

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012**

Board Members Present: T. Croteau, K. Whippie, E. Jackson, R. Horton

K. Whippie MOVED to approve the public minutes of August 16, 2012; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, K. Whippie advised as W. Hildreth resigned at the last Board meeting, she should not be listed as absent on the minutes, VOTED: 3-0-1 (R. Horton – abstained), MOTION PASSED.

NH State Council Arts – Rock Chorus – J. Miller:

J. Miller advised Winchester will be receiving two grants; one for Drumming for Success and the other for Rock Chorus from the NH State Council through an anti-drug prevention program. J. Miller advised he would need a motion to accept the grants and to direct Administration to sign off on them as well as the Clerk of the Board.

K. Whippie MOVED that the Winchester School District accept the Grant from the NH State Council Arts ; SECONDED by: R. Horton; VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Whippie MOVED to amend the Motion to further direct the Superintendent and the School Board Clerk to complete the necessary paper to accept the grants; SECONDED by: R. Horton; VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

Penny Vaine spoke to the Board about CAST (Community and Schools Together) which meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 am. People come together from all organizations that work, play and live in Town. She invites everyone to be there.

Penny Vaine advised a Prevention program will be offered for children grades 9-14 on September 20th from 5:30 to 8:00 at the UCC Church in Winchester. It will be a five week session to help parents talk with their children about drug and alcohol prevention.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lori Schmidt has been in her new position three weeks. Advised she has not been successful in fixing the payables, so there is no report yet for July and August. Feels she should definitely have it for the next meeting. There is no payable manifest tonight. She has been working very hard; has been working extended hours to get things done.

L. Schmidt advised the Board that she would like to set up some hours for next week so the Board and the Treasurer can sign the Payroll manifest and paychecks.

After discussion, the Board will meet on Thursday morning and then B. Moser can sign them after that.

K. Whippie asked L. Schmidt to send an e-mail to T. Croteau and E. Jackson to set up times in the future and then if they are not available, they can call other Board members to go in their place.

*The MS24 was mailed on August 24th. The DOE25 hasn't been sent yet as it is dependent upon the audit and it won't be done until October. The meeting with the auditor is scheduled for next week and then L. Schmidt will contact the DOE.

T. Croteau asked if Jackie Beaman received the MS 24.

L. Schmidt will check; she thinks she did send it.

*There is \$63,000 in the Lunch Program income account for a three month period. They need to let the State know what they will do with the funds. They are looking into purchasing new equipment.

*Have received several applications for the Payroll Clerk position. They will start interviews next week and have someone in place soon. Software classes are available in October. They can also take on-line classes.

*It has been a period of discovery. Half of the accounting equipment is owned by Hinsdale and they pay half the cost. Everything is on their server. L. Schmidt is looking to see what the cost would be to split the two systems. She needs to verify if we own 50% or not; but Hinsdale controls it all.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

J. Lewis was unable to be at the meeting. The Board received his report and P. Bigelow reviewed.

*Open House was a great success.

*Asking the Board if the new playground can be put on a warrant article. The current playground is getting more dangerous for students.

*First fire drill of the year was held. The drill was completed in a record time of 14 minutes.

Don Chamberlain advised the fire alarm is now fixed.

*Staff is still adjusting RTI schedules.

*J. Lewis wanted the Board to be aware that the fourth grade is a large group this year. They are trying to be creative in giving them extra support. He was made aware of substantiating information from last year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Board received K. Dassau's report.

*K. Dassau distributed information on opening day enrollments and reviewed with the Board. Advised they are in a slightly better position this year, not still working between systems; will have pretty clear picture of where we are.

K. Whippie advised not sure they could release the School Board recommended budget until they receive the audit.

K. Dassau advised they don't have last year's audit yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

K. Whippie advised they need to get a new Negotiations Committee member.

T. Croteau advised they can do that at the next meeting.

K. Dassau asked that they try to do it on a schedule mutually convenient to all.

K. Dassau will talk to Wes hopefully tomorrow, about adding a link on the WSD web page for citizens' comments and then do a proposal.

R. Horton asked about energy saving steps. What committee would do that; Facilities or Finance? They could have a company come in and do an audit of the facility to look at ways to cut costs.

K. Whippie feels they should do it as soon as possible before the budget.

T. Croteau advised that the deadline for anyone interested in being the new School Board member is due to Jim Tetreault by September 13th and hopefully the Board can make a decision on September 20th.

After discussion, the Board advised it would meet to discuss on Tuesday, September 18th at 6:30 pm.

Only two people have responded to T. Croteau with interest.

E. Jackson and R Horton are available on Mondays, with the exception of the 24th anytime, to discuss the Keene contract exclusivity clause.

K. Dassau will advise Keene.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

B. Moser - Treasurer, attended the meeting and requested a list of information from L. Schmidt for the first Manifest of each month.

After discussion and review, **K. Whippie MOVED to ask the Business Administrator to provide the requested information to B. Moser starting with the second Manifest in October and then each month after that; T. Croteau asked if B. Moser can get set up with a WSD e-mail address, P Bigelow advised they should be able to do that; VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Amy Hill advised she is here to plea for classroom aides. Advised the fourth grade class is huge. Can't get aides in to help her; all school districts offer better packages. She feels the last five days, since school has started, haven't been the best teaching days for her. It has been doable, but only because she has been teaching for the past 19 years. Other grades are having the same issue. She would like the Board to think about aides for the upcoming budget.

R. Horton thinks it is something to think about, but they could put the best package together for aides and it still has to pass on the ballot.

Amy Hill feels they need to have a pro-active approach to this. Need to get information to the public.

E. Jackson asked if they could tap into the sub teacher list.

P. Bigelow advised yes, they have done that. Explained part of the problem is paraprofessionals need to be certified

K. Whippie MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:30 pm; SECONDED by: R. Horton, T. Croteau – yes, E. Jackson – yes, K. Whippie – yes, R. Horton – yes, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau MOVED to leave non-public session at 9:20 pm; SECONDED by: R. Horton, T. Croteau – yes, E. Jackson – yes, R. Horton – yes, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Whippie left before the vote.

R. Horton MOVED to seal the non-public minutes until the contracts have been resolved; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau advised the following was discussed while in non-public session:

*Proposal for the Director of Technology

*Contract for Special Ed Director

*Superintendent position

T. Croteau gave a statement of hire for Business Administrator, Lori Schmidt.

E. Jackson received a letter from a parent who would like the 8th grade to attend Nature's Classroom with the 7th grade in 2013.

T. Croteau MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins