

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2022  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair, L. Picard at 6:30pm.

**MINUTES:**

**T. Perkins MOVED to approve the Public and Non-Public Minutes of February 3, 2022; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Public Minutes of February 5, 2022; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – V. Carey:**

\*V. Carey advised they have become aware of probable changes to the CDC Mask Guidance likely upcoming in the next week or so. They are currently gathering relevant information and will be getting family/staff input to develop a response to the new guidance and then come back to the Board with recommendations or discussion. The Reopening Committee will have a meeting prior to the School Board meeting so they can review the information.

\*V. Carey thanked the School Board for hosting the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Everyone enjoyed it. She advised it was followed by an excellent workshop on the early release day.

**BUSINESS MANAGER – T. Taylor:**

\*J. Rokes and T. Kilanski advised they did not receive the Accounts Payable Manifests via e-mail. T. Taylor will check with Marie Braley to see why.

**FACILITIES DIRECTOR – M. Hill:**

Matt Hill explained Precision Temperature Control came in and reviewed the current system. They advised it is not worth replacing; need a new system. B-G Mechanical is coming to take a look at it on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

\*There is no need for a non-public session tonight.

**SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR COMMENT/REPORT – L. Picard:**

\*Policy BEAB – School Board Member use of Electronic Devices: This policy was reviewed and rescinded at the last Board Meeting. The Policy Committee agreed to review other policies which might support the overall intent of the Electronic Communication and Device Policy. Policy BHE – Use of E-Mail and Other Electronic Communication was reviewed by the Policy Committee who was of the opinion that it would cover some of the concerns regarding the use of electronic devices at the table. L. Picard advised this Policy was reviewed and approved in December, 2021 and they are now looking at it again with no change.

There was one more policy regarding actions and behavior of the Board and the Committee was going to see if there were any additions that should be made to it specific to electronic devices.

No changes or recommendations are being made at this time.

\*Policy DJE - Bidding Requirements: The Policy Committee did review it. There were no changes recommended. A clean copy will be in the next packet.

\*L. Picard thanked the staff for the positive feedback from the Staff Appreciation Lunch. Two area

restaurants, a parent and Board members provided food. The professional development half-day seemed to work very well. They will keep that in mind when planning in the future.

\*L. Picard felt the Deliberative Session went well. The longest part was the petitioned Warrant Article. Leading up to voting in March, members need to speak positively about the Articles.

J. Rokes asked if there were answers on the questions he asked about the Bidding Policy.

L. Picard advised she has not had the opportunity to speak with Amy Bond about it yet. She will try to be in touch and e-mail J. Rokes directly.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 2/18/22 in the amount of \$231,773.62  
SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**T. Perkins MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/11/22 in the amount of \$216,313.19; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0-2, (J. Rokes, T. Kilanski – abstained), MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/11/22 in the amount of \$9,829.69; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 3-0-2, (J. Rokes, T. Kilanski – abstained), MOTION PASSED.**

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Gerry Ann Fierro read a statement that she had given to the Board as a concerned parent regarding the use of masks in School. She has two young children and her son has asthma and she feels the physical health of her child is being effected. She is suggesting masks be optional and there could be a mask waiver to protect the school.

Ben Kilanski echoed what was said. He is happy to hear from V. Carey that they will be working with new information that has come up. He encourages the Board to revisit this. Advised even without a mask mandate, parents can request that their kids wear one.

Amy Hill wanted to clarify that there are a lot of families with children with special needs and she wanted to make a couple of points. Early childhood has a bit of a different mandate; masks were not as strict for early childhood with the understanding of developmental needs and development of the children and where they are. There are clear masks that they can wear so kids can see the staff's face. Advised she takes off her mask to read or when she has her coffee with the kids in the morning while they are eating. Early childhood takes a little bit of an ease. Advised she has data; all children are making progress in early childhood.

V. Carey advised they will do surveys to parents and staff as soon as possible; waiting for new guidance probably sometime next week. Surveys will be based on that information. If they are able to get most of the information quickly, will bring to the next Board meeting. She will do a call to parents when the survey is up, even if that is during vacation.

L. Picard asked Board members to let her know their availability to assist at the polls.

T. Kilanski advised they are constantly looking at data regarding mask mandates. Advised ConVal was the school district we used as an example for the mask mandate we have now, and who has changed to no masks. Based on that and what everyone else is doing, he is curious what the Board feels. Is the Board comfortable based off of what other Towns are doing to reconsider and make masks optional or are we going to just keep waiting?

L. Hildreth – In the Reopening Committee and what was presented at the Board Meeting, they were following guidance from the NH DHHS. Basically they had said if things change, that the school had the option to make a change. Thinks based on what V. Carey said, we are waiting on updated guidance. V. Carey clarified they did not use ConVal's Mask Policy as a guidance; they used the template. The DOE asked them to send the template of their Reopening Plan out to other districts so they didn't all have to reinvent the wheel as far as the sections that were required. The Mask Policy was based on NH

DHHS guidance; that's what the Board decided to adopt. It wasn't ConVal's policy. The decision will ultimately be up to the Board

T. Kilanski is concerned that they won't have the information by the next meeting so then it will be going on for two more weeks.

V. Carey thinks the guidance will be out by the next meeting, but even if they don't have all of the information back, the Board would still have an opportunity to make a decision that night and wouldn't necessarily have to wait; could authorize Administration to make a change. Thinks there are a lot of options that the Board has and they will have enough information to make a decision at the next meeting and let Administration know what they want them to do.

J. Rokes asked if they could reconsider the previous vote on masks.

L. Picard advised they could if one of the members who voted in favor, moved for reconsideration. She thinks they need to follow the procedure that they have been by gathering as much data as they can and be ready for a good answer.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary