

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair, C. Duquette at 6:45 pm.

**MINUTES:**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the Public Hearing of the February 2, 2012 Board meeting; SECONDED by: J. Gile, VOTED: 4-1, (W. Hildreth – no), MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 2, 2012 Board meeting; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**W. Hildreth MOVED to revisit the Public Hearing of February 2, 2012; SECONDED by: K. Whippie Amending the second to the last paragraph of the minutes to read in part, *W. Hildreth advised she was dead set against going to Keene at the time of the proposal of closing Thayer. She would not vote for removing students from Keene this time;* VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012 Board meeting; amending the date in the last paragraph from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> to February 16<sup>th</sup>; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve as a first review, the Policy on New Non-Certified; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, after discussion and changes, will bring back to the next meeting; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve Policy QCQA as amended, SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Whippie MOVED to approve Policy IGE, SECONDED by: J. Gile, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**FINANCIAL:**

**W. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$444,224.93; SECONDED by: J. Gile, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Don Chamberlain reviewed the dishwasher bids with the Board. He recommended accepting the \$12,225 bid from Hobart which includes installation and an extended warranty. The Board will get copies of the bids in their packets for the next meeting.

The Board asked questions regarding budget accounts and C. Paulin reviewed.

T. Croteau asked about the KHS Regular Tuition Account – it is \$62,000 over-budget.

C. Paulin advised they will have to make it up in other places in the budget.

T. Croteau asked if that was an accurate number for the end of the year.

K. Dassau advised no, there is \$40,000± credit floating around there; explained students move in and out. He thinks it will be close to what is anticipated. Keene Tuition, Regular and Special Ed - In and Out of District placement have been tight; it has been tight from day one.

T. Croteau asked for specific information on accounts in the Operating Budget.

C. Paulin will get that.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

K. Dassau distributed an information sheet of budget changes due to the decrease in the budget proposed at the Deliberative Session. He reviewed the changes with the Board. These changes would reduce the budget by \$675,371.

K. Dassau advised if they were going to ask for a special meeting it would require the Budget Committee approval and the district would need to have the amount in unanticipated revenues. The Town can maintain a surplus, but the school can't.

We can't ask the Town to dip into their revenue. Unless we are going to short change Keene High School tuitions by \$421,000+, the Board will need to look deep elsewhere in the budget.

K. Dassau advised the vote will be March 13<sup>th</sup> and the Board will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be one more meeting before non-renewals to staff are required to be done by April 15th.

K. Dassau advised he gave a power point presentation to the staff earlier on the possible impact of the reduction should it pass.

K. Dassau feels can probably reduce programs and materials at most \$170,000, but then the Board would be looking at staff reductions.

C. Duquette strongly feels they can't touch the Keene tuition; Sped is contractual.

C. Duquette asked about SAU costs. A restructuring of the SAU employees as presented will not save \$107,350. K. Dassau corrected the math presented at the Deliberative Session. To terminate all the SAU employees, the cost of the search, and rehire and train will save maybe \$6,000.00.

J. Gile asked why some schools don't have Unified Arts.

K. Dassau advised they need to provide it in some form. He read the information in his memo from Ed Murdough at the NHDOE.

C. Duquette is there some way to relay the reality of the impact of this vote?

K. Whippie advised the numbers are flawed; total figure and savings are erroneously high. Cuts don't add up to \$675,000.

K. Dassau would like to send this information to the School Board candidates.

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

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

\*The PTA is planning a "Meet the School Board Candidates" night on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*Feels fortunate to have such dedicated staff. Very appreciative; they make some of the lowest wages, but are most supportive.

\*Dr. Seuss Birthday event will be held.

\*Milk and Cookies Night

\*Kindergarten teachers presenting to early childhood teachers.

Alex reviewed College Day - about 165 colleges were represented. He has heard nothing but positive feedback from everyone involved. Four different KSC groups have e-mailed him to see when they can get together with Winchester kids.

K. Dassau will update the Board in non-public regarding pending due process.

K. Whippie advised there was discussion by the Town about an electricity purchase agreement. He asked if the Board would like C. Paulin to contact the Town Administrator for information.

C. Paulin will check with her. He thinks it is in the School's best interest.

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE/REP. REPORTS:**

##### **Scholarship Committee:**

J. Gile advised Senior Night is tentatively set for May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm. They are continuing to work on it. There are 39 seniors.

##### **NHSBA:**

C. Duquette advised she has been forwarding NHSBA information to the Board, but Trevor's keeps bouncing back.

T. Croteau gave her the correct e-mail address.

##### **Legislative Action Committee:**

C. Duquette advised there are bills before the Senate; some opposing and some supporting a fund balance. The proposal is that school districts could have some sort of fund balance; she will forward it to the Board.

K. Whippie advised that would put the School and the Town on the same footing with regard to that.

##### **Keene Contract:**

Keene Board meeting is next week. They will be discussing block scheduling.

C. Duquette advised Keene High student reports are out.

J. Lewis will set up a time for Keene to come and give their report.

**K. Whippie MOVED to ask Keene High School to reopen Winchester's contract with Keene negotiating out the exclusivity clause; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, after discussion, VOTED: 2-0-3 MOTION PASSED.**

Roberta Frazier came before the Board representing the Select Board. She read a letter from them expressing their concern that the School Board not make any decisions regarding negotiations or sign any contracts until after the 3/13 vote.

C. Duquette finds it offensive that the Select Board would even send that letter.

K. Whippie was very upset by the presumption that the School Board would go along "willy nilly" and not take things seriously. Everything is contingent on the budget. He feels the Select Board should mind their own business.

C. Duquette advised the School Board won't make rash decisions.

Roberta Frazier explained that the Select Board received many concerns from the Public and that was the reason for the letter. She was sorry if the School Board was upset by it and if they felt that the Select Board overstepped their bounds.

Gail Merrill thought both Boards were going to start to be on the same team. Feels things are out-of-control. Knows everyone is trying hard to do the best thing. They need to worry about the children and their future.

**K. Whippie MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3b and RSA 91-A:3c; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, T. Croteau – yes, J. Gile – yes, W. Hildreth – yes, C. Duquette – yes, K. Whippie – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**Whippie MOVED to leave non-public session under RSA 91-A:3b and RSA 91-A:3c; SECONDED by: W. Hildreth, T. Croteau – yes, J. Gile – yes, W. Hildreth – yes, C. Duquette – yes, K. Whippie – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

W. Hildreth asked about the fine on the Manifest.

C. Paulin explained they need to send a report after every quarter showing amounts and dates of deposits. They didn't realize until it was time to file for September, that they hadn't filed on time.

Need to work on MS25 before September 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around.

C. Duquette advised an information brochure is on the Monadnock School Board website if anyone wants to look at it. The SAU is anticipating a \$100,000 split.

**K. Whippie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:27; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary