T. Kilanski advised he voted against the mask mandate in the school. He doesn't believe in any of this. If you feel your child should wear a mask then that's your right. If you don't want to wear one, you shouldn't have to. Feels it is up to the parents.

V. Carey explained they already have a Mask Policy. Have received similar concerns from other parents, but there is not a single Health Care organization that says don't wear masks.

T. Kilanski doesn't think people will be honest about whether they are quarantining as outlined in the Policy.

V. Carey hopes enough people will be honest to keep us safe. It makes her very uncomfortable. They are taking a lot of people at their word. That is frightening. She really hopes people will be honest, but is fully aware that some won't. Hopes they will follow the guidelines, but there is nothing else they can do about it.

L. Hildreth asked for clarification regarding some of the information in the new guidelines.

V. Carey advised after five days a negative Antigen test is required.

V. Carey – After 10 days to play sports no test is required. The assumption is if symptoms have improved at that time, another test would not be needed.

L. Hildreth asked about tests.

V. Carey explained in order to get a real sense of the timeline, a photo would need to be sent to the school with the date/time when they take the test and the date/time when they get the results. They are fully depending on honesty.

T. Kilanski – What if someone doesn't have a cell phone?

V. Carey advised they could come and take the test here. They don't have the tests available at the school, though.

V. Carey advised there were 96 students absent today. Different scenarios can affect members of the same family in different ways as far as testing, return times, etc. Much work and effort has gone into this.

Every time there are protocol changes, they need to redo the policy again. V. Carey and the school nurse have spent an incredible amount of time outside of school trying to be as clear and consistent as possible with families.

V. Carey will forward an amended policy and flowchart to the Board with any changes. It will be made part of the Re-opening Plan. They will do the best they can to continuously update it.

BUSINESS MANAGER – T. Taylor:

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 1/14/22 in the amount of \$1,645,515.03; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 1/21/22 in the amount of \$231,692.95; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Taylor brought Warrant Articles and the Default Budget to be signed by the Board. Today the MS-27 was signed by the Budget Committee. M. Braley will post everything tomorrow.

T. Taylor advised the chairs have arrived.

L. Picard – We will have them for the Deliberative Session.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – K. Dassau:

*Received a Right-to-Know request from J. Rokes for all available information to be forwarded to him, regarding time clocks; so he can review it before the next Board meeting.

T. Kilanski asked for the same information.

K. Dassau sent 30 documents to J. Rokes and T. Kilanski.

T. Kilanski asked if the overall cost that was spent on the time clocks, classes, etc. was \$32,000.

K. Dassau advised not at all – the total cost was \$9,333 from four invoices in the 2019-2020 school year. There was only one time clock. He explained staff was reduced by 11 when we went with the Abbey Group for Food Service. With the cut in the budget voted on that year, it reduced staff by 13 more. It was then not viable to continue.

K. Dassau advised the Board never voted on any issue with the time clock. They were following the recommendation of Administration. They have made numerous attempts to return the time clock, but the company didn’t want to take it back and return our money.

L. Picard will touch base with J. Rokes and see if he feels this needs to be on the agenda again.

*The Board received a draft of the School Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year and reviewed.

V. Carey advised there are no significant changes from this year’s calendar.

L. Picard advised the Professional Development Committee is working on a three-year plan and there has been conversation about workshop days and early release days and how they can be best utilized for Professional Development.

V. Carey did send the calendar to the staff for review and received feedback. Advised it will take more fact finding and Union feedback if we are increasing the number of days. More discussion will be needed as it will impact both hourly and contracted staff.

L. Picard advised Professional Development meets on 2/1/22; maybe that will be part of the conversation.

*Need very brief non-public session tonight.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR COMMENT/REPORT – L. Picard:

*The Policy Committee met and the next packet will include several policies:
Policy DJE - Bidding Requirements, for recommendation/approval.

Policy BHE – Use of E-Mail rather than Electronic Communication - no changes were made. Will be looking for Board review and approval.

Policy BEAB – School Board Member use of Electronic Devices during School Board Meetings – there will be review and discussion as needed.

Policy BGAA – The Board will review the policy with a recommendation from the Committee to consolidate and repeal other similar policies.

There will be other policies in the next packet for review and then the Policy Committee will review them one last time for adoption.

*L. Picard met with the new School Moderator and reviewed the Warrant Articles.

Board Members will be presenting the following Articles at the Deliberative Session:

L. Picard #2, T. Kilanski, #3, T. Perkins - #5, L. Hildreth - #6, J. Rokes - #7. The Board will develop talking points and review them at the next Board meeting to be sure they are not missing anything.

The Board discussed documents to have available at the Deliberative Session which will include Enrollment and Class size; Budget Committee - what their proposed budget would mean to the school; and the Capital Reserve Plan.

L. Picard advised the Board that if they have a request for additional information to e-mail her ahead of time.

K. Dassau advised M. Braley could add the documents to the website and on Facebook Friday so the public can get them.

L. Picard advised that ACCESS will provide Childcare for the Deliberative Session. There will be at least one staff member and some teens to help.

L. Picard gave an update on the Superintendent's Search. They did a series of interviews this week. The Search Committee will meet again and proceed with a second round, hopefully in person. Looking forward to transitioning with an overlap.

T. Kilanski asked if they should we bring a copy of the School scores to the Deliberative Session as that usually comes up.

V. Carey explained more than ever, the scores are convoluted. They did not test two years ago and this year there was an extraordinary number of parents excluding their children from the assessments. Can have available what they need to but there would be a lot of asterisks as a large percentage of students didn't take part in the testing.

T. Kilanski feels they should be able to give an explanation.

L. Picard feels to both points that would give the Board the opportunity to say here is the information; however, these things also happened.

L. Hildreth asked about the COVID policy. For staff is there a time-off policy?

V. Carey explained they are working on an MOU with the Winchester Teacher's Association and they intend to extend that to other employees as well. They have what they believe to be, an agreement as to how to handle that and expect it to be retroactive into this school year. They have an agreement with one of the organizations and the other has not sufficiently been given the time to move forward with that through their Association. V. Carey advised they will provide an update to the Board once they hear back.

K. Dassau - Expect that to be at the next meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Amy Hill asked if the policies could be forwarded to staff when the Board is reviewing them. She has heard from teachers that they didn't know about them.

Amy Hill advised the hearing on HB1255 was held today or yesterday. It is the Teacher Loyalty Bill – restricting discussion about US History. Feels they need to keep an eye out on this and HB544. It will affect the teaching of everyone.

L. Picard and L. Hildreth will work to put together a short list of Bills with a summary for the next meeting, so the Board will be up-to-date with what is in front of the House.

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,III(a) at 7:34pm. SECONDED by: L Hildreth, T. Perkins – yes, L. Picard – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to go leave non-public session at 7:42pm. SECONDED by: L Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0 MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary