

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

Board Members Present: E. Jackson, K. Bazan, J. Cardinale, R. Horton, T. Croteau

Administration Present: J. Lewis, L. Spencer, L. Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Horton. 6:32 pm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None.

J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 1/22/15 Board Meeting; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, MOTION PASSED.

GUEST PRESENTATION:

J. Lewis introduced Connor Hill, President of the newly formed Student Council "students who represent the future". Connor Hill introduced the other members; Noah Horton -Vice-President, Grace Wiegand - Secretary, Karlos Baez - Treasurer and Richard Durkee – Representative.

The Board asked how things are going.

Connor Hill feels maybe some students are frustrated since they haven't seen any change yet. A couple of issues the group has worked on are allowing students to wear hats in school; also, doors to be put on the 6th grade bathrooms. Now the bathrooms are open and you can see in both the Boys and Girls. The group went through the whole process, but the 7th and 8th grade team did not support either idea.

R. Horton explained a great part of the whole thing is the process; might not get the results you wanted, but the process is part of the learning.

Connor Hill advised they are getting negativity from the eighth grade students.

Rob Skrocki is the Student Council advisor. He advised what they are trying to do is say it is okay if you have an opinion. It is about the process and how to go about changing things and understanding why you feel a certain way. Feels it is completely about the process. Advised kids are doing a great job.

An idea the group is working on is a Winter Carnival and also a Winchester Olympic Games. Connor Hill distributed outlines to the Board and reviewed.

Carlos Biaz spoke about fundraising ideas such as bake sales at special events, popcorn every Wednesday and the possibility of starting a school store with funds raised from selling popcorn.

R. Horton advised when they nail down a budget and what is needed to start these projects, let the Board know. They may have ideas.

Connor Hill advised they are hoping money raised can go towards new computers, water fountains, music equipment, etc.

Noah Horton advised they are looking at new water fountains where they can fill water bottles. Have heard there is a grant for upgrades. They want new water fountains to drink from and to fill bottles.

J. Lewis advised he will be presenting something on that tonight.

Connor Hill advised they would be interested in hearing from the Board as to what topics the Student Council could add to their agenda.

J. Cardinale asked how they get the outcome of issues to the students

Connor Hill advised today he went to every seventh and eighth grade classroom and discussed what's going on, the fact that they would be here tonight, issues students may have and what will go on later in the year.

R. Horton - Maybe they could do a state-of-the-school address and come to a Board meeting once a month if they don't have too much going on.

Members reviewed their roles in Student Council with the Board and answered questions.

R. Horton asked if anyone had received any feedback on the lunch program.

Noah Horton and Connor Hill advised they like the salad bar idea. Have seen more kids buying lunch; kids who always brought their lunch are now buying. There seems to be plenty of time to eat now with the change in recess. Connor Hill does feel students should switch halfway through the year rather than the same kids always going to recess before or after they eat.

K. Bazan asked why the eighth graders are unhappy.

Connor Hill thinks kids are just ready to go to Keene.

R. Horton would like to schedule a meeting once a month with the Student Council.

Connor Hill would like to have the Board at their meetings, too. Advised they are on Tuesdays from 11:15am. to 12:00 pm.

Connor Hill asked about the pipeline, how will it affect the school?

R. Horton explained the pipeline will be one mile from here and the plan is that it will go through the area that supplies all the drinking water to the Town. One of the major concerns is the drinking water; once it is contaminated, can't fix it. Busses will cross the pipeline route numerous times; horrible incidents have occurred. Safety issues are not worth any benefits they could suggest.

J. Cardinale advised there is also the money issue; property values would diminish. It would have a negative effect on the Town. It will affect School and Town budgets. Programs would need to be cut.

R. Horton advised this Board took a stance; felt it is not safe. Advised they have lots of information and feel it is a topic that should be researched in school.

J. Lewis explained the election process for the Student Council. Speeches were given, posters put up and voting was held. There was discussion about having a rep. for the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy KF – Use of School Buildings and Facilities:

T. Croteau MOVED to approve Policy KF as amended; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements:

J. Cardinale MOVED to approve Policy DJE – Building Requirements; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

New Business:

2015-2016 School Calendar – Draft:

J. Lewis reviewed the calendar with the Board. He advised it mimics Keene's pretty closely, but is not exact.

R. Horton advised Winchester has changed to hours instead of days. Is there more we can do? Kids need more school time.

The Board discussed if there could be changes to how we do vacations. What would the cost be if we add days?

R. Horton feels they should brainstorm; can have discussions now.

R. Horton asked if other districts have gone to one week vacation instead of two.

J. Lewis advised not many.

L. Spencer advised schools down South have one week off in March.

T. Croteau suggested a change in the date school starts and having one vacation in March.

J. Lewis will work on ideas and e-mail them to the Board.

R. Horton asked J. Lewis to bring to the Union and let them know we need to make some changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Board received L. Schmidt's revised report.

T. Croteau asked if Angel Jackson wins the election, could L. Schmidt set up a meeting with her and the Board.

L. Schmidt advised she will do that.

*L. Schmidt advised Payroll is next week. She will need the Board to sign the Manifest.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest signed on 2/13/15 in the amount of \$213,824.61; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0 MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan asked if L. Schmidt has heard anything back on the Trust.

L. Schmidt explained our primary account is with TD Bank. They are willing to change the analysis to bi-annual if we deposit money with them. It would be covered with the Letter of Credit Agreement. That would eliminate the \$1,200 fee.

K. Bazan MOVED for the Business Manager to request funds from Charter Trust to be moved to a separate TD Bank account; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale; VOTED: 4-0-1 (E. Jackson – abstained).

E. Jackson MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$199,153.18; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*L. Schmidt advised she has spoken to the Athletic Director for information on Baseball/Softball. They haven't had the program in two to three years.

Athletic Director, Darryl Beemer was at the meeting and advised he has been talking with Jeremy Miller about the possibility of using the ACCESS vans for Sports. He reviewed the Sports programs with the Board. Advised he will be sending a survey to students to see what teams they are interested in joining. Part of the problem they are facing is that Winchester is not in a league. He needs to find games. Schools that are in a league sit down and schedule games ahead.

L. Schmidt advised league membership is budgeted for next year

D. Beemer advised they won't necessarily just take Winchester in the league and we have to be a three sport school to qualify. They need Softball and Baseball. Baseball may be tricky as there are many other leagues that kids play on.

E. Jackson feels they have supported the budget for next year; they should start the process this year.

R. Horton feels they should do Softball, but need something for the Boys, too.

After discussion, R. Horton asked what the next step is; have enough for Softball. Need concrete numbers and a figure from the budget.

D. Beemer – Need to see surveys.

D. Beemer would like to have Track.

R. Horton advised the Board agrees; asked D. Beemer to come up with a cost.

T. Croteau advised they had discussed new Basketball uniforms. Kids should all be wearing the same; should figure out the cost.

D. Beemer advised they should be ordering this year for next year.

E. Jackson advised it is budgeted.

D. Beemer advised this is his first year as the Athletic Director; he knows Sports, but this is new to him.

L. Schmidt will bring the financial budget update to the next meeting.

The Board thinks they can do Softball, but need to wait until the March 10th vote to finalize it.

D. Beemer will start working on it.

L. Schmidt can e-mail the current budget number so they have it before the meeting and can discuss it.

E. Jackson thought they would be using the second meeting of the month to discuss the budget.

J. Lewis with the kids here he didn't plan it, but will.

K. Bazan asked about the audit.

L. Schmidt advised she plans to have her part done and the schedule of dates ready by the next meeting.

*L. Schmidt advised she discussed ESY with Taylor; spent about \$400.00 for a student. The contract doesn't specifically address Summer School. For that cost do we want to take a chance that they would turn around and charge us for additional services? Advised she was told this week that Keene did provide ESY Services, but not a Reading Specialist.

J. Lewis advised they need to investigate more.

L. Schmidt advised they had discussed going with laptops or Chrome Books. She and Julian Stanway feel they should pursue laptops. The cost would be up to \$7,500 for 25 laptops, warranty and cart; this would clearly exceed the budget for Technology.

E. Jackson advised L. Schmidt and Liz Bouchard were going to bring information about the School Lunch program to tonight's meeting.

L. Schmidt advised Liz Bouchard had a family commitment. L. Schmidt explained she mentioned it to J. Lewis and R. Horton and they all felt it would be prudent to do the presentation when she is here.

K. Bazan asked if we have a Medicaid Assistant.

L. Schmidt advised it hasn't happened yet. Advised she keeps calling Xerox and they tell her the application is in process; called the State today.

K. Bazan asked if anyone is processing the forms.

L. Schmidt advised the information is being entered, but it is not being processed. If they hire someone new, they wouldn't be able to fulfill that function.

K. Bazan asked if there is a 90 day trial after someone is hired.

L. Schmidt – Yes, that's why they didn't bring someone in before.

K. Bazan wants an update on Medicaid for the next meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

*Reviewed staff workshop agenda with the Board. She will send the agenda to J. Lewis who will e-mail it to the Board.

*Almost done with classroom observations.

*Fourth grade testing is going on; kids are not excited. L. Spencer reviewed NAEP.

J. Lewis advised eighth grade testing went well, too.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

*Has received e-mails from interested parents. Keene asked if we would consider a late bus for credit recovery.

*Discussed some of our teachers going to Keene for a day.

*Meet the Candidates Night will be held March 3rd at 6:30 in the library. It will go in the newsletter. The Board would also like to see it on the Kiwanis and VFW signs.

J. Lewis advised they will do that.

*D. Chamberlain and his crew took the snow blowers up on the roof to remove the snow.

J. Lewis advised they went above and beyond. It took many hours.

J. Cardinale feels maybe they could do a couple of shifts when kids aren't at the school.

D. Chamberlain advised it is almost impossible before and after school.

After discussion, the Board considered possibly getting a smaller additional snow blower that would stay up on the roof.

*J. Lewis received a visit from Bill McGrath. The Board of Selectmen asked if the Town could move the snow, but the supervisor advised he doesn't have time.

J. Cardinale – Can we contact Doug Edwards to see what he would charge for a loader and dump truck for two to three hours?

T. Croteau feels they should call Doug tomorrow.

D. Chamberlain will call him.

*J. Lewis advised they received a visit from the DOE Building & Maintenance; checked out our Chill Zone. We did well. They will see if the door should have a window, too. Possible mirrors are also needed. The DOE will get back to us.

*J. Lewis advised it was the plan during vacation to address the water fountains. He has a proposal for a water fountain that also fills water bottles; would put it by the gym.

T. Croteau suggested calling Web's to see if they have them.

E. Jackson – And if they could give us a discount.

J. Cardinale advised he would be in favor of getting a couple of units.

After discussion, **J. Cardinale MOVED to have one water fountain unit ordered tomorrow for outside of the gym; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

R. Horton asked about the accident with Bus B.

J. Lewis advised a car scraped the back of the bus while it was on route. They sent a letter home to parents. Before that, they had some mechanical issues with the busses. If they can, they bring kids to the school and take them to Keene.

R. Horton feels this is another issue with First Student; should have a back-up. Feels this is unacceptable. It was a delay to the morning. Advised J. Lewis he needs to let First Student know.

J. Lewis will write a letter.

L. Schmidt advised the original RFP to First Student addressed this issue. First Student advised it would be another bus set aside for Winchester, so we would be charged.

K. Bazan advised he received a flyer sent home from school advertising workshops for children at Home Depot.

J. Lewis and L. Spencer advised that was not approved by them. Asked who distributed it. They will look into it.

R. Horton advised from this point forward just say distribution materials are not allowed.

J. Lewis advised they will find out what happened.

T. Croteau asked if there have been any updates to the website.

J. Lewis – Need to do that; will send a message back to the teachers to have them update their information.

K. Bazan advised some teachers are listed on the website that are no longer here. Some of the Board meeting minutes are missing from the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee:

E. Jackson advised the Budget Committee met on Tuesday regarding Warrant Articles. Advised they do not support Article Two and Twelve; it was an official meeting.

Keene School Board:

E. Jackson attended the Keene School Board meeting on 2/10/15. Reviewed items discussed at the meeting. Wayne Woolridge updated goals. Dan Black gave an update on Smarter Balance. Expect scores significantly lower for National Report Card. Keene feels parents might initially be upset when they see the scores. Will be working on Summer projects, energy audit, etc. Keene discussed the District tuition. Advised they saved money this year.

E. Jackson advised they have a surplus due to the fact that they under-budgeted tuition.

R. Horton advised the Board previously requested the last five years audited budget and revenues from Keene. He asked J. Lewis to request that again. He also asked him to see, if with a \$2,200,000 projected unanticipated revenues from tuition, can we expect tuition to drop? Advised they want a response.

K. Bazan would like the attorney to review the contract and work on writing a new contract.

Facilities/Joint Loss:

The next meeting will be held in March.

Technology:

A meeting was held on February 10th. K. Bazan explained Julian Stanway advised there is a faulty 4,000 M Switch. Need HP tech to fix it. The cost of the unit was \$8,000. The UPS system needs to be replaced soon.

J. Cardinale thinks they need to see numbers and see what we can get.

Scholarship:

T. Croteau advised Christy Frazier would like to hold the Senior Night on May 20th this year.

J. Lewis advised yes, can tell her okay.

Legislative:

K. Bazan advised he received an e-mail from NHSB; statement from Governor - read to the Board.

R. Horton advised the letter went out regarding the pipeline; made some coverage in the Sentinel. Other groups in NH advised it has opened their eyes; they are applauding us.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Sue Rice feels the calendar set-up is very confusing. She found another sample. She asked if the Board would consider a change.

The Board advised yes

Sue Rice gave a copy to J. Lewis.

Sue Rice likes the idea of a water bottle water fountain.

J. Cardinale MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA91:3 II (a); SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, R. Horton – yes, T. Croteau – yes, K. Bazan – yes, J. Cardinale – yes.

E. Jackson MOVED to leave non-public session at 10:50 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, R. Horton – yes, T. Croteau – yes, K. Bazan – yes, J. Cardinale – yes.

J. Cardinale MOVED to seal the non-public minutes; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 pm; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary