

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MARCH 5, 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 at 6:35 pm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Amy Hill spoke on behalf of the Winchester Teacher's Association to request that the Board put up signs at the polls supporting both contracts.

R. Horton advised they will do something and will print sample ballots to hand out. He and E. Jackson will be at the polls all day.

**J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 1/29/15 Board Meeting; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 2/5/15 Board Meeting; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**GUEST PRESENTATION:**

Liz Bouchard will be here for a presentation on Food Service at the second meeting in April.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Calendar – Draft:**

J. Lewis brought three calendars in draft form and reviewed them with the Board. Advised they have brainstormed some ideas.

- 1) One week vacation in March and begin the school year before Labor Day.
- 2) One week vacation in March and begin the school year after Labor Day.
- 3) Vacations in February and April and begin the school year before Labor Day.

J. Lewis brought additional calendar options that were created and reviewed them with the Board.

J. Cardinale feels they should be on the same schedule with Keene. If we have one week's vacation, it wouldn't coincide with Keene's vacation. There would be more of a Summer slide.

R. Horton feels if Keene does it, that doesn't mean we have to. He would be curious to see how many parents would have kids in both schools.

E. Jackson advised she agrees with both J. Cardinale and R. Horton. Advised Keene was working on their calendar; they had issues with many schools. Kids told her that they look forward to two weeks' vacation it gets them through to the next part of the year.

R. Horton advised tuition at Keene shapes what we do here. Need to do what's best for the kids. Kids don't get enough education time.

J. Cardinale feels they should budget to look at this for next year.

J. Lewis – Maybe this is seed planting.

J. Cardinale – Feels maybe they should talk to the townspeople about the separate vacations.

T. Croteau agrees with J. Cardinale; would make it difficult for families.

R. Horton – Need to bring kids to another level and say what's next.

R. Horton asked if there was any input from the group.

Dee Salonen explained when she did have kids in school she wouldn't want one vacation in March instead of two during the year. She has no problem with longer day/longer school year.

K. Bazan advised kids haven't had a full week of school since Christmas.

A. Hill advised one vacation in the Winter doesn't bother her as much as an extended year. Explained kids need to be outside. As a Mom, she can see both sides.

R. Horton advised there's got to be a balance.

Amy Hill advised there needs to be a thought-process on how kids learn. If there is a longer year, it is possible there are other opportunities we could provide for them. She is afraid people will hear it as more time in the building; but that's not how children learn.

J. Lewis advised education does not necessarily have to be inside.

Bambi Truesdell advised she has taught Summer School; didn't see that it benefited kids much by sitting in a hot building.

R. Horton – How do you provide programs?

Val Carey explained there is a lot of research on project-based learning. Thinks they set things up more like camps integrating Science, Math and other areas. There is a lot of research on those kinds of camps.

E. Jackson attended something similar; thinks that really does work.

R. Horton will table the subject until the next meeting and discuss it again.

#### **POLICY DFA & DFA-R – FIRST READING:**

The Board reviewed Policy DFA – Investment and DFA-R – Investment of School District Funds, as a first reading.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Board received L. Schmidt's report in their packet.

The Board reviewed the Manifest and asked questions.

L. Schmidt will ask Connie Merrifield to be more descriptive on Manifest items.

**E. Jackson MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$139,379.09; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Bazan MOVED to add the Manifest approved on 2/27/15 in the amount of \$219,257.39, to the Minutes; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-1 (J. Cardinale – no), MOTION PASSED.**

#### **Audit Update:**

L. Schmidt advised information has been submitted for the audit. Jared will be reviewing it next week or the week after. L. Schmidt reiterated to him that it is a high priority and that the Board has directed her to work with him to get it done.

R. Horton asked if the Board should send a letter to the auditor to advise they are not happy with the time the audit has taken.

L. Schmidt advised it is not totally the auditor's fault. Feels the blame is not one-sided.

#### **Medicaid Billing Update:**

L. Schmidt followed up the Friday after the last Board meeting and Xerox called her back. She now has contact information for the person she needs to deal with. They misunderstood the information sent so it was never processed. The information provided will put the application process on track. She does not have a timeline; will follow up.

#### **New Investment Funds:**

Charter Trust has a new investing format. L. Schmidt advised they want six more months with the District or advised they need a letter signed by the Board.

L. Schmidt advised she has been asking for information for six weeks and didn't get a response until she said we were moving everything.

L. Schmidt advised once we know who the Treasurer is they will get money transferred into the account. The monies would stay in the general fund until after the election.

E. Jackson suggested the current Treasurer could do it.

L. Schmidt will contact him tomorrow.

L. Schmidt explained part of the delay is they didn't have signed minutes to take to the Bank to open the account.

E. Jackson advised approved minutes are not needed.

#### **Technology:**

L. Schmidt advised the E-Rate application has been filed. There will be a meeting next Friday here. There is increased tax reporting due to the Affordable Care Act. L. Schmidt has additional meetings regarding reporting of information.

T. Croteau asked if L. Schmidt is good on the Grants that Mel Harrison asks about.

L. Schmidt advised she is working on them tomorrow.

J. Cardinale asked where we stand with BayRing and Fiber Optic.

L. Schmidt – Don't have concrete information yet. Advised with the E-Rate application out there, we will have multiple quotes.

L. Schmidt reviewed Revenue and Expense Report.

E. Jackson asked on the revenue side, how are we looking as far as the budget?

L. Schmidt advised CAT Aid/Restricted Aid is lower than budgeted; budgeted \$100,000 thinks we will get \$67,000.

### **Medicaid:**

L. Schmidt advised as mentioned at the last meeting, they have been inputting all data into the system. Once they have partner trading number, can have someone come in to process it.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

The Board received J. Lewis' report in their packet.

\*Filtered water fountain is in; was installed by the school Maintenance team. It was not an easy task. They are hoping to get funding from other sources for additional units.

R. Horton feels it would be interesting to see how many kids use it. It has a counter; could check at the end of the week.

J. Cardinale – Can you do that?

J. Lewis advised they will do that.

R. Horton advised D. Chamberlain there should be a box to cover up the cords.

\*Feedback received regarding a remembrance for Ruby Perrin suggests that the school purchase a blooming tree to be planted by the playground. There will be a dedication.

\*There is a plan to open up the gym for high school students. Looking to start probably with Friday nights and then expand to more than one night. J. Lewis explained they could charge a couple of dollars for a couple of hours toward fundraising for the playground. High School students have been assisting J. Lewis with this. They will try it and see how it works.

\*Sent out letters for policy on residency checks. Haven't got many back; how far do we want to push this? It is working; did find one student. They have sent a second letter.

R. Horton advised need to follow what the policy says. If we want to change the policy need to change the policy.

Amy Hill advised a parent brought to her attention that the letter used the word application more than once. Thinks people may have been confused.

R. Horton advised they need to continue and follow the policy.

J. Lewis will continue to push it. Finds phone calls work.

J. Lewis advised about one-fifth came back; about 500 went out.

Robert Truesdell feels people won't send an honest response.

R. Horton suggested doing Robocall.

J. Lewis advised there are a lot of different things they can do; will keep working on it.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

The Board received L. Spencer's report in their packet.

\*UNH Cooperative will be doing a Nutrition Connections program for the Kindergarten for the next six weeks.

\*Cheshire Smiles will be here on March 11<sup>th</sup> for the Middle School and on the following Friday they will do fluoride and screenings.

\*Field Day is tentatively set for June 5<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 12<sup>th</sup>.

\*Finishing up Read Across America. L. Spenser advised the Board if they have a chance to walk through the Elementary side, the artwork is outstanding. People put a ton of time in making boards and artwork on doors. It is amazing. Advised Lauren's Lorax was great!

J. Lewis advised she is very talented.

Bambi Truesdell and Mel Harrison have done a great job organizing it. It has been a great week!

E. Jackson asked about the Food Bank delivery.

L. Spencer advised it was not great as far as attendance, but were able to give a lot of food to one of the Church's. The plan is to do it again in May. Will do it later in the month when food stamps may have run out.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Scholarship Committee:**

T. Croteau advised Senior Night will now be scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a conflict with Keene on the May 20<sup>th</sup> date.

R. Horton asked that Student Council be added to the agenda.

Sue Rice asked about the salad bar in the Middle School; what is up with it?

L. Schmidt advised she will ask Liz Bouchard.

Barbara Depew advised the salad bar is open in the elementary school.

Bambi Truesdell invited the Board to see the fifth grade display and water damage in her room. Advised the damage is not good.

R. Horton advised ice jams happen; did the best they could to get the snow off the roof.

D. Chamberlain advised they are getting the ice off that they can.

Robert Truesdell advised it is more than they can do. They had the same problem in Hinsdale; needs to be addressed and maintained before doing more damage. It is not that it's not removable, but feels they need to spend money and get it done. Feels they should utilize the Fire Department, Water Department, etc. for their help. Get them here and use them.

R. Horton advised they have been told all departments are busy.

R. Horton asked where we are with it right now.

D. Chamberlain advised they probably have two-thirds done.

R. Horton advised this is the first time they have heard about this at the Board-level.

Robert Truesdell feels it is a safety concern and lack of respect for a facility we are paying for and utilizing.

J. Cardinale talked about snow on the roof and got that taken care of. Do we need to bring someone in?

K. Bazan advised they need to do something now.

J. Lewis advised the plan is for them to be up there tomorrow.

D. Chamberlain advised they need more help, but will go into overtime.

R. Horton advised they have never complained about overtime and keeping the work in-house.

Amy Hill feels after it is fixed need to be sure to check for mold. Bambi Truesdell and the children need to breathe in the air.

J. Cardinale advised he can get a dehumidifier to put in Bambi Truesdell's classroom.

R. Horton advised there is an insurance claim.

Sue Rice feels it would be nice to have a sign out front listing upcoming events.

J. Lewis advised he has been interested since he first came to the school, in having an electronic sign.

Robert Truesdell feels signs, unless there is something there to make the eye go to it, become a back drop.

Barbara Depew asked if they are thinking about getting a water filter for the Elementary side.

J. Lewis advised yes, both on the Elementary and Middle School side. That is the goal.

Dee Salonen advised Connor Hill will be representing the School in the State Geography Bee.

Val Carey explained he had to win here and then pass a test. It is a good accomplishment.

**E. Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary