

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 5, 2016**

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

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

The meeting began at 5:45pm

E. Jackson advised everything is in except insurance; difference would be any increases.

Jeremy Miller – ACCESS is very interested in being able to move forward with Special Ed this coming year. Would do a five year plan for extra-curricular and Special Ed transportation and then add Regular Ed.

R. Horton explained it would not solely be a reduction in dollars. If we are going to do something in town, it would be more that it's local and we would have flexibility and control. We would be looking more for a partnership.

J. Miller advised positive feedback he received is he is easy to reach. If they have a homeless situation, Marie Braley can call and ask J. Miller to start pick-up the next day.

J. Cardinale – Are you planning to get different busses?

J. Miller – Plan to go to yellow busses. He thinks they could be the most beneficial to the District for Special Ed and out-of-district transportation.

J. Lewis – Can tell the bus company anytime we don't need a late bus.

J. Miller advised if the Board is interested, he is very interested in working with them. It is working very well. Would like to visit with the business office and come up with a plan to bring to the Board.

R. Horton – You could get a commitment from the Board as quickly as you want it.

J. Lewis advised he has spoken with J. Miller; going to do it right, then could expand it.

J. Miller – Is first Student willing to give up two Special Ed runs or is it all or nothing?

E. Jackson explained there are different companies that handle Special Ed transportation.

R. Horton asked about revenues. Regardless of what we do, the reality is what needs to be raised by taxation?

R. Horton asked what the thought-process was of the Board regarding the Sports lines. He wasn't at the meeting when those budget lines were reviewed. He is concerned about overuse of the facility. Are we just adding more sports or do we have students who want to join? If we throw in more sports, are we diluting some? Feels should invest in intramurals; have 50 kids signed up.

R. Horton – These are all middle school sports; not investing in any at the elementary. Would rather not do Cross-Country and maybe not Cheer.

J. Cardinale – A lot signed up for Cheer and Girls-on-the-Run.

K. Bazan – For him, worth the risk. Need certain teams to be in certain leagues. If no interest, would not support it next year.

R. Horton asked what about a transportation increase?

E. Jackson advised Rob Skroki said there was no need to add any dollars for transportation.

J. Cardinale – Thinks his rationale is they will be using ACCESS busses.

\*Reviewed Teacher salaries – Regular Ed.

J. Lewis brought a plan for the following lines to the Board:

\*Pre-School – There is a waiting list for this year; 22-24 students and an additional 18 waiting to go next year. Need kids here early. Medicaid can reimburse us a good portion of this.

E. Jackson advised the cost is \$43.60 per student based on 24 students for 90 days.

V. Carey advised a lot of the time and trouble to send kids to Ashuelot Head Start or the Learning Center is the transportation piece. We provide transportation here.

E. Jackson – So 16 four year olds will come to Kindergarten without schooling.

J. Lewis – Can we do it now by adding a teacher?

The Board asked if this is a long-term plan.

J. Lewis – Yes, if we have to rif, we rif.

V. Carey has been working with the State on a Pre-school Leadership Team and volunteering on a Preschool Improvement Plan. We would be in a position to move Special Ed students here.

E. Jackson – Medicaid will reimburse us.

**J. Cardinale MOVED to add a second Pre-School teacher for this year contingent on Medicaid Reimbursement; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

\*Part-time Language teacher: Need to offer something to kids.

T. Croteau asked what Pioneer offers for languages.

E. Jackson will check with Pioneer.

K. Bazan feels it would be a good first step. If successful, he would be interested in seeing the position go full-time.

\*Autism – Pretty good program, but not enough people. We don't have time to create what's needed.

Need someone to do Assistive Technology and integrate it. Would be able to do things we can't do now.

Would take the position we already have and give it added responsibility.

\*J. Lewis reviewed addition of part-time Music teacher.

T. Croteau asked E. Jackson to make a list of all the positions this budget covers; part-time Music, Foreign Language, Pre-school and Autism (Special Ed).

S. Thompson – Will the additional part-time Music teacher provide enough services for what we need?

J. Lewis – Yes that is what Rob Skroki proposed.

R. Horton worried with part-time positions that we are just plugging a little hole.

J. Lewis explained he has given the Board changes to the existing budget; not additions to the existing budget.

J. Lewis – Need to walk before we run. If it doesn't work we can stop it.

R. Horton feels need to start kids early in foreign language. The proposed plan is for grades three – eight.

J. Lewis advised there is the confusion factor, too.

E. Jackson – To make full-time would be \$40,000.

J. Lewis advised Bergeron came in about the showers. Advised could bring in a tank and pipe water in.

V. Carey advised Pioneer offers French and Spanish.

\*Health Teacher – Could be a Mental Health Teacher, too. Advised there is someone on staff who is qualified.

J. Lewis advised the position would be for the Middle School and possibly fifth grade. They would have to wait until next year to do it. The Board would pay for the certification because they would be changing the position. The Board agreed they wouldn't be changing the procedure; they don't normally pay for recertification.

\*Nature's Classroom – Fundraising begins now. There will be some monthly events, whatever kids can raise. Will ask for a little additional in 2016-2017 to send grade eight – 50 kids. In 2018-2019 would send seventh and eighth grade – 64 kids and in 2019-2020 it would be a seventh grade trip. Feels if we don't do it now, can never send both grades.

V. Carey advised the curriculum for Nature's Classroom is more closely aligned to the seventh grade curriculum. Also, there is a lot of community building. Students will be together with the teachers for

two years. Advised that is a largely important part of Nature's Classroom. She feels the earlier we can do it, the better.

R. Horton asked for a price.

E. Jackson advised the Field trip line is going from \$5,500 to \$8,000 for all field trips. The cost of Nature's Classroom is \$288 per student for a total of \$14,400. They will be earmarking close to \$5,000 for Nature's Classroom. The rest will be paid by fundraising or by the students.

The Board was in agreement. Will make that line \$8,000.

R. Horton doesn't want to hear there is no money for the rest of field trips.

E. Jackson – Supplies – General Expenses: The Board reduced to \$21,000.

E. Jackson wants to add a line for Life Skills Supplies of \$1,000.

R. Horton wants to see revenues before he knows if the total budget number is okay.

E. Jackson advised the changes made tonight adds \$3,500 to the bottom line; everything else was already in.

E. Jackson will have the revenues for Thursday's meeting.

Sue Rice will be on the Finance Committee.

The Board feels #10 cans should be recycled along with batteries, paper, etc.

K. Bazan will do a policy for recycling.

R. Horton – Line 257 – Tech Director – Does that title need to be changed?

J. Lewis – Yes.

R. Horton – Need proposal for the cost for that position.

R. Horton will look at revenues on Thursday; if they need another budget meeting they will schedule one.

R Horton thinks everyone on the Board feels voting out the Budget Committee last year was not the right move.

K. Bazan has done a petitioned Warrant Article.

R. Horton wanted to see if the whole Board was in agreement with asking questions, otherwise Barrett Christina could not review it and give feedback.

The Board was in agreement.

Tentative Dates for Board/Finance Committee meetings will be 1/11/16, 1/14/16 and 1/19/16 all at 6:00pm. and Public Hearing on 1/21/16 at 6:00 pm.

E. Jackson will check with Committee members.

The meeting recessed at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary