

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
JANUARY 13, 2014**

Board Members Present: T. Croteau, J. Cardinale, R. Horton, E. Jackson – Absent: B. McGrath
Administration Present: J. Lewis, L. Schmidt, P. Bigelow

T. Croteau called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

P. Bigelow announced that Bambi Truesdell won VFW Teacher of the Year. It will be put in the newsletter and on the website/Facebook. The presentation is Saturday Night. Mel Harrison will take pictures.

MINUTES:

R Horton MOVED to approve the minutes of December 19, 2013 as printed; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None.

FINANCIAL:

No Manifest today; payroll and payables need to be analyzed. L. Schmidt will have the Manifests for tomorrow after the meeting and the Board will sign them then.

L. Schmidt had the default budget and most of the 2014/2015 budget format with her tonight.

L. Schmidt distributed a copy of the default budget and reviewed.

R. Horton asked why the default budget figure is more than the proposed budget.

L. Schmidt explained it includes all contractual obligations. She starts with the number from last year. The \$300,000 cut is from non-contractual categories.

R. Horton advised a larger default budget is always portrayed by voters as dirty politics. Feels they need a strong reason why the number is higher

There was discussion by the Board.

E. Jackson read the RSA to the Board regarding the default Budget.

R. Horton requested non-public session now to discuss.

R. Horton MOVED to go into non-public session at 6:50pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, E. Jackson – yes, T. Croteau – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

E. Jackson MOVED to leave non-public session at 6:59 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, E. Jackson – yes, T. Croteau – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sue Rice asked if there was a change to the bottom line.

T. Croteau advised the Board would be taking no action. L. Schmidt has to relook at it.

Warrant Articles:

R. Horton MOVED to recommend the 2014/2015 budget in the amount of \$11,182,225.61; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau advised tomorrow they will need to plug in the default number and vote on the total in Article 2.

Joan Franklin checked with the Union President and advised that 25 union members voted in favor of Article 3; already have a simple majority.

R. Horton would like to know the percentage of members that voted yes when everyone has voted.

Joan Franklin hasn't seen the number broken down in past years.

Board members advised they have seen it that way; just dollar amounts.

Article 3: The estimated increase of \$118,498 was added to 2014/2015 fiscal year, \$63,285 to 2015/2016 fiscal year and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$118,498.

R. Horton MOVED to recommend Article 3 as amended, changing To see if to *Shall the Winchester School District...* and adding *two year* before collective bargaining agreement...; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 3-0-1 (J. Cardinale-abstained), MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton MOVED to recommend Article 4 as written; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton MOVED to recommend Article 5 as amended, changing To see if to *Shall the Winchester School District...* removing the word *will* and adding a ? after agreement on the last line; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton MOVED to recommend Article 6 as written; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

E. Jackson MOVED to approve Article 7 as amended, changing To see if to *Shall the Winchester School District...*changing \$100,000.00 to \$50,000.00 and adding a ? after July 1; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton MOVED to recommend Article 8 as written; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

The Board will meet at 5:30 pm. before the Public Hearing. They would like microphones set up.

R. Horton advised there has been a lot of conversation regarding the high school warrant article, i.e., the cost, would citizens support it, etc. Feels they need a real number to put on the warrant article. They would need \$20,000 to survey the land and the architect work-up plan. We would need a warrant article for that; that would be the next step. Do we have the funds in the Building Improvement Fund? Instead of doing a Warrant Article, could use that money to research a plan for the high school.

E. Jackson advised the Withdrawal Study Committee hasn't finalized anything; they just met with Keene on Friday.

T. Croteau feels the request should come from the Committee. He asked that it be put on as an agenda item so the Committee can present their recommendation.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scholarship Committee:

T. Croteau received an e-mail from Christy Frazier regarding Senior Night. They are suggesting May 22nd or the next week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; asking for Board Support. The Board asked that Christy check with Keene for conflicts. If okay, the Board agreed on May 22nd.

J. Lewis has sent a letter to Henry Parkhurst regarding the Deliberative Session and that it will be held on Saturday, February 8th.

Keene Study Committee:

J. Lewis, E. Jackson and R. Horton visited Keene. They toured the Career Center; the food was excellent. Spoke highly about Winchester, but were concerned, is Winchester leaving? They had many questions for Keene who asked what they could do for Winchester.

E. Jackson advised they need communication, notification when students do not have enough credits, etc.

R. Horton advised discussed foundation level classes. Keene couldn't commit to when changes would be made.

E. Jackson advised Keene is going through their budget; cutting three-and-a-half positions. Keene advised it wouldn't affect Winchester.

E. Jackson advised the Career Center is available to our students whether they attend Keene High School or not.

Keene will advise how many Juniors and Seniors attend and what classes they take. They will be adding Fire Science and a Theater Program. The State pays for classes and transportation.

R. Horton agreed that distance is an issue regarding after school activities.

R. Horton feels they can offer Summer School this year. This will ensure students are at the correct level; not necessarily if they are behind.

L. Schmidt will look at the cost of transportation for Summer School.

Sue Rice advised we have an Access van; is it a seven passenger?

The Board advised the van is a six passenger, plus the driver.

R. Horton would have liked to see more of the school.

E. Jackson advised everyone knew visitors from Winchester were there.

Sue Rice – Advised they prepare for all visitors.

Lynne Wagner, Keene High School principal, has invited all the Board members to lunch at another time.

E. Jackson will reschedule the Keene Study Committee meeting. It was scheduled for tonight.

Negotiations Committee:

J. Lewis advised negotiations are over. He feels they were fair and amicable; very pleasant.

E. Jackson thanked J. Lewis and L. Schmidt for all their hard work and long hours.

Joan franklin advised it is nice to work with their own School Board now that they have their own SAU.

Principal Search Committee:

J. Lewis – Did a survey questionnaire; sent responses to the Committee. Salary \$70,000 – felt should be a concentration of K-5. The Committee is hopeful that an ad will be in the paper January 24th or sooner to get resumes. They would like to get about a dozen.

R. Horton advised the Budget Committee approved the budget, we asked for \$2,000 back, but they said no. The budget was approved with no other cuts. There was one vote of no. Good support; will vote on warrant articles tomorrow.

Kevin introduced himself to the Board. He is part of the Winchester Withdrawal Study Committee.

R. Horton MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:55 pm under RSA 91-A:3a; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: J. Cardinale – yes, T. Croteau – yes, R. Horton – yes, E. Jackson – yes, MOTION PASSED.

E. Jackson MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:25 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: J. Cardinale – yes, T. Croteau – yes, R. Horton – yes, E. Jackson – yes, MOTION PASSED.

While in non-public session the Board discussed personnel and insurance.

R. Horton MOVED to recess the meeting at 8:26pm. until tomorrow at 5:30 pm in the library; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary