

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 2, 2014**

Board Members Present: R. Horton, J. Cardinale, E. Jackson, K. Bazan, T. Croteau arrived at 6:45 pm.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. by Chair, R. Horton.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Sue Rice stated that the Business Manager said during negotiations they talked about Health Care. The Business Manager said if one person went to the Exchange and then went out and bought affordable health care, the school would be fined for that one person. Advised someone helping them is a lawyer and she and others she works with did not agree with that. Sue Rice feels they should get a legal opinion.

J. Lewis advised he will.

MINUTES:

J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the public minutes of 9/18/14 as amended; changing Val Wilber to Val Carey; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the 9/26/14 minutes; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 3-0-1 (E. Jackson – abstained), MOTION PASSED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pre-School - Administration would like to eliminate the cost of \$125.00 per week for the morning session and \$150.00 for the afternoon session. There are six students in the morning and eleven students in the afternoon (there could possibly be three more). Special Ed students do not pay. Feels there will be benefits down the road.

R. Horton feels they would definitely be looking at a cost increase to fill the room.

J. Cardinale is concerned they would fill more than one room.

R. Horton advised there will be a cap on the number of students.

J. Cardinale advised he is in favor of making sure the room is full.

J. Lewis will work on solid numbers. He is glad the Board is focused on it.

R. Horton asked about Title I supplies.

L. Schmidt hasn't been able to get to that.

T. Croteau arrived at 6:45 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

L. Schmidt will have the quarterly report for the next meeting.

A preliminary Budget meeting will be October 7th to schedule dates. The Budget Committee reps. would like to tell the Budget Committee that we will have the budget ready by the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

*L. Schmidt advised she will have a budget history for the budget work session on 10/9/14. The Board will also meet to work on the budget on 10/23/14 and 10/30/14. They will start there and by the first work session will have a schedule from the Budget Committee and then will know if they need any more work sessions.

J. Lewis spoke with Brian Moser; he wants the budget to move along quickly.

R. Horton wants to schedule a meeting with Brian Moser to discuss the hiccup that happened.

J. Lewis will check with Keene to see if they can come to meet with the Board on October 9th or the 23rd instead of the 16th. R. Horton won't be here and wants to be at the meeting with Keene.

MANIFEST:

The Board reviewed the Manifest and asked questions.

T. Croteau asked about background checks.

L. Schmidt explained it was under the wrong account. The person couldn't financially handle the cost, so it was put under the School Board account, but should have been in the School account.

The Board asked if plowing has gone out-to-bid.

L. Schmidt advised she has mentioned that; advised it needs to be done.

L. Schmidt will check with Don Chamberlain to see if it is out-to-bid for this year.

R. Horton advised the Town can salt for us, but there is not enough manpower to plow.

K. Bazan – What if there is a storm on a Saturday?

R. Horton – Thinks they might be in a position that we could ask that.

E. Jackson MOVED to approve the Operating Manifest of 10/2/14 in the amount of \$24,990.56; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED that the minutes reflect two Payroll Manifests previously approved on 9/26/14 in the amount of \$37.78 and \$228,204.69. SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED that the minutes reflect that the 9/25/14 Payable Manifest was previously approved in the amount of \$76,510.67; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

*J. Lewis advised the situation with the Treasurer has been addressed. All staff members were paid. Brian Moser is now the Treasurer again.

E. Jackson feels there should be something put in place in case that happens again.

R. Horton thinks there should be a meeting with Brian Moser, to make sure procedures are in place.

*Will start work with the Budget Committee. Brian Moser is asking that the Board provide as much information as possible, as soon as possible; even if they receive some sections at a time. They will be meeting with the Budget Committee on October 7th. He would like the budget done before Christmas.

R. Horton feels they need to have a solid number first. Can we provide reporting?

L. Schmidt advised the MS25, DOE24 and DOE25 were provided to Brian Moser.

J. Lewis and the Board agreed they will do the budget meetings here so they can use the Smart Board.

*The drain is in. The neighbor does have concerns that it wasn't put in right, but J. Lewis is pleased that the work is done and they are confident it will work appropriately. The lot will be paved before the snow flies. The Town will do it.

T. Croteau advised there is a puddle out there again.

J. Lewis – That was one of the reasons they put the drain in.

R. Horton thinks maybe they can touch base with the Town.

T. Croteau – Maybe the Town could look at the lot before they begin paving and see if it can be fixed.

J. Lewis and T. Croteau will meet with the Selectmen on Wednesday and they can mention it then.

E. Jackson advised the Town mentioned we use a lot of sand; should use salt instead.

R. Horton – Whoever we contract with should use salt instead of sand.

J. Cardinale advised we can get salt for free; can get it across the street and save money.

E. Jackson advised they had discussed filling the cracks to seal the lot.

J. Lewis advised three companies said they wouldn't take our money; it is too far gone to repair. A couple of companies will do it, but the costs are high.

R. Horton talked to Dale and asked if we should seal it instead of redoing it now. Dale advised yes.

R. Horton advised to redo the whole thing would take a Warrant Article of over \$100,000. For \$20,000 they can fill, stripe and seal it. If it gives us extra time, it is worth it.

R. Horton – Need to make a plan as to when we can redo the whole thing.

E. Jackson – Needs maintenance too, cracks should be filled each year.

*Jim Logan suggested Mondays and Wednesdays for a late bus. They will start immediately and review in six weeks.

Jim Lewis and Jen W. will be going to Keene to talk with Winchester students on the 9th and 10th of October. Will make sure the students know about the late busses.

*Still working on Technology catch-up. Chris Boyle has agreed to come in for one day to help clean up the rest of the Power School needs. They need it back to where it was; teachers and parents need access.

*Winchester has had difficulty bringing in paras and substitute teachers as all the schools in the area pay more than we do.

J. Lewis asked the Board if they would consider \$75.00 per day; we presently pay \$70.17.

E. Jackson advised Hinsdale and Monadnock also have high schools; that is why the pay for paras and subs would be different. It would be a \$2,000 increase to the budget line.

J. Lewis asked if the Board would consider doing it before the new budget.

Val Carey advised there is so few on the sub list that they need to put paras or Lisa Spencer in the classroom. Paras are not certified and then they have no para support.

R. Horton – Are subs certified teachers?

V. Carey advised some are.

R. Horton advised they need to look to see where they are on that budget line and see what they can do.

R. Horton wants to make sure they know there is community service in town, extra help is provided, etc.

J. Lewis advised Thursday and Friday will just be the first meeting.

T. Croteau asked J. Lewis if he looked at the bus information he gave him.

J. Lewis advised he called them, but didn't follow up. Did talk to the Superintendent at ConVal; they do like the company.

R. Horton – Need to make sure we have the bus information for the budget season.

R. Horton advised that K. Bazan spoke to someone who is familiar with Cheshire Transportation. Advised he would look at our current transportation contract.

R. Horton advised he may ask for some payment.

J. Lewis advised they could give him something.

L. Schmidt feels it would be money well spent.

J. Lewis asked if he would analyze the contract,

K. Bazan advised he has his contact information. Advised he is willing to come to a meeting.

J. Lewis will see if he can get him here and have a sit-down meeting.

J. Lewis advised the Keene Sentinel called; our enrollment numbers are down. The reporter asked if there is a correlation between that and VT Yankee closing. He didn't know.

E. Jackson thinks there are five kids.

J. Cardinale – Any idea what the high school number is?

Val Carey feels the communication is better now between the school and the bus company. They are following through on their end with assigned seating.

Val Carey advised if students are moving in, Marie Braley checks with the high school to see if the family has students there, too.

Sue Rice advised in Wedgewood there are lots of houses that are empty.

A Citizen advised those people have signed leases with Keene Housing.

Val Carey advised kids automatically become Keene students.

T. Croteau advised there are lots of empty apartments and lots of new business coming in.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

The Board received Lisa Spencer's report in their packets.

*Discipline Report - Bus issues and disrespect were the biggest problems. Now have assigned seats on busses and the number of incidents has gone down.

*Enrollment is 429. Preschool is up a few students; other classrooms stayed basically the same.

J. Lewis advised there is no word on the policy book. Barrett Christina did tell him he is working on it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Keene Withdrawal Study Committee:

J. Lewis has requested the five-year budget report from Keene that R. Horton previously asked for.

Negotiations:

E. Jackson advised things are moving right along; hope to wrap it up sooner than last year.

Scholarship:

T. Croteau advised the Alumni Committee will be having a Dinner/Dance next Saturday. They have raised \$400.00 for scholarship purposes.

Technology:

The Committee is looking at changing from Smart Boards to another type of boards.

Amy Hill wanted to personally thank L. Schmidt. Advised when the soccer season started they had no Athletic Director until the 11th hour; the field was not mowed, there were no lines on it and they did not have a ball. She doesn't know what happened to the Athletic budget. Uniforms came in all in women's sizes; the boys had to wear them and they wore them proudly.

L. Schmidt advised the company thought we were ordering them for Softball; they redid them at cost.

Amy Hill advised L. Schmidt went to Dick's and bought a game ball and two sets of gloves.

There is one more home game. The field is bumpy and uneven. She doesn't want anyone to forget about the kids; there are 25 out there. Feels the students were forgotten about. She is a little concerned the games were poorly attended. The games start at 3:30 and 4:00 which can make it hard for parents to attend. Now there is a new Athletic Director who is working very hard. They will have seven to eight games this year. Advised she could use help on the bus Monday and Wednesday next week. It is only her going. Explained there was not one major problem with the team. They need to be congratulated.

Amy Hill advised a really big group went on the American Heritage tour. She chaperoned; the students were outstandingly well behaved. Explained one student wrote an essay and was chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

T. Croteau asked if there is a banquet for the Soccer team.

Amy Hill advised next Thursday they will have pizza.

J. Lewis feels they should do something special; the school will pay for it. It doesn't have to be pizza.

J. Cardinale - Should we look at re-grading or doing something with the field?

Amy Hill advised there is yellow clover all over it; it is so thick.

R. Horton feels they need to address the future of the field anyway; need to make a plan for that field.

Amy Hill advised they can only play certain teams because we have a co-ed team.

J. Cardinale – If we get the fields done, could we have more kids playing?

Amy Hill thinks if we have a girls' team we would get more kids.

Amy Hill - leaguizing ourselves gives us more opportunity to play teams at similar levels.

Val Carey – All bus drivers really like the assigned seating. It gets them out of here quicker and kids settled a lot faster.

J. Cardinale MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:52 pm under RSA91-A:3(c); SECONDED by: T. Croteau VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:48 pm; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:48 pm under RSA91-A:3(a); SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to leave non-public session at 9:02 pm; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: E. Jackson – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton advised while in non-public sessions the Board discussed a new Special Ed Medicaid position for 15 hours per week and a review.

T. Croteau MOVED to seal the non-public minutes under RSA91-A:3(a) for personnel review; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary