

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MAY 7, 2020

VIA ZOOM

Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Kilanski, J.R. Rokes, V. Cole, T. Perkins
Administration Present: K. Dassau, V. Carey, M. Henry, I. Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

With the Board's agreement, L. Picard advised she would hold Citizens' Comments at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES:

L. Picard advised on Page 1, under Tim Green's first comment, the wording was not correct. After discussion, the Board agreed to hold the approval until the meeting of 4/2/20 is reviewed on Winchester, NH Public TV.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – V. Carey:

- *Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. The School has received a lot of donations from area businesses. Have done live stream raffles for local business gift cards. Great baskets were made with donations received. There was also a teacher appreciation parade. There has been lots of community involvement.
- *Revisiting the end of the school year - Surrounding school districts will be ending between May 29th and June 5th. Winchester will have enough hours to end the school year any time after June 3rd. By mid-May the Department of Education will advise what they anticipate the end of the school year to look like. V. Carey doesn't know whether ESY will be in person or through remote learning.

V. Cole asked about Sue Silk's program. Has it been cancelled?

V. Carey assumes so, as Keene State's Summer programs have been cancelled.

V. Carey advised the recommendation is to end school on June 5, 2020 so that Winchester will not be the only ones still doing remote learning.

T. Kilanski MOVED to end the school year on June 5th; SECONDED by: J.R. Rokes, V. Cole – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED 5-0: MOTION PASSED.

V. Carey will update parents.

*Received information from the DOE regarding end-of-year events. There is a lot of information about social distancing, etc. Right now they are thinking just about the 8th grade graduation. Teachers are really good about being creative and are looking at how to celebrate other milestones – coming up with ideas. The School has tentatively scheduled time with each 8th grader and their families. The graduates can put on their cap and gown, can pick up their certificate; their families can be there. It will be videotaped or done as a slide show with background music. It is not ideal, but keeps with tradition; puts students in the spotlight and the family can be there. If possible, could have a celebration in the Summer. Still looking at how things will go; want it to be on-sight.

Todd Kilanski advised that Brattleboro is doing signs that will be put in the yards of graduates with their photo on it.

V. Carey explained Winchester is doing signs, too. They will be calling 8th grade parents for a time to go to the homes with the signs for their front yard. They do not have the students' picture on them, but the school has received donations and got a great deal from the company that made the signs.

V. Cole thanked V. Carey for making some great plans for the end of the year; congratulations!

BUSINESS MANAGER – M. Henry:

There is a Payroll Manifest for 4/17 and 5/1 and an Accounts Payable Manifest for 5/1.

L. Picard advised the Finance Committee will meet at 6:15pm. before the Board Meeting as they have been doing.

*M. Henry will send the program to Board Members so they can electronically sign the manifests. She will also do the same for the MS-22. She plans to have it up and running tomorrow.

M. Henry advised there is no update on the bus contract yet. She is currently reviewing it. She will reach out Monday to the person negotiating and will then e-mail L. Picard. Advised she will have something to vote on by the next meeting.

T. Kilanski asked if they will have the contract to look at before the meeting.

M. Henry will send it to L. Picard.

L. Picard reminded the Board that the information is confidential until voted on.

M. Henry advised she will have the MS-22 tomorrow or Monday.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 4/17 in the amount of \$241,654.64; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, V. Cole – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J. R. Rokes- yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest of 5/1 in the amount of \$241,344.33; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, T. Kilanski – yes J. R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

As the Accounts Payable Manifest wasn't reviewed by everyone the Board will approve it per e-mail vote and enter it into the record at the next meeting. M. Henry advised she will do it ahead of time in the future.

L. Picard asked M. Henry for as close a figure as possible for year to date and year end. Will discuss what the next budget will look like at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Dassau:

Thanked V. Carey, teachers and staff for all of their work; have stepped up greatly.

*MOA – It is really a hold harmless document; staff are using their own devices.

V. Carey – This document protects teachers from any claims.

T. Perkins MOVED to accept the MOA with the Winchester Teacher's Association, NEA-NH and Winchester School District; SECONDED by: V. Cole, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, T. Kilanski – yes J. R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*K. Dassau advised non-public session is needed for a nomination, resignation and a legal issue.

V. Carey explained attendees will go to a breakout room when the Board goes into non-public session.

They will go in the main room after non-public and anyone there can hear what was discussed.

*K. Dassau asked that the Board extend the courtesy of allowing him to sign contracts without approval each time so they don't have to wait two weeks until the next meeting as applicants may get other offers.

V. Cole MOVED to allow the Superintendent to sign the contracts without the entire Board approval; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, V. Cole – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J. R. Rokes- yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR/COMMENT – L. Picard:

*Senior Night – Cancelling this year but some scholarships will be disbursed.

V. Cole advised the letter needs to be signed for scholarship money; need to present it for withdrawal with the Trustee of Trust Funds.

V. Cole MOVED that L. Picard be allowed to sign the Scholarship Letter to present to the Trustee of Trust Funds so scholarships can be distributed to seniors, SECONDED by: T. Perkins, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*The Lion's Club has expressed an interest in doing something for Seniors as well. There has been discussion on how to keep students interested in applying for scholarships. Not sure if it will be just this year or also in years to come.

V. Cole advised as far as she knows only two Winchester Seniors applied for scholarships. In the past, only one-quarter to one-third of Winchester students attended the Scholarship Night. Keene High School has also received only a few applications for scholarships.

L. Picard – Want to keep supporting students.

L. Picard explained historically the Board has done the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast; missed it this year. She is looking for feedback for ways they could show teacher appreciation. The target date is the end of the school year. Maybe could give them a small gift card. There is no money in the budget for this next year.

J.R. Rokes suggested doing thank-you cards from the Board.

L. Picard – Will start there.

T. Kilanski – If we can get together at the end of the year could do something then.

T. Perkins likes the idea of giving thank-you cards with a gift card.

V. Carey advised the money in the Administration line for staff appreciation was not used; could pool money together and use for staff for this year.

L. Picard will divvy up the list for thank you cards and get a variety of gift cards and maybe at the end of the year could do something. She will send the Board a list of staff so they can have it for the next meeting.

M. Henry will confirm the combined amount in the two accounts and how many thank-you cards we will need and firm things up at the next meeting.

L. Picard feels there was confusion at the Deliberative Session regarding the budget. Feels the Board is disconnected from the Budget Committee. She would like quarterly reviews of the budget and to invite the Budget Committee so they have a point of reference. Then the Budget Committee will all have an opportunity to understand the budget. She would like to have the first meeting in July or August when the Board starts the budget review. The Board will continue to have a conversation about it at the next meeting; would like to have four dates set for the quarterly meetings. It could also be the first September meeting as there is a reduced number of meetings in July and August.

NEGOTIATIONS:

T. Perkins and J.R. Rokes will be on Negotiations. When there is an update, T. Perkins can report to the Board.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Emily Henderson, President of the Teachers Association wanted to remind the Board that they will need information on the bus contract when they know the details as KHS is starting school at a different time next year. That will impact our start time.

L. Picard advised as soon as the Board knows they will have to have a conversation with the WTA and WSSA.

A citizen asked about the School Psychologist position.

L. Picard advised that is a non-public conversation. In the process of looking to bring the position back to the building.

L. Picard advised the Q&A box next to the chat box in Facebook might be a good idea for the public to use to see and track questions.

There was technical difficulty going into the breakout room. V. Carey will leave the meeting open and M. Henry will send the Board members a link for non-public session.

Mary Gannon advised there is a concern about bussing. Concerned by not having transportation there could be some sort of litigation.

K. Dassau advised there are no changes on the budget that would significantly impact being able to provide transportation.

V. Carey advised if they can, will open up public session after non-public.

L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:50pm. under RSA91-A:3 C&E; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, V. Cole- yes, T. Perkins – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:43pm; SECONDED by: J. R. Rokes, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard - yes, T. Kilanski – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Board returned to public session at 8:49pm.

L. Picard advised while in non-public session a resignation, nomination for hire and a legal issue were discussed.

T. Perkins MOVED to seal the non-public minutes regarding the resignation until they have signatures; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Perkins MOVED to seal the non-public minutes regarding the nomination until they have signatures; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, L. Picard – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Perkins MOVED to seal the minutes regarding the legal issue for six months; SECONDED by: T. Kilanski, V. Cole – yes, T. Perkins – yes, J.R. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard thanked the Board and Administration for getting Zoom set up and working toward using it. She thanked everyone for making an effort to keep everyone safe.

V. Carey advised they will work on getting Earbuds and the breakout room working for the next meeting.

At the next meeting will have a quick brainstorm for attending the Selectboard meeting. L. Picard advised she did invite them to the Board meeting tonight.

V. Carey explained Keene High School has done their final round of interviewing for a new Principal. A virtual forum was held on Monday and is available on-line. Cindy Gallagher is willing to come to Winchester to visit and meet with parents.

V. Cole MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sincerely,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary

