

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
BUDGET WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 29, 2015**

Board Members Present: R. Horton, K. Bazan, J. Cardinale, T. Croteau, Steve Thompson

Administration Present: J. Lewis, E. Jackson

The meeting began at 6:44 pm.

J. Lewis received a call from Paula at First Student regarding the bus contract. She is concerned the School does not have a contract and they haven't been paid. We need a contract before they can bill us.

E. Jackson e-mailed Howie at the bus company to have him or Paula come in to a Board meeting; she hasn't heard back.

T. Croteau feels they should see what the price is to do our own busses.

R. Horton advised we need something for this year so we don't have an interruption in service.

J. Cardinale feels any contract they sign needs to end at the end of the school year.

S. Thompson thinks they could ask Pioneer about their experience doing their own busses.

E. Jackson advised the issue now is we don't currently have a contract.

J. Lewis e-mailed Paula and Howie to attend the next Board meeting.

The Board agreed to a one-year contract with a fuel escalator.

The Board discussed transportation.

E. Jackson needs to do clean-up so she can do the financial reporting for year-end. Advised she is not confident about the numbers; needs to go back and review them.

The Board reviewed the 2014/2015 expenses and encumbrances.

E. Jackson advised for the last four years there have been no withdrawals from the Capital Reserve fund. Advised she will do a withdrawal for this year and last year. The auditors are not sure if we can go back further to withdraw now.

The Board agreed to go back to last year, but no further.

R. Horton asked E. Jackson if she needs help with the budget.

E. Jackson advised she doesn't know what help she could get. She is still training. As she goes through the budget, things come up and she needs to go back and look at something else.

R Horton feels whatever it takes to get someone in, they need to do it.

J. Lewis advised another candidate for the Business Manager position offered to come in and help.

E. Jackson advised Tom O'Connor has offered to help.

R. Horton – Need to reach out and find someone to help us. They need to sign a confidentiality agreement. Within a couple of weeks with help, could it be cleaned up?

E. Jackson – It should.

R. Horton – We would pay Hinsdale for help.

E. Jackson – We could just pay T. O'Connor.

R. Horton – Maybe he could come in evenings and we could sub-contract him.

R. Horton asked J. Lewis or E. Jackson to approach him; not looking for a freebee. He could do it through the district or as a sub-contractor. Advised this is the first action that needs to happen before we move forward.

K. Bazan advised they basically have two weeks before the deadline for the DOE25.

T. Croteau advised the priority is to get last year's numbers done so they can get the paperwork done and in by the deadline.

J. Lewis advised enrollment has dipped pretty significantly. All of Wedgewood is back. Everyone may not have returned, though.

R. Horton – Finally seeing numbers that other districts were seeing.

E. Jackson advised Technology and Facilities are working on their individual budgets.

The Board discussed the deliberative session. They want it on a Thursday with another week available prior to the deadline in case of bad weather.

Discussed Coaches/Athletics:

J. Lewis presented Cross Country as a Fall sport. Advised it is pretty inexpensive. They would need transportation. He will double-check with the league to see if they can do a co-ed team.

R. Horton – Or do we look at something for the younger kids?

T. Croteau advised the ELM Center has activities for kids.

R. Horton advised there is a whole Winter that kids are doing nothing.

T. Croteau has no problem with doing a Winter program.

The Board toured the locker rooms and discussed. There is money in the Capital Reserve fund for repairs.

R. Horton wants the Facilities Committee to roll with it. He also wants all the bubblers in the building to work. Many of them don't work; they need to be fixed.

J. Cardinale asked for line numbers to be added to the budget.

R. Horton – Have to have someone responsible for maintaining the building. Have talked about these things for years, but they don't get done.

R. Horton advised J. Lewis that they don't have numbers to work on or a good feeling about where you're headed for staffing; need a plan. Need the same for Maintenance.

J. Cardinale wants to know what the scissor lift was used for during the two-day free trial period. He wants to know before he comes in to negotiate tomorrow with the company.

Discussed Custodians/Maintenance positions:

T. Croteau suggested putting in the Director of Maintenance position in the amount of \$72,000.

R. Horton – Can't do a budget without direction.

J. Lewis advised he has a plan ready to go.

R. Horton advised they will discuss the budget and budget meeting schedule at the next Board meeting next Thursday.

E. Jackson locked in oil for 25,000 gallons at \$1.699.

The meeting recessed at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary