

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 6, 2012**

Board Members Present: E. Jackson, R. Horton, J. Cardinale, T. Croteau
Absent: K. Whippie due to illness

Administration Present: J. Lewis, P. Bigelow, L. Schmidt, D. Chamberlain

The meeting was called to order by Chair, T. Croteau at 5:41pm.

MINUTES:

E. Jackson MOVED to approve the public minutes of the November 14, 2012, November 15, 2012 and November 19, 2012 with the following changes:

November 14th - Page 1, under KHS Special Ed amending J. Horton to R. Horton and amending R. Horton and E. Jackson asked about a possible contact with Hinsdale to explore other alternatives, to R. Horton asked about a possible contact with Hinsdale to explore other alternatives and E. Jackson asked about asking other towns, not just Hinsdale;

Page 3, under Additional Teacher, amending E. Jackson asked about a foreign language teacher, to T. Croteau asked about a foreign language teacher; Also under Additional Teacher, amending E. Jackson asked what kids take to E. Jackson asked what kids take at Keene High;

November 15, 2012 Minutes, Page 7, amending L. Schmidt doesn't know what we lost for 2010/2011, but feels we are on top of 2011/2012, to L. Schmidt doesn't know what we lost for 2010/2011, *but thinks it is approximately \$57,000.* Feels we are on top of 2011/2012; Page 10, under L. Schmidt – The DOE is not freezing federal funds as long as the filing requirements are done by mid-December, adding *in relation to manual grants* after The DOE is not freezing federal funds and *move that paragraph after the last line of the previous paragraph*; **SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCIAL REPORT:

After review and questions by the Board, **R. Horton MOVED** to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$73,702.42; **SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

The Board received P. Bigelow's report.

*Reviewed classroom count with the Board.

*Reviewed discipline report; not as good as last month.

- *Half way through the second quarter
- *High School chorus performed here today.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Board received J. Lewis' report.

- *Pretty big 6th grade; need to be creative for next year.
- *Special Ed Focus monitoring – J. Lewis explained it is like DINI for Sped; the State can come in and advise what we need to address.
- *Negotiations with paraprofessionals are going well. It is not an adversary relationship.
- *Big push on reading. In his newsletter J. Lewis adds a notation to read to your kids 20 minutes per day. He will be including a refrigerator calendar magnet that says I'm proud to read with my kids 20 minutes per day.
- *Ovens – If they are sold, the money must go back to Food Service. If they scrap them, they can use the money for the playground. The Board feels they could donate the ovens or sell them to the PTA.

L. Schmidt feels if they get any money, it needs to go back to Food Service. She feels they are walking a fuzzy line not to.

J. Lewis feels probably the most viable thing is scrapping them and giving the money back to Food Service.

D. Chamberlain feels they would get \$60.00 to \$100.00.

E. Jackson advised the Board that Erin said that another school wants them; we could sell them "as is".

R. Horton would rather see them used than scrapped. He feels they should ask Erin if she knows someone who wants them, otherwise scrap them.

After much discussion, **J. Cardinale MOVED to try to sell the ovens; if not sold by the end of the calendar year, they will scrap them; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

T. Croteau asked D. Chamberlain if they could do the faucet revamping during Christmas break.

D. Chamberlain advised he wasn't sure if they could coordinate it that quickly; maybe during February break.

D. Chamberlain will contact Mr. Kellom and see about a time frame.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Sue Rice asked about how long the batteries last in the automatic faucets. She feels maybe they should test some of them first before installing all of them.

E. Jackson asked if they only got one bid.

D. Chamberlain – yes.

T. Croteau asked D. Chamberlain to get two more quotes and bring them back to the January meeting and then they could do the faucets at the February break.

T. Croteau advised that the location of the Budget/School Committee meetings has been changed to the library.

L. Schmidt advised January 8th is the last date to post additional warrant articles. Marie would like to have the necessary information to post the deliberative session, etc. no later than December 20th.

After discussion, **R. Horton MOVED** add a Warrant Article to read: *To see if the Winchester School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$100,000.00 to be placed in the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.*

After discussion, **R. Horton MOVED** to draft a warrant article to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000 for the Capital Reserve fund from the unreserved fund balance; **SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

E. Jackson MOVED to add the following Warrant Articles: *Shall the Winchester School District receive the reports of its agents, auditors, committees and officers? Shall the Winchester School District vote to transact any other business as may lawfully come before the meeting? and to draft a Warrant Article to see if the Winchester School District will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Winchester School Board and the Winchester Paraprofessionals, SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.*

After discussion, **R. Horton MOVED** to set the deliberative session for Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 9:00 am. in the school gymnasium; **SECONDED by: E. Jackson - J. Lewis** reminded the Board that L. Schmidt can't be there on Saturday. The Board is aware of that, **VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

T. Croteau left the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Committee Rep. Reports:

Negotiations:

The next meeting will be held on December 17th.

L. Schmidt asked if there will be Board meetings held before the Budget Committee meetings.
R. Horton advised only this week.

L. Schmidt advised something came to light recently and she feels \$42,000-\$43,000 should be added for Special Ed Related Services as well as additional Vision Services. She has re-categorized one position to Related Services. Feels they should mention it to the Budget Committee, but not give them changes yet. L. Schmidt wants permission to add that.

R. Horton definitely agrees they need to change that; will need to have the \$65,000 changed on that Employee line.

L. Schmidt has made the change on the Board copies, on Line 1, taking the Vision Teacher out and on Line 47. The Board will notify the Budget Committee of the change.

P. Bigelow checked the count for Pre-School. There are eight Special Ed students in both the morning and afternoon sessions; more than 50% of the students are Sped. This is allowed because Winchester's Pre-school is Special Ed. By law, we must provide services once the child turns three.

L. Schmidt advised she has started the Pre-School portion of the budget, but is waiting for some additional information. The cost for the Pre-School morning session is \$125.00 and the afternoon session is \$150.00.

P. Bigelow advised they pay concurrently for 10 months. There are six paying students in each session. Pre-School is currently full; never wanted 18 in the class, currently they have 14.

L. Schmidt advised Health Law changes take effect 1/1/14. Need to take that into consideration for the budget. Received information from the Attorney contradictory to what they received in the Spring. L. Schmidt advised her goal for Tuesday is to better quantify the numbers and get them together. She wanted to give the Board a heads up.

The school will need to offer insurance to all full time employees - affordable insurance with value and minimal thresholds. The hours are an average from the preceding year. The IRS is setting the guidelines. There are a lot of factors at play. Need to look at the potential for penalties. In January the paraprofessionals will qualify.

R. Horton explained the major concern is what the cost to the district will be. If they are saying it is not affordable, does that mean we would have to make it affordable?

L. Schmidt advised yes, we would have to contribute part of that employee's share. She explained they just received the information a couple of days ago and will get additional information from council.

E. Jackson feels they should wait to calculate it until they receive all the information.

T. Croteau returned to the meeting.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

B. Moser asked if the school has carbon monoxide detectors. There was an article in the paper about an issue at another school.

D. Chamberlain advised he is not aware of it.

B. Moser feels it is important to consider. Need to check where to get them and where to put them.

T. Croteau asked D. Chamberlain to look into it.

D. Chamberlain will check with the Fire Chief and Fire Marshall to see how many they would need and go from there.

R. Horton MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary