

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
MAY 3, 2012**

Board Members Present: K. Whippie, W. Hildreth, T. Croteau, R. Horton
Absent: Elisha Jackson

Administration Present: K. Dassau, P. Bigelow, C. Paulin, J. Lewis, D. Chamberlain,
C. Boyle

The meeting was called to order by Chair, T. Croteau at 6:45 pm.

MINUTES:

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2012 Board Meeting;
SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 3-1, (W. Hildreth – no), MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the public minutes of the April 19, 2012 Board Meeting;
SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0-1 (R. Horton - abstained as he was absent from the meeting.)**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the non-public minutes of the April 19, 2012 Board Meeting;
SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 3-0-1 (R. Horton – abstained as he was absent from the meeting.)**

K. Whippie feels they should limit the time that roll call votes are used. He feels they need to minimize that.

W. Hildreth advised that a Motion was made and approved to use a roll call vote on the minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting. It is not usually done.

TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIP LETTER:

W. Hildreth advised she received an e-mail from Christy regarding the scholarship letter. J. Gile was supposed to be at the meeting to bring a request to the Board to take money from the Town's Trust Company to be used to fund some existing scholarships. They are asking for approval from the Board since they are actually school funds.

T. Croteau advised he has an e-mail of the letter and will forward it to C. Boyle so he can copy it for the Board. T. Croteau believes the amount being requested is \$300.00 or \$350.00.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

The Board received J. Lewis' report.

*More than \$500.00 was raised for the playground from the talent show.

J. Lewis gave credit to the staff. It was a great event.

*On May 30th and 31st, 10% of all sales at Chili's will benefit the Winchester Playground fund.

*It is MAP testing time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: The Board received K. Dassau's report.

K. Dassau gave a presentation on the Get Ready for Kindergarten program. There was a slide show and K. Dassau reviewed the program and answered questions. He explained the program is grant-funded and in place for children birth to five years to ready them for Kindergarten. The goal of the program is to reduce disparity. Sixty percent of Winchester students are coming into Kindergarten below a five year old level. This program involves the parents to give them the tools to teach their children.

The Grant requires three training sessions. The District has a high poverty rate; that is how they were chosen.

K. Dassau distributed registration forms for review. Cheshire County Head Start has this program in place. Advised they might come to the Board if they have children that don't qualify under the Grant.

J. Lewis will put the registration form in the newsletters. Information was sent home with the younger students.

CAPITAL RESERVE COMMITTEE:

K. Dassau sent Policy FA to the Board which he thought could be structured for a Capital Reserve Policy by the Finance Committee.

K. Dassau distributed a copy of the Sentinel Article regarding the LGC lawsuit to the Board for review. He will forward information to Joan Franklin as she had asked that they be kept apprised of any developments.

W. Hildreth made a presentation to Colleen Duquette of an engraved mirror in appreciation of her 16 years of dedicated service to the Winchester School District.

C. Duquette thanked them, saying it was a pleasure to work with everyone through the years. A lot has been done; there were a lot of changes. It has been wonderful.

K. Dassau greatly appreciated C. Duquette's service, adding that she served as SAU 38 Chair for several years.

K. Dassau read a Letter of Resignation from Jolene Miner to the Board.

K. Whippie MOVED to accept the Letter of Resignation; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Dassau advised changes were made to the SAU contracts as requested by the Board and he gave them to T. Croteau. He hopes they reflect accurately the changes proposed.

K. Dassau explained that he contacted Dr. Crisafulli who asked him to inform the Winchester Board that Hinsdale will not be contracting with Winchester next year.

W. Hildreth asked about Technology; what will happen in the Summer?

K. Dassau explained Chris Boyle will do the work required in the time allotted to him. He could work three 10 hour days, if that is what the job demands. If the system is down on a Thursday it could be down and not back up until after the weekend. There is no back-up staff.

W. Hildreth advised it is of great concern to her. During the Summer no one will be here and they will be preparing for the new year, have already severed the contract services with Hinsdale. They don't know how much they will lose after that. They were trying to build a relationship with Hinsdale.

T. Croteau advised it was his understanding that that position would work year round.

K. Dassau explained 195 days; 60 hours in a two week period. It is really C. Boyle's discretion as to how the job is done. He explained the position was 235 days previously with an additional five weeks of vacation. It was not hourly;

K. Dassau advised C. Paulin has been generous with his time. He said he will get done what he needs to.

K. Whippie advised he has a big problem with the change in C. Boyle's contract.

K. Dassau advised they may need to look at a job description change.

K. Dassau explained they are presenting the position as 195 days; less than part-time. It is not in line with current SAU procedures.

W. Hildreth feels they need to look at the contracts.

K. Dassau reviewed the Summary of Changes with the Board. The Director of Technology and the Accountant are both reduced from full-time to part-time.

R. Horton asked about time given to Surry.

K. Dassau explained; clearly Surry was a source of revenue. K. Dassau received a \$5,000 stipend. K. Dassau asked if cutting hours, how would people have time to handle Surry? People are disgruntled and you are now going to ask them to do work for Surry. Winchester was the last District in the State to complete the MS25 and C. Paulin did not do Surry's and Surry does their own MS-27.

T. Croteau – Can the staff handle it?

K. Dassau advised they didn't do it this year. Surry doesn't need someone and it created so much of an issue. Looks like it would be less baggage.

K. Dassau advised is it not in the job descriptions; thinks they won't want to do it.

T. Croteau advised if people don't want to stay they need to look for those who will.

K. Dassau feels they won't do it. They are feeling pretty burnt and don't want to do it.

K. Dassau advised C. Paulin didn't have time to do it when working longer hours and now he's getting a \$5,000 pay reduction. K. Dassau thinks they are at a

point where they need to let Surry go. He did advise he was shopping alternatives for Surry.

R. Horton feels they need the full Board to discuss this further.

T. Croteau advised they will discuss it at the next meeting.

C. Paulin explained the problem is they may run short on time, if they need to re-advertise for positions.

W. Hildreth and K. Whippie feel they need to redo the job descriptions and then redo the contracts.

MANIFEST:

K. Whippie MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$310,490.27; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

BOARD COMMITTEE/REP. REPORTS:

Scholarship Committee:

K. Whippie advised that Jen Gile initiated scholarship contacts. She will e-mail them to K. Whippie.

NHSBA:

R. Horton advised that he and E. Jackson attended the NHSBA Orientation. Explained they received good information. There was a presentation regarding school funding. He asked when the Board uses NHSBA legal counsel.

K. Dassau explained they get a lot of advice from them, for example on policies. They do advise the schools to check with their own attorneys. They are a good resource.

R. Horton explained in 2014 they will be removing the moratorium on building aid. Feels they need to be in line for that; if there is anything the School is looking to do.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

*Job descriptions for the SAU except for K. Dassau. Marie will be putting together Letters of Assurance for support staff; hopefully for the next meeting.

*R. Horton would like to discuss the possibility of adding a half hour to the school day for more instructional time.

K. Whippie feels that would have to be part of the bargaining agreement.

K. Dassau would need to check with the Union Agreement for the wording. The Teacher's contract comes up for renegotiation in two years.

After discussion, K. Dassau feels if the Board has a proposal for a change in the school day, they need a committee to come up with something and present it. They need to see where the consensus lies first.

K. Whippie feels if they want to entertain it seriously, they need to get a study group and put it on the agenda for 8 to 12 months out.

K. Dassau explained Winchester has been a district and school in need of improvement. They are required to do a focus monitoring for Special Ed next year. People are working hard; there will be a training session next month. It probably will become effective 7/1/12. He will keep the Board posted.

K. Whippie MOVED to grant a paid leave of absence from September 17, 2012 to September 21, 2012 to Stephanie Tomilla to accompany the students on the American Heritage Tour; VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau read a copy of the letter regarding the Trust Fund and Scholarship to the Board. There are two scholarships that they are requesting funding for in a total of \$300.00.

After discussion, **K. Whippie MOVED to sign and accept the letter as read; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

T. Croteau advised Kelly Steiner would like to present a Grant program to the Board with Monadnock Voices. They will add it to the agenda on May 17th under Board Business.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Sue Rice asked for a status of the SAU contracts.

T. Croteau advised they would review them on May 17th.

Amy Hill feels there is a severe problem with babysitting in town. She thinks the Board needs to think of that when looking to change school hours. She feels it would be a real hardship.

Amy Hill advised she is personally saddened to hear about Chris' job as just a job. She feels you get a better outcome from workers if it is personal.

Amy Hill explained the Federal Government will be requiring Federal core standards. She feels the Tech Director knows more than educators do now. She feels it will be scary with someone new.

K. Dassau explained Common Core is not a federal mandate, but 48 states have adapted it.

Colleen Duquette would love to be part of the Ready for Kindergarten program.

Tech Position – Colleen Duquette sees Winchester going back light years. We lost \$62,000 tonight. Feels they should be encouraging kids to use Technology.

Jeremy Miller spoke to the Tech Director position. Feels it is very important to Grant work. It took six months last year to get equipment due to sharing people, part-time people, etc. Explained this year it took two weeks to get equipment. They were able to

get work done quickly and efficiently. He spoke regarding the important part the Tech Director plays with regard to reporting. They are able to get information in a much quicker time frame than others can. C. Boyle can look and tell what is compatible and upgrade computers as needed. J. Miller asked the Board to please consider keeping a full-time Tech Director.

Colleen Duquette asked if they have the Keene report yet.

J. Lewis advised they just received it yesterday.

C. Duquette asked if Keene will be coming to present the report.

J. Lewis was not sure.

Joan Franklin asked if the deduction of a teaching position was from a seasoned position, could monies be used to supplement a Tech position. Each computer needs to be ready for each grade that comes in. Everyone uses Chris, but no one wants to pay him. She understands the tax part, but thinks if they are creative enough they should be able to see how they can reinstate the position to full-time.

K. Dassau explained yes, they got hit big time from last year's taxes. They are anticipating a return of \$400,000+ this year. He reviewed what C. Boyle does for the Winchester School District. Reminded the Board there would be no back-up.

Mrs. Whippie reminded the Board that when people are here, it is personal. They put time and dedication in to the School and then their position is cut; it is personal;.

K. Whippie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary