

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 17, 2015**

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

Administration Present: J. Lewis, E. Jackson, B. Stevenson

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Horton at 6:33 pm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

None.

MINUTES:

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 12/1/15 budget session; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0-1 (R. Horton – abstained), MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 12/9/15 budget session amending under Keene Tuition, \$658, 750 to \$1,658,750; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 11/19/15 Public Hearing; SECONDED BY: S. Thompson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Minutes of the 11/19/15 Board Meeting amending, at the top of Page 14, AV to AB and under Citizens' Comments on Page 17, adding Henderson to Emily and Landry to Kristen; SECONDED BY: S. Thompson, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mike Davey from EEI Energy distributed a spreadsheet and handout to the Board and came to give a follow-up report. He explained it is not a final report, but pricing is very accurate. They have done two additional walk-throughs and additional studies. He reviewed the following issues with the Board:

- *Lighting
- *Controls – Proposing Controlled Technology System.
- *Boiler – Proposing eliminating two new boilers and putting in two high efficiency propane boilers and piping them together. He is also proposing taking the junior high wing off oil and on to propane. The proposal would take the entire building to propane.
- *Weatherization – SAU wing bringing insulation to Code 50. He is proposing a two-part spray foam in all accessible gaps in the ceiling. They would do all door seals.
- *Two new gym units would be integrated to the control system. They are at the end of their life.
 - R. Horton – Would that system have some exhaust?
 - Mike Davey – Yes, built in.
- *Electrical transformer upgrades.

Mike Davey explained everything as proposed would cost \$1,285,000 with a \$73,000 annual energy savings and a potential of \$63,000± in rebates.

Mike Davey feels if we do nothing else, the boiler at the elementary school should be budgeted; the current one should go.

Davey explained different scenarios in which the work could be done

- *A little at a time.

*Bond - Mike Davey estimates for a 10-year bond it would be \$74,000 additional and 15-year bond he estimates \$35,000 additional.

*Tax Neutral lease – Mike Davey explained when you do it in 18 years, it pays for itself so there is no budget impact. He would hesitate only because on a 19-20 year lease we would be paying for a lease on old equipment. Advised if we want to do a lease, we should pull out one of the gym units and do a 15-year lease; would be better payback.

Mike Davey advised a lease payment would need the majority of the Board in agreement.

Advised to check with the attorney to be sure he is comfortable with that.

Mike Davey explained wood pellet payback is 19-20 years. Wood pellets would add to the payback. It makes more sense for the junior high. The elementary side would need propane or oil back-up. It would need a silo, too.

*Control upgrades – boilers, gym units: Mike Davey feels if they do only one, they may need to add some funds for controls.

E. Jackson asked if dimming switches are included in the proposal.

Mike Davey advised no; should do fixture retrofits instead of tube lights; adds \$150,000 to the price, but rebates go up substantially.

Mike Davey feels anything we can do toward a new burner in the elementary school, we should.

Advised he doesn't like the three boiler/three storage unit system. Would have 8,000 gallons propane, but in two separate storage units.

R. Horton asked why the propane water heater is going on the weekend.

Mike Davey – Can handle that with controls. Advised he wouldn't put anymore controls into the existing elementary burner.

Mike Davey- If take out gym units, it brings the cost down to \$1,000,000 and savings of about the same. It will bring the payback down.

Mike Davey – 15-year lease tax impact is not much.

R. Horton will put this on the agenda for the next budget meeting.

Mike Davey advised if the boiler was to break, he would suggest a high efficiency propane boiler with temporary tanks and in Summer would bury the tanks. The cost would be \$200,000+.

SBAC – Continued Analysis:

J. Lewis gave a presentation on Smarter Balance testing to the Board. Explained they are continuing to analyze the tests. J. Lewis reviewed scores from the Federal and State NECAP testing. We have improved a little each year. Not bad, but not wonderful.

Smarter Balance – Seven kids got zeros; most in 8th grade.

R. Horton advised students were allowed to not take portions of the test.

J. Lewis has asked students/staff why we did how we did. Reviewed responses:

*Because tests didn't matter

*Equipment Failure

*Computer room too cold

*Keyboarding skills

*Hard to move mouse; didn't have the skills

*Tests too difficult/too different

*Manipulation

*Wrong test

*Sick of testing

R. Horton asked to have the feedback broken down, separate for kids and teachers.

J. Lewis – What are we going to do about it? Feels there is not one answer.

*Share talent with each other

*Maintain/teach Common Core standards; ensure units align with CCR's through ongoing data analysis, etc.

*Need parent motivational plan. No one attended Score Report Night.

R. Horton – Would it be better to Robocall parents?

J. Lewis – It's a thought. Advised he will put it in the newsletter.

J. Lewis advised he wants those scores to go up. Will do practice testing; if they are not right, will do something else.

T. Croteau – What if we tie the test in with grades to make it matter?

J. Lewis – Then it has some type of cause and effect.

Sue Rice – Motivation is the key piece; needs to come from all sides.

S. Thompson – If students feel the test it doesn't matter and are not compensated for it in some way; that's why they don't try.

R. Horton feels scores are accurate as far as what students have trouble with in school. They have trouble with the same things on the test.

T. Croteau – Have you looked at that?

J. Lewis – Looked at was he's outlined tonight.

R. Horton – Regardless of scores, have a lot of work to do in general.

J. Lewis – This is the tip of the iceberg; not a complete list.

R. Horton – Should be continuing discussion. Will help the Board to understand what we need to fund in the budget.

T. Croteau – Budget-wise, are we hitting everything?

B. Stevenson explained in the district she was in they turned the school around and had some of the highest scores in the State. Write-up was in the paper; poverty is not an excuse. Had instruction coaches for Math, etc. regular testing, formative assessments and targeted interventions.

B. Stevenson even if the test didn't matter, teachers wanted their kids to do well. There are those teachers here.

J. Lewis advised there is some fundamental, basic knowledge that we take for granted that kids don't know.

B. Stevenson feels we should invest in professional development; would get the most bang for our buck. Math is the biggest issue across the country.

Sue Rice advised math is different than the way it used to be taught; need to be consistent.

R. Horton feels we should be grouping kids in small groups that work at the same level. What would that cost be?

B. Stevenson – Should cost zero.

R. Horton – Twenty students broken down, one adult could not cover them all.

Sue Rice feels could do it if we have three fifth grade teachers, paras, Title One people, special educators.

R. Horton – Talked about teacher/teacher aid model. Budget-wise would blow us out of the water, but if someone needs to be gone from the classroom, the other could handle it. They could split things up a bit.

T. Croteau – Asked about the computer room. Need to get to a fixed temperature and set and lock it.

S. Thompson – Just trying to keep from over-heating the room.

Sue Rice – What does it need to be set at?

FINANCIAL:

*E. Jackson reviewed the Manifest with the Board.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$201,150.76; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest 2 in the amount of \$19,405.93; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest dated 12/18/15 in the amount of \$224,052.68; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Bonus Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$1,076.50; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-1 (R. Horton – no), MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest for Support Staff and new hires for Thanksgiving and Veterans Day in the amount of \$1,348.93; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

*Received snow plowing contract.

*Wood Raffle will be Monday; have already raised \$175.00.

* Received draft of 2011-2012 audit write up. All findings will be listed for the past years together.

* Insurance review has been rescheduled for January.

T. Croteau asked if E. Jackson contacted Jackie Beaman.

E. Jackson advised no; she did contact Clark-Mortenson.

*Grants – Claimed another \$634 for 2013-2014.

*Budget 2016-2017 – E. Jackson contacted the Finance Committee members; received three responses. She hasn't heard back from B. Moser. Members advised they will be ready for a January meeting.

E. Jackson advised she may have another Manifest for Wednesday for the remainder of the Health Trust reimbursement for employees.

The Board agreed they could arrange to sign it.

*E. Jackson discussed Grant for \$157,600 that had expired. Explained she worked with Jeremy Miller.

They were able to claim \$100,000 for 2012 – 2013, \$3,000 for 2013-2014 and \$125,000 for 2013-2014.

The Board appreciated the good work!

*Deliberative Session will be held on February 4th at 7:00 pm.

The Board agreed to hold a Board meeting at 6:30 pm. and then recess for the Deliberative Session.

E. Jackson reviewed budget/voting schedule.

R. Horton advised when planning for the deliberative session, he wants some kids activities.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

*Keene Chorus came; kids were such a great audience.

*Next Tuesday staff party will be held at the VFW from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. B. Stevenson hopes the Board can be there.

*Staff Breakfast on Wednesday; the Board is welcome.

Sue Rice – Kids enjoyed seeing Winchester kids from Keene in the Concert here.

B. Stevenson advised working on Grants. She just finished the Laura Bush Library Grant for \$7,000.

*Strategic Plan – B. Stevenson advised she spoke with Ryan Pymm and he is interested in working on the website for a stipend.

*Counseling team will be doing a four-week program with Ellen Mendelson and Jennifer Weisenberger.

*Technology Committee met; everyone is on the same page. They are looking to do survey/staff analysis. Technology need is priority; discussed possible warrant articles.

*Kids did an internship; three week workshop on plant eating robots in Mrs. Salonen's class.

*Kindergarten students worked on Plants and Animal Needs unit.

*Granite State Management will be here to do K-8 Early College and Career planning for free.

- *Heard from Keene; Monadnock Child Prevention Center will come here in the Spring for free, for Grades 3-8.
- *Three to four educational shows at the Colonial; will provide to students for free.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- *Observations are continuing. J. Lewis asked the Board if they were familiar with Danielson's Framework for Teachers.
 - R. Horton would like to see that type of evaluation.
- *Calendar draft was sent to the WTA. J. Lewis reviewed with the Board.
 - J. Lewis advised by adding five additional days for just teachers last year, the cost was about \$75,000.
 - T. Croteau asked about extending the school day.
 - R. Horton thinks maximizing the time we have is better; feels adding days would be better and should build in a handful of snow days.
- *J. Cardinale will attend the next Selectmen's meeting on 1/13/15.
 - J. Lewis can resend the schedule.

T. Croteau MOVED to approve an additional \$10,000 from Capital Building Improvement Fund to be used for the Science Lab; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

- *Discipline is improving but still a concern. It is a problem especially on the busses. The big thing they need is no running in the hallway.
- *Bergeron Construction came in to give quote on showers/kitchen.
- *J. Lewis advised they have spent \$13,000+ on the science lab. Advised they will need a motion to approve the additional \$3,000 from the Building Fund.
 - E. Jackson advised the tables are coming on 12/28; the 3D printer is here.
- *On top of Medicaid; capturing serious money.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facilities/Joint Loss:

There was a meeting today. Air ducts are being done over vacation. Epi Pens are coming in. J. Lewis advised there are not enough bathrooms for staff. Maybe they could use the one in B. Stevenson's office.

Scholarship Committee:

There is a meeting January 9th at 11:00 am. to discuss the possibility of changing Winchester Senior Night.

Technology Committee:

K. Bazan advised they are concerned about how much money is in the line and what they are using it for. They want to put in a warrant article for additional computers and a cart.

- B. Stevenson – Teachers are concerned the money in J. Stanway's budget is earmarked.
- R. Horton advised they should come to a Board meeting. if they need more technology, tell us.
- R. Horton advised he hears lots of complaints that they don't have a Technology Director. The Board would look at that number. What would that do to the rest of what we need?
 - K. Bazan feels for a school this size it is not necessary.
 - J. Cardinale feels what Steve is working on will take care of that.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Sue Rice advised she viewed the video from the Apple Hill concert held here; there was a splotch on the wall above the performers' heads.

R. Horton advised they have some concerns with that area.

Sue Rice – Why does the holiday pay have to be discussed in non-public; it is fact-based.

R. Horton – Does it specifically involve an individual?

Sue Rice – No.

J. Lewis advised it is a difference of opinion as to what the contract included. A grievance is involved.

E. Jackson explained there was a question at the beginning of the year and they were told we are not paying holiday pay. There was a misunderstanding of how the contract read. We were in agreement with the Union President that holiday pay was not included during the probationary period.

R. Horton – Asked about the school resource officer.

J. Lewis is thinking the police department is trying to get enough officers for the streets.

R. Horton advised in the kitchen they are looking to replace a steamer and get new equipment. Will need to convert to propane; will need a new hood. He will keep the Board posted.

Sue Rice feels it might be beneficial to find out when things were installed so we have specific dates if they are going to talk about replacing boilers, kitchen stuff, etc.

J. Cardinale MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:42 pm; under RSA91-A:3(c) SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: S. Thompson– yes, K. Bazan – yes, R. Horton – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

J. Cardinale MOVED to leave non-public session at 9:05pm; SECONDED by: K. Bazan VOTED: K. Bazan – yes, R. Horton – yes, J. Cardinale – yes, S. Thompson – yes, T. Croteau – yes, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton advised while in non-public session the Board discussed a personnel issue.

J. Cardinale MOVED to seal the minutes of the non-public session; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

R. Horton advised he will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner at the School for the basketball team. He will do the cooking and bring the food. The kids will clean up, do the dishes, etc. It will be team building, extending the team beyond the court. Explained he is looking to plan things for school vacation, too. Hopefully this will affect kids further into school. He plans to do the same for the Girls' Basketball team.

Sue Rice feels intramurals is exciting, too.

R. Horton discussed a school store that would be run by the Student Council.

J. Cardinale MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary