

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
APRIL 6, 2017**

Present: Kevin Bazan, Lindseigh Picard, Steve Thompson, Valerie Cole, Ben Kilanski

Administration Present: J. Lewis, M. Duprey, V. Carey, E. Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Chair, K. Bazan at 6:35pm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

K. Bazan advised there would be Citizens' Comments for 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting and 15 minutes at the end.

Student LIT Group of ACCESS came before the Board to speak.

Owen Pelkey – This is his eighth year in ACCESS and he has enjoyed every minute of it; he chooses to go. Counselors are great, each in their own way. There are many clubs. Need ACCESS to stay; to lose it would be a shame.

Jordan has been here for three years now. Beth Baldwin helped get her from a difficult position to where she is now. There are lots of fun things to do including Summer Camp. She receives help with Math and Reading. She likes it because it makes her feel good to have people to go to. Helps get here grades up; she wants to be a lawyer. She feels it would be bad if they lose ACCESS.

Soleil Laganieri feels it is important for ACCESS to be at the school. If it was not here, they would need a bus to transport kids; feels that's dangerous. If ACCESS is at the school, there are no worries of transportation accidents. Parents know where kids are and if they meet with a teacher after school, than they can go right to ACCESS after that.

Liam advised many parents see ACCESS as a safe learning environment for kids. Kids learn things in ACCESS. Losing ACCESS would take a part of kid's learning. He doesn't want to see it leave.

Alex feels it is easier walking to school and safer to have ACCESS stay at the school. School is made for kids. It keeps things friendly and safe. ACCESS even serves dinner.

Michael Krikorian is a teacher and an ACCESS Board member. They had kids wanting to come and say why they want to be in ACCESS. Have been told they are enabling kids. Advised they are enabling kids to stay safe, have pride in community and build skills. Feels ACCESS is good for them to do.

Missy Calderwood attended a meeting of the Wellness Committee. Encouraging more walking and biking on safe routes. If ACCESS moves, the program won't be successful if kids can't get where they need to be safely.

A parent asked whose idea it was to move ACCESS.

K. Bazan advised the decision was made by Administration.

The parent didn't understand why.

K. Bazan doesn't think it was because it wasn't a good program, but there were reasons.

J. Lewis advised they have something to present tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

2017-2018 School Calendar:

J. Lewis compiled information on trimesters and the Board received the report. He sent the calendar to the WTA for review. The calendar reflects trimesters rather than quarters. It aligns better with standard-based reporting. It increases the time between identifying an issue and correcting it. Advised every way he can look at it, trimesters are superior to quarters.

J. Lewis knows the WTA met today. He hasn't heard from them.

V. Carey advised the initial feedback originally received was that teachers did not want Open House on Friday and wanted to make sure vacations align with Keene. Trimesters have come up a lot from PLC's in the past.

L. Picard likes the opportunity for additional time to improve on grades; likes trimesters.

V. Cole asked if other schools use trimesters.

V. Carey advised many elementary schools in the surrounding towns use them.

S. Thompson and L. Picard would like to hear the WTA's view before making a decision. The Board meets again next week; can decide then.

K. Bazan asked that it be on the agenda.

L. Picard advised and that's it; won't look at it again.

SB193 Update:

J. Lewis – Disagrees with SB193; feels there is potential for fraud. Advised 200 people testified on SB193. Depending who you talk to the consensus was either overwhelmingly against or very much against the Bill.

J. Lewis explained the NH Board of Education took the position to oppose the Bill. He asked the public to write to their representatives and/or Senator Jay Kahn. Any questions, contact J. Lewis.

J. Lewis – They don't know when the vote will be.

Surry Village Charter School:

J. Lewis advised there is a student who lives in Winchester, but attends the Surry Charter School. He is now coded and legally entitled to services. We are responsible to provide those services. Explained it seems prudent and responsible to have Surry provide those services.

K. Bazan asked if Surry is a traditional public school.

J. Lewis – No, it is a Charter School. Explained it is a public school. Students could go if there was an opening; otherwise there would be a lottery.

J. Lewis – We have to take all students. Do not have the same rules as Charter Schools.

K. Bazan asked why the Surry Charter School can't pay for services the student needs.

J. Lewis advised we are responsible.

K. Bazan asked if it is fair to say their responsibility ends when the child gets to Special Ed. They code them and charge us for it?

J. Lewis advised he can only say so much about it.

L. Picard – How can they make an assessment if they can't provide services?

A citizen advised the assessments are done by the School District.

L. Picard she is bothered by the fact that we have the responsibility to open our school to all students, but our students couldn't go to the Charter School if they don't have room.

K. Bazan – Why can't they provide services at their cost?

K. Bazan – How do we know the student is getting the proper services?

J. Lewis advised we have an Out-of-District Coordinator. Explained it is similar to the homeless situation. If the last residence a student has before they become homeless is Winchester, that person could go to school anywhere, but we are responsible to provide for their education.

V. Cole – If the student was coded prior to going to the Charter School, would they be able to go?

J. Lewis advised he would have to find the answer to that.

J. Lewis – If we have someone here who could provide those services, they can provide them here or go there.

K. Bazan – We code the student?

J. Lewis – Yes.

E. Jackson believes it is not us that send the student to the Charter School, but it is the wish of the parents.

K. Bazan – How are we supposed to budget for this? Are there other students that are coded that we may have to pay for services for?

J. Lewis and E. Jackson advised it happens all the time.

B. Kilanski advised it sounds like SB193; we are fighting against it on one end and fighting for it on the other.

K. Bazan – In the end, we are a local, public school. It is frustrating to have to pay the bill. It could be a big bill soon.

J. Lewis – Thank God we live in a country that takes care of its people.

K. Bazan understands, but we have a school where we can't provide services, so we send kids somewhere else. We cannot make a choice to send students to the Charter School.

ACCESS:

J. Lewis distributed a hand-out regarding ACCESS.

J. Lewis heard what kids were saying Thursday. Thought about what was said at the meeting with regard to ACCESS.

J. Lewis is okay with having an afternoon ACCESS program at the school.

J. Lewis advised he could stand up from today to tomorrow and say how good Beth Baldwin is. She responds to everything, but she shouldn't have to; there needs to be a buffer.

Mike Tollett asked about the cost of \$25.00 a day for ACCESS to use the building. He asked what they get for that.

J. Lewis advised a clean school, basically – lack of ants.

A parent advised they do clean. She advised they were told by custodians that they don't need to clean after ACCESS because it is always clean.

L. Picard – What about the other areas of the building?

The parent advised there is no food, no mess, etc. They just use the space.

J. Lewis advised there was an issue where the fire chief advised they could not get their apparatus through the parking lot.

Beth Baldwin – Welcome to softball.

J. Lewis and B. Baldwin advised they need to work together.

K. Bazan would like the ACCESS Board to take this information, digest it and come back to discuss it at the Board meeting on April 13th.

An ACCESS Board Member advised this is the first time hearing about the problem with the parking lot.

K. Bazan advised J. Lewis just got the call today.

J. Lewis – If ACCESS is holding some type of event, need to work together. Need to provide easy access for everyone.

Stephanie Worcester feels they should stop pointing fingers and work together.

K. Bazan is pretty sure that is the point that is made in the proposal.

Mike Tollett thanked J. Lewis for working on the proposal. Asked if this is the proposal or will there be a collaboration with the Board.

K. Bazan advised not the Board, J. Lewis.

B. Baldwin – Can we meet to discuss?

J. Lewis advised he will check his calendar and discuss it with her.

Mike Krikorian advised with regarding to cooking, they did have an inspection by the State. Feels there were times that J. Lewis didn't have all the information. Feels they should address that before they discuss the proposal.

E. Jackson advised she should have been made aware of the inspection.

Stephanie Worcester advised the space issue came up first, but J. Lewis brought issues with ACCESS to the Board. Is it behavior and issues with ACCESS?

K. Bazan advised primarily space, adding a sixth grade space that ACCESS occupies now.

K. Bazan – Yes, ACCESS was brought up in non-public session.

Stephanie Worcester feels if we keep going backward, not getting anywhere. Need to move forward.

Stephanie Worcester advised she is still confused about the reasoning. In the minutes, described issues and advised J. Lewis was looking for the blessing of the Board to end having ACCESS here.

K. Bazan advised it had come up in non-public minutes prior to the March vote.

Crystal Card asked if the ACCESS office is the 6th grade classroom they are still planning.

J. Lewis – No.

L. Picard MOVED to recess for five minutes at 7:32pm; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

The meeting reconvened at 7:41pm.

FINANCIAL – E. Jackson:

Manifest:

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 4/7/17 in the amount of \$214,738.93; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest of 4/7/17 in the amount of \$17,751.06; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*E. Jackson has requested a quote for new bleachers. She would expect to receive it next week.

*The stage is currently closed due to its condition as well as the fact that the basketball hoop is above it.

Discussed movable stage – the Board reviewed information. It would be much smaller than the current one. They need it for talent shows, plays, etc. They could move it outside to use for graduation. She has not been able to research the best price yet. This can be disassembled and put on a dolly to move and store. She will compare companies as well.

K. Bazan feels it is definitely the way to go. The school doesn't have a performance space.

K. Bazan likes the idea that they could bring the stage outside for graduation.

L. Picard advised it definitely sounds like they could go a little larger.

E. Jackson advised the cost for the skirting around the bottom would be \$630.00.

V. Cole wondered if they could ask if there is someone that could do something like that. Reminds her of when Mr. Kossakoski did those kinds of things for the school.

L. Picard MOVED to allow E. Jackson to purchase an executive stage kit for a cost of up to \$7,500; SECONDED by: B. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*Had to ask for an extension from the IRS to move us from test to production mode. Reporting is now completed.

*Bus bids are due to Monadnock by April 26th at 1:00 pm.

K. Bazan suggested sending a bus bid to Travel Kuz out of Gil, Mass.

L. Picard asked if this is a three year bid.

E. Jackson advised yes.

L. Picard – Are we stuck for three years?

E. Jackson - If we accept it.

L. Picard thinks it would be best to buy and run our own busses. She will keep saying that.

K. Bazan advised they will need it to go to the Surry Charter School.

*The Town has requested that the School receive payment on the third week of June instead of the first week.

E. Jackson doesn't think that will be a problem.

L. Picard asked J. Lewis to let the Board know as things develop regarding SB193.

J. Lewis – Absolutely; you will probably hear on the news, but probably from him first.

Ben Kilanski asked J. Lewis if he wanted him to test out the traffic pattern tomorrow. He will come and help and move traffic cones around.

E. Jackson – Need to move cars one lane over where it says “No Parking”. The fire lane is still blocked.

J. Lewis – So now busses will go one way and cars another way.

B. Kilanski – If it works, they could paint over the “No Parking” sign in the Summer and paint fire lane lines.

J. Lewis saw Mike Tollett parked on the corner watching people at the stop sign, twice this week. He reported to M. Duprey.

L. Picard was appalled by parents' behavior in the parking lot.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Lewis:

*J. Lewis distributed information to the Board regarding possible signage for the gymnasium/bleachers or a wall of contributions. Explained it is one idea; if they like it, will go forward. It is not a proposal yet. They are just looking at it.

*Nature Trail – Will work on after vacation. Hope to get some high school students to help out for community service hours. Need to wait until things dry off a bit.

*Met with Select Board and executives from NH Solar Garden on Monday. They were on the news for having a huge solar farm in Hinsdale, but they no longer have the one in Hinsdale. J. Lewis feels solar is the way to go.

*Softball has been held in the gym due to the weather. They are trying to find some gym availability time for multiplication kickball.

*There will be a C.A.S.T. evening meeting on Monday, April 10th after the PTA meeting. Will present findings on what makes Winchester great. Hope people can make it to both.

*Will be updating websites more frequently.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR – V. Carey:

*Smarter Balance testing is well underway. There have been very few hiccups. One sixth grade room is a black hole for WIFI; moved those students.

*Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart were held. Understands it went pretty well.

*Lots of staff working hard at being lifelong learners. Some have just finished getting their Master's Degree. It takes a lot of time.

*Horton Gillingham course is going on all year, every Monday. It is great training for staff. Feels staff should be recognized. They are working hard to improve their craft and be better.

*Autism Awareness Week. Nice community feeling to all who participated.

*Arti-gras is being held by UA classes on April 13th. The Book Fair will also happen that night.

*Book Fair will start tomorrow.

*Conference Day next Friday. WSSA organized a speaker for paras and other available staff members. It will deal with how to prevent teasing and bullying.

*Training on Friday at the NE Center for Children.

L. Picard is proud of teachers who are becoming life-long learners. Also read an article about a teacher soon to retire from Winchester who is a life-long learner. She greatly appreciated that they put that effort in.

K. Bazan advised in the teacher's contract that passed, the Board tried to raise the amount teachers have to go back to school/take courses.

M. Duprey advised he talked with J. Lewis regarding eighth grade graduation. Would like to hold it on June 9th this year; which is six days earlier than the rest of the students would get out. Advised there are a number of reasons, but he feels the most important came

up earlier in the week. This would provide the middle school teachers with a full week of just the seventh grade students. They would have focus time, 'step up week', planning for next year being leaders of our school.

The Board agreed.

B. Kilanski advised he loves the idea, but wants to be sure it won't interfere with anything Keene is doing with families of graduating seniors.

M. Duprey advised they could slide it a day earlier or later, if needed.

V. Cole advised according to the KHS calendar graduation is on June 9th.

J. Lewis advised the calendar he was looking at says the 16th.

M. Duprey will check.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Loss:

There will be a meeting in May.

Finance:

L. Picard advised it went well. She, V. Cole, J. Lewis and E. Jackson will meet before the first Board Meeting of the month at 5:30pm, at least until June.

L. Picard advised the meeting was just an opportunity with the Committee to familiarize themselves with the budget. They will also review the Manifest 15 minutes before the Board meeting at the second meeting of the month, in case there are any questions.

KHS Committee:

The next Committee meeting will be on April 26th at 5:00pm.

K. Bazan advised the meeting with Administration at Keene High School has been put off. It is now tentatively scheduled for May 10th.

NHSBA:

J. Lewis will be going to the School Board Orientation with B. Kilanski and V. Cole.

Scholarship:

V. Cole advised she spoke with KHS and with Christy Frasier and advised she is the Scholarship Committee person.

L. Picard asked about Scholarship Night.

V. Cole advised it is usually the week of graduation.

V. Cole asked Mary at Keene High School if someone from the Scholarship group could present scholarships to Winchester, there.

Mary said that was fine.

L. Picard – Would like a Board member to present Keene Scholarships to Winchester students at Keene.

L. Picard heard there is not usually representation to present to Winchester students. She wants to avoid that.

E. Jackson advised typically it is the organization giving the scholarship that presents it.

K. Bazan advised they will need to clarify that.

Selectboard:

K. Bazan asked if anyone has any ideas of how to handle Board representation at meetings. In the past, members have rotated attending meetings. Advised he can go next time.

B. Kilanski feels it might be good to go in another direction. He will be there and J. Lewis is there.

Professional Development:

The next meeting is April 26th at 3:30 in the library.

Technology:

The next meeting will be held on April 25th at 3:30 pm.

J. Lewis distributed information to the Board and discussed options that came out of the meeting regarding Solar Energy. Advised they have made no decisions; asked a lot of questions.

K. Bazan advised it was a positive meeting. This was for the Town and the School. We could use the property next to Plumb Pak. The company surveyed the area to see if it will work. Apparently it would.

B. Kilanski advised with two Town properties and one School property combined, would receive \$30,000. The Town is putting it out-to-bid. He is meeting with Hinsdale tomorrow to see why they backed out. He is also going to Milton to observe their set-up on Saturday.

E. Jackson advised K. Bazan that she asked a lot of questions after he left the meeting. The grant writer they just hired for the Town is a partner in the business. They have been in business for four years. They have done six projects and are working on four more.

B. Kilanski advised there is no cost to the Town.

E. Jackson advised there is a pool of money.

E. Jackson advised there is typically a 30-year contract; they can back out anytime. Our contract would be with another company.

B. Kilanski – They take care of decommissioning/bringing everything back to normal.

E. Jackson asked if the company has had any problems. They advised they really haven't had any.

K. Bazan was happy there was a meeting with the Town and the School. Feels they are working in the right direction.

Robert Leustek advised the Hinsdale solar contract went to another company at exactly what the original company proposed.

E. Jackson spoke on the updated project for lighting and the Grant through Eversource. We have been approved; it is different from anticipated. Savings are not allowed in NH without ballasts.

B. Kilanski advised he pretty much likes the idea of it. Are we locked in with this?

E. Jackson wants it in writing; when we need to use funding.

B. Kilanski - Are we required to use their supplier?

E. Jackson advised our intent is to use our electrician and supplier.

B. Kilanski – If we are locked in and do parts of the project later, we couldn't get a cheaper bid.

E. Jackson advised the rebate is only on the fixtures; would do that first. We can use any supplier.

E. Jackson needs to return the accepted contract by April 14th.

K. Bazan is all for going to LED bulbs and saving money. He knows studies show going from fluorescent to LED's in classrooms can effect on people's eyes. Does Administration have concerns?

E. Jackson advised the lights are brighter; explained.

Gym ramp and outside lights will be done first and motion sensor lights in locker rooms.

B. Kilanski MOVED to approve and have the person whose name is printed on the contract, (E. Jackson) sign it for the utility rebate; SECONDED by: S. Thompson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan advised the Energy Conservation/Facilities Committee will tour the building in May or sometime after.

K. Bazan feels they should get together as a Board and come up with goals for the upcoming year.

J. Lewis advised Barrett Christina would come and facilitate the meeting.

K. Bazan – Not necessarily on-site.

J. Lewis - It could be a retreat.

L. Picard wants it to be under Old Business on the next agenda.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Robert Leustek advised he and Lieutenant Mike are working on Complete Streets. Advised what was most shocking to Lieutenant Mike while watching vehicles at the stop sign, was when no less than two school busses rolled through the stop sign. He gave a lot of verbal warnings.

Sue Rice, as President of the Winchester Support Staff, advised J. Lewis and K. Bazan of their intent to bargain. The WTA would like to start earlier rather than later this year. Feels they could even start during the Summer.

E. Jackson advised there is bargaining training in October or November.

Sue Rice advised if the Board is willing, they could start before the training. She asked the Board to contact her when they want to start.

Amy Hill thanked J. Lewis for thinking over the situation with ACCESS. Feels it is a positive step in the right direction.

Amy Hill feels ACCESS and Administration meeting, if there are issues, is awesome. She thinks they should invite the staff. She thinks it would be beneficial if ACCESS could attend staff training.

James Stebbins advised it is really helpful to his family to have an after-school program. His son can be more a part of the community rather than going to a babysitter. He hears more about ACCESS than any other part of the day; very positive. It helps his family and helps his son grow.

Barbara Depew invites everyone to the PTA meeting for installation of officers. Feels it would be a good show of support for officers going off the Board and new ones coming on, if Administration and the Board could be there. They probably will meet in the cafeteria.

Joan Franklin advised when Winchester kids first went to Keene staff didn't go to present. Advised it is so many hours long; they were thanked for not going. Students loved having Mr. Whippie there to present. So they did something here for the students. Students would get a paper here representing the scholarship they were receiving and would get the scholarship at Keene High School. That way kids would go to the awards. Didn't want to alienate them from their new school or detract them from being Winchester students. Kids were very sharing with our students.

E. Jackson advised last year she presented a scholarship. Advised only students receiving scholarships are invited to attend. She received a range of 15 minutes to be called to present the scholarship. Presenters don't have to stay the whole time.

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session at 9:07pm. under RSA 91-A:3(b); SECONDED by: B. Kilanski, VOTED: V. Cole – yes, S. Thompson – yes, K. Bazan – yes, L. Picard – yes, B. Kilanski – yes, MOTION PASSED.

B. Kilanski MOVED to come out of non-public session at 9:36pm.; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: V. Cole – yes, S. Thompson – yes, K. Bazan – yes, L. Picard – yes, B. Kilanski – yes, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan advised in non-public session the Board accepted certified staff nominations for the 2017-2018 school year.

K. Bazan MOVED to seal the minutes of non-public session until April 15th; SECONDED by: B. Kilanski, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sue Rice advised maybe Certified Staff is an old term; paras are certified now.

J. Lewis advised Sue Rice is right.

B. Kilanski MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary