

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MARCH 21, 2012**

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent, K. Dassau at 6:30 pm.

K. Dassau asked if the new Board members had been sworn in. They had.

K. Dassau asked for nominations for Board Chair.

**R. Horton MOVED to nominate T. Croteau as School Board Chair; SECONDED by: K. Whippie, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

As there were no other nominations for Board Chair, K. Dassau turned the meeting over to the new Chair, T. Croteau.

T. Croteau entertained nominations for Vice-Chair.

**R. Horton MOVED to nominate K. Whippie as School Board Vice-Chair; SECONDED by: T. Croteau; 3 yes votes; MOTION PASSED.**

**E. Jackson MOVED to nominate W. Hildreth as School Board Vice-Chair; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth; 2 yes votes; MOTION FAILED.**

**MINUTES:**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2012 Board meeting as amended; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, adding Elisha Jackson and Rick Horton as Board Members Elect; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

K. Whippie asked if the Board could e-mail their preferences and then do the committee assignments at the next meeting.

T. Croteau wanted to review the committee list and asked that each person currently on a particular committee review what it entails.

**K. Dassau advised that Board Policy BDE is on-line; there is a list of committees, but no explanation of what they are. He advised it hasn't been revised since 2008.**

**K. Whippie advised he has a description of all of the committees and will e-mail it to Board members.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

C. Paulin brought the MS-22 and Budget Summary to the Board. The MS-22 is the report of appropriations actually voted. They have 20 days from the election to report on what was actually voted

on. Explained need to make reductions; need signatures and it needs to be sent to the appropriate places by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

C. Paulin advised health insurance has gone down for the first time in eight years in the plans that the district uses the most.

R. Horton asked about merging with the Town.

K. Dassau advised they would have to look at the financial analysis. Winchester's portion would be significantly higher if we were not with Hinsdale.

R. Horton asked if the audit has been completed.

C. Paulin explained our portion is done; Grants and SAU are not done yet. Looking at a revenue shortfall of \$350,000 plus \$50,000 ±

R. Horton asked where we are year-to-date and what we are looking at for an end-of-the-year balance.

C. Paulin explained they knew there was a deficit last year. Ed Fund Grant is \$100,000, \$200,000 in Sped. They can make up the \$50,000 difference from operations. They don't have a hard number at this point; will be in the black in a reasonable amount of time. Will be returning \$350,000 plus whatever is left, to the Town

R. Horton asked if there might be half a million to return to the Town.

C. Paulin advised yes, about that; need to be careful. The software is new, he explained they built the 2013 budget from a zero based budget.

R. Horton was not sure he agreed with C. Paulin's explanation; it didn't look like a zero-based budget if they looked through the past five years.

C. Paulin explained weather affects the quantity of oil they need to buy. If they buy for better than projected we will have a savings.

C. Paulin – Everything is important; need to cut someplace. Could choose to do something different. It may come in less, if not, need to look elsewhere in the budget.

K. Whippie asked if the Board feels they can make decisions tonight or if they need a work session.

K. Whippie recommended meeting another night in the Ford Building for a work session.

The Board asked C. Paulin for year-to-date expenditures, budget items, where we are so far and what we have spent; after discussion, **K. Whippie MOVED to postpone any action on the MS-22 until the work session on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Ford Building, SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

After discussion, **K. Whippie MOVED to give the Board Chair authorization to sign the Manifest of SAU 38, paying \$95,000 in reimbursement to Winchester for the current year from free and reduced lunch; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Brian Moser advised he is the Treasurer; he is confused that the MS 22 has no signatures. The budget shows 25 items that have been overspent. He has issue with it, as he is the person in charge of all monies as of 7:00 am. Monday.

T. Croteau advised they would discuss that later; now they are in the middle of a Motion.

Colleen Duquette advised that there has already been a Motion from the SAU Board allowing the Winchester School Board Chair to sign the SAU Manifest.

T. Croteau advised that is totally different monies than the other that is owed to them.

K. Dassau explained what C. Duquette discussed. The \$95,000 needs to be spent on food and related services only.

B. Moser advised he was commenting on the fact that there is no Manifest. He is uncomfortable with the line items that have been overspent, but monies were not transferred. He is not going to sign checks from line items that have no money in them. His responsibility is to the voters.

K. Whippie advised the original MS-22 has signatures on it; these are copies.

E. Jackson advised the original should be in the town report.

T. Croteau – will look into it; and make sure they get a copy for the current year.

R. Horton advised the MS-22 is not in the report.

T. Croteau advised the Town always shows what actually was spent, they don't move money around so people can't tell. He asked how the School budget works.

C. Paulin explained most lines are what were voted, but some lines he feels would be less clear such as Psychological Services, Social Security and Insurance; he explained. Other than that, he doesn't believe it changed anything; it just broke it down to give more of an idea as to how it was spent. They could show it the other way, but he feels it is less useful.

T. Croteau feels the Town budget is much easier to follow.

C. Paul explained he doesn't feel there is much encumbrance in there except for payroll related items.

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

The Board received J. Lewis' report in their packets.

\*Workshop was huge

\*Today popcorn was given to all students who behaved for the last two weeks. Board members received popcorn, too.

T. Croteau asked about head checks.

J. Lewis advised it is hard to rely on volunteers; the nurse will do two classrooms per day. He will check with a local salon. Advised the Winter didn't help things.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** The Board received K. Dassau's report in their packet.

\*K. Dassau advised he was asked at the last meeting to revisit the contract with Keene. He called Mr. Guerny. He and Mr. Harper could be available to the Board rep. to discuss and then bring to the Keene School Board on a Thursday or Friday.

W. Hildreth feels two Board members should go and they should be those on the Keene Contract Study Committee – Article 9. She feels they should build on that committee in addition to the Board members.

K. Dassau will let Keene know and they will meet on April 5<sup>th</sup> and the Board make Committee assignments and then get to Keene with dates to meet with them.

**E. Jackson MOVED to form a Committee to study Keene High Withdrawal; SECONDED by: R. Horton, after discussion, MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to form a Keene Withdrawal Study Committee to include two School board members, one certified teacher in the WSD and the balance, of no more than four, to be members of the public and residents of Winchester; SECONDED by: E. Jackson; VOTED: 4-1 (W. Hildreth – no), MOTION PASSED.**

The NHSBA Orientation for New School Board Member workshops will not be held until May.

T. Croteau recommended orientation for the new members.

K. Dassau advised to let him know. He will register them.

R. Horton and E. Jackson want to go on May 1<sup>st</sup>. They will send K. Dassau an e-mail.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Sue Rice read a letter to the Board that she wrote with regard to cutting or reducing SAU positions. She created and distributed a petition to keep the full time Technology position.

Mrs. Gagnon advised a lot of teachers were present at the meeting. They are curious about teacher cuts. Two of the Board members made it clear it won't happen. She would like to know how other Board members feel about that.

T. Croteau feels no teachers have to be eliminated.

K. Whippie doesn't feel that statement can be made with any assurance.

W. Hildreth agreed with K. Whippie.

Jill Beaman formally requested to be on the Keene Withdrawal Committee.

Joan Franklin asked if the \$95,000 has to do with the LGC money.

C. Paulin – no.

Joan Franklin asked that they look out for that. She doesn't want it returned to the SAU by mistake. She doesn't know if the money would go to the Town or members.

C. Paulin advised Winchester is the insurer (principle of our own – it doesn't go through the SAU). Would guess it should come to us.

K. Whippie advised the SAU38 meeting will be in May. They would have to kick it back to us if they got it.

K. Whippie – Winchester students are K-12; feels the Board should make an effort to support grades 9-12 on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Spring Band Concert.

**K. Whippie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm; SECONDED by: R. Horton, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary