

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 6, 2011**

Board Members Present: T. Croteau, J. Gile, C. Duquette, W. Hildreth, K. Whippie  
Administration Present: K. Dassau, J. Lewis, P. Bigelow, C. Paulin

**MINUTES:**

**J. Gile MOVED** to approve the Public Minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting *amending Ruby Perrin “retired” after 40 years to Ruby Perrin “celebrated” 40 years*; **SECONDED by: K. Whippie, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**First Student Contract Addendum:**

C. Paulin advised he negotiated with First Student; they will send the contract which includes some reductions in fuel cost. It will be significantly under- current budget; will have in two weeks. The contract can be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

K. Dassau advised they are anticipating a savings of \$35,000, but that could change.

**Fund Balance Policy:**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the Fund Balance Policy as presented, SECONDED by: T. Croteau, after discussion, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

C. Paulin explained that this Motion is to comply with the law that we have a policy; don't currently have one as it has now become a requirement.

T. Croteau asked if funds could be used for a new playground.

C. Paulin will look into that.

**Budget Committee Request:**

The Budget Committee asked for information for April, May and June. They want year-end figures for the last school year. K. Whippie thinks June would cover it. K. Whippie feels the figures they give them will not necessarily show an accurate picture of year-end numbers.

K. Dassau advised the audit is close to being finalized.

K. Whippie recommended giving the information to Brian Moser with a cautionary note.

**MAP/NWEA Update:**

The Board received information. K. Dassau shared the birth to five achievement gap along with NWEA and NECAP testing.

**Wendy Hildreth arrived at the meeting at 6:48 pm.**

J. Lewis distributed information to the Board regarding NWEA/MAP testing scores, reviewed with the Board and answered questions.

There will be a staff workshop on Monday to go over this information. The Board is invited.

**PowerSchool Parent Portal – C. Boyle:**

C. Boyle gave an update on grades K-6. Dee Salonen is working with each grade level on standards for report cards. Once the report cards are in Power School, they can open up the Parent Portal. He needs to meet with D. Salonen to see when that will be done. The goal was by the end of the first quarter. Kindergarten is almost done. C. Boyle believes they should be done by December. The Board asked questions.

K. Dassau advised the issue is with Administration/staff trying to reconciling the report cards.

C. Duquette asked about state DOE 25 – when is that being done?

C. Paulin advised they needed information from the audit and now will be able to work on it.

K. Dassau explained with the new accounting system, they were busy figuring out grant reporting and needed to go back and forth with the old system. They think they are at a place now that they can work on the DOE25.

C. Duquette asked why wasn't the Grant done?

K. Dassau offered that everything happening relative to the separation of the SAU it wasn't done.

K. Dassau reviewed audit information with the Board. Explained in June they were looking at a \$440,000 deficit and \$750,000 revenue shortfall for the current year. Now showing \$326,806 deficit at 6/30/11; the audit is not complete so could be plus or minus \$50,000. Need to address revenue \$750,00 shortfall of anticipated funds from the State that we did not get.

K. Dassau distributed information and reviewed with the Board.

Explained there are two ways of addressing with taxpayers: Post last year's deficit on Warrant Article or Post deficit reduction for last year and supplemental appropriation for current year asking for additional revenue to fund the deficit balance.

K. Whippie advised we don't have control over spending; couldn't make up what we need to.

K. Dassau advised will keep working with M. Upton.

The Keene Sentinel called for testing numbers.

C. Paulin explained couldn't tell them until the Board was told.

K. Dassau distributed information on Keene High School counts of Winchester students and reviewed with the Board.

W. Hildreth asked about bringing special education students back to Winchester, i.e., the third floor to teach them here and possibly bring in other District's students instead of sending our students to outside placements.

K. Dassau advised for some students, the school has no control over bringing them back or not.

K. Dassau advised he has reviewed the list of out-of-district students and it is correct.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

The Board received J. Lewis' report.

NECAP testing begins Tuesday; have been preparing by taking practice tests, etc.

J. Lewis distributed paper hearts to the Board and asked them to put encouraging words on them for students who will be taking the tests. Hearts have been sent home to the parents, but he knows not all will come back and thought it would be nice to include the Board members.

\*New playground – staff members worked at the Pickle Festival to raise money. The School has already received a check from S&S Painting.

\*Bus stop at Burt Hill – K. Whippie received a call from a resident who said the cars go too fast up there. They have contacted the Winchester Police. J. Lewis advised they will be looking into it.

\*Will be going to assigned seats on the buses. Discipline issues are down, but too many issues come from busses. Feels assigned seats would help.

T. Croteau if Jackie could ride on the busses.

J. Lewis advised yes.

P. Bigelow explained they are working on reducing the number of students on each bus. Feels that would help keep discipline issues down.

J. Lewis explained extra runs cost \$80.00 a day.

If we could reinstate, C. Duquette would like to.

T. Croteau asked about the ELM van.

Jeremy Miller advised he has some America Corps Vistas that could possibly help with Saturday detention and transportation. K. Dassau and J. Miller will look into it further and report back to the Board at the first November meeting.

C. Duquette asked K. Dassau and J. Lewis to get a count for the next couple of weeks to see how many students take the extra bus. In the interim, they will continue three days as is.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

The Board received K. Dassau's report in their packets and asked questions.

\*The SAU 94 sign is up – thank you to Don Chamberlain.

J. Gile asked for an updated enrollment count.

C. Duquette advised the LGC Regional Dinner in New Ipswich for Towns and Schools is coming up. If she has the e-mail she will forward it to the other Board members.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

\*SAU 38 Audit – C. Paulin will find out about it and see if a meeting is scheduled.

\*Budget Review

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$408,451.70; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Joan Franklin asked about LGC. If courts decide to give money back, how do we get it since we are our own SAU now?

K. Dassau advised that information from the auditor; if there is any return to Winchester, it would come to Winchester.

J. Franklin asked that they please stay on top of it.

K. Dassau advised they will.

**K. Whippie MOVED to go into non-public session at 8:15 pm.; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, W. Hildreth – yes, T. Croteau – yes, C. Duquette – yes, K. Whippie – yes, J. Gile – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**W. Hildreth MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:20 pm.; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, W. Hildreth – yes, T. Croteau – yes, C. Duquette – yes, K. Whippie – yes, J. Gile – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary