

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 4, 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.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None.

MINUTES:

R Horton MOVED to approve the public minutes of January 13, 2013 as printed; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

R Horton MOVED to approve the non-public minutes of January 13, 2013 as printed; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

R Horton MOVED to approve the public minutes of January 14, 2013 as amended; *changing all votes from 4-0 to 3-0*; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 3-0-1, MOTION PASSED.

2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

There were no significant changes. A copy has been sent to Cheri and the Union. V. Wilbur discussed matching Keene's early release for bus schedule purposes; will need to discuss with the bus company. Haven't seen Keene's 2014-2015 calendar yet. The Board discussed moving early release days in May and October. Will check with the bus company and staff for feedback.

WITHDRAWAL STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

J. Lewis gave a power point presentation. Option one would be to keep things the way they are; we are already established, have made recent connections; but it is very expensive. Keene is in turmoil as far as budgets, offerings and enrollment. What is the future of Keene; there is no time frame. Still need more information; will tour the school.

Option two would be to attend another school; there are several to choose from including Hinsdale, Monadnock and Brattleboro. The Committee has met with the Hinsdale School Board and will tour the Brattleboro Career Center. Hinsdale has quality programming and is less expense. It is superficial at this point; need more data. Brattleboro is the only school that has not talked about a RIF. The Board wants to make an educational versus a financial decision.

Option three is to build our own school. It would be expensive initially, but could control our own destiny. Would there be voter support? Where do we go from here? Don't have all the answers at this point.

T. Croteau feels in order to get hard numbers; we are going to have to hire someone. Could we get a bond? What would the payments be? We could consider using our own building fund to fund a plan for a new school and using the Cheshire Career Center. Need to find our students, teachers, curriculum offerings, etc. to give to architect.

P. Bigelow would be hard for students to get into colleges without a science lab. She feels they need to balance career and college-bound students.

T. Croteau wondered if they can get the state to give us some help with academics and accreditation information.

The Board discussed the logistics of building our own school. Would it be just our kids or would we tuition in or build to expect some growth? Could we tuition in Richmond students? Could we build for 250 to 300 students?

FINANCIAL REPORT:

MANIFEST:

The Board asked questions on the Manifest; will put Food Service on the agenda for another meeting.

After discussion, **R. Horton MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$305,200.34; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

GRANT UPDATES:

L. Schmidt advised the grants are as current as she can take them. She should be receiving November and December soon; things slowed down around the holidays. The month has to end before we can draw on it; L. Schmidt needs to start on January. She is working with a Grant Manager; the report needs to be reviewed then it needs to be approved by the DOE.

Discussed handout for Deliberative Session to show projects funded by the Capital Improvement fund:

- *Adding window repair/replacements for \$4,100. After discussion, the Board agreed this would be maintenance rather than a capital improvement.
- *Camera and security items.
- *Working on a Grant to update the electrical and do the locker room showers at the same time.

- *Will add NH Homeland Security to the March agenda.

Anticipated projects:

- *Parking lot resurfacing needs to be done – there is a neighbor with water problems from waste water drains on Parker Street. J. Cardinale feels they could dig a deep trench and put stones then grass. Need to check with NH DOT.
- *Windows/doors in Ford Building; will remove from Capital Fund. Need to do an energy audit on the Ford building. The doors are glass, not secure and not energy efficient. Should use programmable thermostats and lock them. The Board received a handout to show why the Warrant Article for building improvement is there. The balance is \$177,000 now; there is \$32,500 to draw down.
- *Possible swipe cards for additional doors.

Will print copies of supporting documents for Deliberative Session – 125 copies of full budget, default budget and warrant articles.

Van Holm Scholarship: the information was sent by Kristie Frazier for \$1,000 scholarship.

After discussion, **E. Jackson MOVED to authorize approval of the Van Holm Scholarship; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

*It was agreed to hold Senior Night on Tuesday, May 20th; T. Croteau will e-mail Kristie Frazier.

E. Jackson wants to have J. Miller do a handout for discussion vs. ELMM which was brought up at the Town's Deliberative Session. We need to counteract with what ACCESS is and how many it serves. We need to share what we have and that we are proud of it. Can we foster a joint program between the ELMM and ACCESS? The Board will meet with ACCESS and ELMM to talk out differences.

Right now we are reactive rather than proactive. Need to revisit administration and job descriptions for everyone. Is everyone using the time clock? The Board discussed how to help J. Lewis make out-of-the box decisions. Discussed which way the information should flow.

*Discussed personal laptops, security, etc.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Board received a copy of an Employee Complaint/Concern Form – this will form a paper trail. It is similar to a union grievance. This way there is a procedure in case someone leap frogs the principal and superintendent.

- *A copy of the annual report will go into the Town Report.
- *Principal search is open until 2/14/14; have received a dozen resumes. The Board received a new organizational chart.
- *Technology – will put out-to-bid; did not do that last year.
- *Oil – Burning lots of oil; if it stays cold, the oil will last until March or so.
Jack Marsh will talk with the Business Manager regarding Bob's Fuel and Swanzeey Oil.
- *For the February 5th snow day, we were the 16th cancellation in the entire state; the first public school.
- *Playground – the Superintendent has spoken to Charlie Lawrence Signs about building a sign; will do advertising/sponsorship to raise \$8,000.

Attorney Matt Upton will attend Saturday's Deliberative Session.

The following items are being discussed at the state legislative level:

- *HB 1588 Suicide prevention
- *Retirement
- *School Construction – actual need
- *Sped costs 18% to 23%
- *Data/privacy of student records

- *Bills attacking common core
- *Supporting common core; talking points Southwestern principals

J. Lewis brought a resignation from Jane Huntress, ISS Coordinator to the Board. They have put out a call for resumes until 2/14/14 and prepared a staff exit interview.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- *Discipline issues down for January
- *Discussed school calendar
- *George Whittle – highest number of students crossing is 26 and the least is 4.
- *NECAP results will hit the papers Wednesday and received results yesterday. This was the last NECAP test in NH. We have been invited to pilot the Smarter Balance Assessment in 6th Grade in March. This gives us a chance to find out about format, technological readiness and accommodations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

E. Jackson had questions about security improvements. Have we contacted the insurance company? Is it all based on actual claims?

R. Horton advised right now we are reactive. They will get a definitive answer by Wednesday 2/12/14.

J. Cardinale MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm., SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary
Notes taken by Sue Rice

