

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
JULY 7, 2016**

Present: K. Bazan, R. Horton, L. Picard, S. Thompson

Absent: T. Croteau

Administration Present: J. Lewis, E. Jackson, Val Carey

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Horton at 6:34pm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Nicole Pelkey advised as a follow-up to the last meeting, a few people have questions about joining the AREA and recommend joining. She read that it is not an adjusted rate; all sending districts pay the same.

Tim Hill still has so many, great concerns. Advised there was an article in the Sentinel that Keene called our bluff, but no townspeople were aware of that. Advised the Board never told citizens they called our bluff. The Board never told citizens, instead they sat through the meeting and did not say anything. He advised they needed to go to Keene High School to get correspondence. Can't get it here, the Board won't listen to the vast amount of people. Feels the current Board should expect a change at election time. Feels they should leave the Board for new members to get us out of this problem without more expense.

Marcy advised there is a lot of conversation with the Attorney. What is that fee and where is it coming from in the budget?

K. Bazan advised the Attorney line is part of the budget. We haven't been billed yet.

Marcy advised they were able to obtain copies of documents from Keene that they weren't privy too previously.

Marcy – Has the line item been exceeded?

E. Jackson advised it is over-budget for 2015-2016.

J. Lewis explained when he contacts the School Board Attorney it is not just about Keene, it is for a host of things.

Marcy advised she is just wondering if enough wasn't budgeted for Keene High School, where will the funds come from.

Tim Hill feels the Board did not answer Chris Thompson's question at the last meeting as to what the issue was that launched this. Where will you find more choices than in Keene? Feels if they hadn't chased things down, wouldn't have exceeded the budget.

K. Bazan advised that is not correct. Yes, there are a great number of students who are happy with Keene High School, but a considerable amount who are not happy. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that all kids get the education they deserve.

The Board felt it was time to look at the contract. Keene doesn't work for all students.

A citizen asked; it is not about the money and taxes?

R. Horton – No.

Marcy- Isn't it true that parents pay for an alternate option if they don't want their kids to continue in a certain school district? It is not the school's responsibility. Why are we taking that on? Why aren't parent's responsible to pay?

K. Bazan – They would be. There is no second option now.

Tim Hill advised if people are against it, they should take their kids out and pay.

K. Bazan – Advised their comments are worth the same as yours.

R. Horton advised he was stopping Citizens Comments.

A citizen advised it wasn't quite 15 minutes.

R. Horton advised there would be another Citizens' Comments' at the end of the meeting.

**MINUTES:**

The Board received the Minutes of the 6/16/16 Board meeting as a First Reading.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Principal's Search:**

J. Lewis will bring the nomination of the new Principal to the Board. Advised it needs to be done in non-public session under RSA91-A:3,II(b).

**K. Bazan MOVED to go into non-public session at 6:46pm. under RSA91-A:3II(b), SECONDED by: S. Thompson, VOTED: L. Picard – yes, S. Thompson – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**K. Bazan MOVED to leave non-public session at 7:17pm., SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: L. Picard – yes, S. Thompson – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

R. Horton advised while in non-public session the Board discussed the nomination, by the Committee, for the Principal position and discussed the offer.

**K. Bazan MOVED to seal the minutes of non-public session until all the candidates have been notified; SECONDED by: S. Thompson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

### **Detailed Agenda Discussion:**

J. Lewis and L. Picard discussed the agenda and making it more detailed. L. Picard advised they would implement the following:

\*One week before the meeting, will invite the School Board to let J. Lewis know if they have anything for the agenda and will determine what is considered Old Business. They will do a rough draft the day before. They can continue to brainstorm ways to handle new ideas. L. Picard suggested beginning discussion under Committee Reports then the item could be moved to New Business at the next meeting. The final agenda will be received by Tuesday, at the latest. That gives parents a couple of days to review the agenda. L. Picard advised this was the first crack at doing a more detailed agenda.

### **Transitioning the ISS Room:**

J. Lewis doesn't think they need another place to address discipline. Feels it should take place early, in the classroom. There are a lot of changes that can make things better. This is the next step, a planning room without interruptions or judgment. It will be right next to the Science Lab; thinks we build off that. The room would have stations where kids can work. If we want to be the best in the Country, won't do it without change.

J. Lewis explained it is not just for discipline. Kids can go to do work there, too. Distributed the plan to the Board and reviewed. Advised he doesn't need a motion; it is an update for the Board as to what they are doing and why. Feels punishment doesn't work. He feels they can have it done by September for the start of school.

L. Picard – Did you ask for feedback from the staff?

J. Lewis – He and V. Carey discussed it; she came up with the Planning Room.

V. Carey explained there has been a lot of feedback from members working on the ISS Committee. Some ideas came from a lot of different people.

### **Policy DKA – Second Reading:**

After discussion, the Board agreed to add under Salary Deductions, *but are not limited to* and delete the paragraph regarding the NHSBA Note and bring back as a Third Reading.

### **Policy EEAA – Second Reading:**

**L. Picard MOVED to accept Policy EEAA as a Second Reading, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

### **Policy EHAA – Second Reading:**

The Board discussed adding language about a waiver for personal equipment and confidentiality of network equipment. R. Horton feels should reference the Personal Use Policy in this policy.

The Board discussed the possibility of cutting a small piece of bandwidth so we can't cross over between school and personal equipment. That would be a piece used for guests, etc. That wouldn't be added in this policy, but needs to be addressed.

J. Lewis will bring the Policy back for a Third Reading along with Policy DKA. Both will be under New Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

L. Picard reached out to the NHSBA who sent five or six examples of Superintendent Evaluations and training materials. She will forward examples to the Board. Feels they should all have homework; need to read the training materials and at the next Board meeting have one or two choices for an evaluation format so they can set a specific timeline for turning that around.

J. Lewis also had some samples for the Board.

K. Bazan asked that the Board receive a copy of the non-public minutes regarding the previous Superintendent review.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – E. JACKSON:**

K. Bazan MOVED to put the Payroll Manifest of 7/1/16 in the amount of \$84,604.91 into the notes.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 7/8/16 in the amount of \$29,349.45; SECONDED by: S. Thompson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest of 7/8/16 in the amount of \$90,346.48; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.

\*Year-end rollover was processed. The only thing left to roll over is leave plans.

\*Facility-wise there is a lot going on. The Maintenance crew is ahead of schedule; working diligently.

\*The lawn mower should be here Monday. E. Jackson advised the other company would not give us a quote.

\*Next week is the Emergency Management Meeting. E. Jackson will ask about the showers again. She was told before that there is no money for showers. She will update the Board on the key cards, etc. after the meeting.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT:**

The Board welcomed Val Carey as the new Assistant Principal.

\*Summer School starts next week; working on UA staff schedules and that type of legwork.

The Board would like to see a report from both the Assistant Principal and Principal at Board meetings.

K. Bazan would like to hear from T. Croteau, too. Thinks he would agree.

CAST Planning to meet this summer.

L. Picard advised she is on vacation during the meeting time.

R. Horton will do his best to be there.

Val Carey advised if R. Horton cannot make it, she can go.

J. Lewis will go the Selectmen's meeting.

The Board Secretary will be on vacation 7/21/16. J. Lewis will get someone to take the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Negotiations:**

K. Bazan advised they should have something to report on by the next meeting.

**Selectboard Meeting:**

R. Horton will try to get there.

L. Picard feels all Committees should be put on the agenda so Board members can briefly discuss them. Feels it may remind people if they want to discuss anything with regard to a certain committee.

**OLD BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

\*The Third Reading of policies DKA and EHAA

\*Procedure for Superintendent Evaluation

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

R. Horton apologized to Mr. Hill for the heated discussion. He wanted to move on, but should have let him speak.

Tim Hill advised his tone could have been better.

Marcy asked what the percentage of people is who want to go to Pioneer. Where did you get the idea?

L. Picard advised she came on the Board in March. Her review is that it started in a financial way; what are we getting for our money? In that development was the idea that other districts have choice and would that be an option for us and what could we do to offer that?

Marcy – What is the AREA?

K. Bazan explained it is a group of school districts whose students go to Keene High School. Most are in the AREA and that means you have representation on the AREA Board. If not, you are just a tuitioning school. There is a separate rate.

Marcy asked if it is a cheaper rate.

K. Bazan advised a lower rate. Keene encourages us to explore it. It takes a lot of work to be in it. Towns can vote on another town joining. Currently there is a cost savings. We are the largest sending and Special Ed tuitioning school. If we would bring up the rate, are we sure we would get the affirmative vote?

Keene has suggested it, but it hasn't been given formally. We would need help from the Keene School District and they would have to explain why it would benefit other towns to let us in.

Marcy feels we should explore it. She is sure there is a process.

K. Bazan advised his goal is to be on some sort of talking basis with Keene High School and see how this would happen. He doesn't see it happening right now.

Marcy – Could we go to a Keene School District meeting and bring the question up?

E. Jackson was on the Keene High School Committee and was able to attend Board meetings. There is a comment section for residents. It would be up to the Keene School District Board to allow non-residents to speak.

Does the Board or the Town vote?

R. Horton advised his understanding is the Town would vote on the individual towns and ours for a twenty year contract.

Amy Hill asked would there be a process to advise positive and negative feedback before the vote?

Amy Hill – Will you find out if KHS will be educating voters about the AREA vote?

R. Horton advised they would start discussion at the first of the school year.

Amy Hill advised she was approached by Townspeople who would be open to present to the Keene High School Board information, letters, phone calls, etc. from out-of-town citizens.

Amy Hill – KHS advised the Motion was made to terminate. It was clear that after the 2019 date, we would no longer be in the contract. She has a child who will go to Keene. After that date will they be going to the high school? Are we accepting the termination? She read letters from Winchester to Keene which said we did not terminate, but KHS said we did. Are we done or not?

R. Horton explained nothing has changed from the Winchester School District's standpoint.

Amy Hill – What about Keene High School?

R. Horton – Nothing has been legally done.

K. Bazan advised your child will go to KHS.

Amy Hill - Until 2020. What will happen after that with Pioneer or will we build another high school?

R. Horton advised the goal of the Board is that students who want to go to Keene High School will.

Amy Hill advised choice takes preparation and transparent thought with the citizens. What is your plan? Is it your goal to pursue choice actively?

R. Horton advised he was speaking for himself. Advised he would continue to look with an open mind at other districts, but keeping in mind there is a large part of the population who wants to go to Keene.

R. Horton advised they will be researching more on the NH/Mass side of things. We are a border town to more than one state. They have the same standards for adequate education. The groundwork is already there.

Amy Hill thinks sub-committees need to be open and transparent. Explained she didn't get the letters from Winchester that she asked for six days ago, but received them from Keene in 24 hours. Feels the Board needs to be a little more cognizant of keeping everyone involved.

L. Picard advised when she came on the Board, wanted more community involvement in committees as long as there was no specific privacy issue or negotiation. She will continue to bring that to the Board.

Amy Hill feels the public would appreciate that on things people are vested in.

K. Bazan advised he is for choice, but 100% at Pioneer is not choice.

Amy Hill thinks the townspeople are very scared that it would be all or nothing. The motion was very scary. Keene High School could have said you are done tomorrow. Not sure where the Board stands. Feels with people she talked to one thing rang true; it is not a five person decision.

Nicole Pelkey advised she came out of the meeting thinking we were not going to break the contract, then she heard that we were going to discuss Pioneer. If not in the minutes, can we alert the paper that the information was not correct?

R. Horton advised there was an MOU, information and figures given that night.

Nicole Pelkey asked when the minutes are updated on the website.

E. Jackson advised the minutes are not put on the website until they are approved.

There was discussion regarding posting the minutes before final approval.

Val Cole asked for what dates, we have a fully completed signed-off audit.

E. Jackson advised 2011. A draft has been completed for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

V. Cole feels there is a serious lag.

R. Horton explained they have made great progress after bringing in new auditors and E. Jackson. In one year, they have brought the process four years forward.

Val Cole asked how we get money without approved audits.

E. Jackson advised there are lots of grants that require audits, but haven't been requested.

R. Horton advised they have struggled for the last four years. The new firm is fantastic; heading along faster than we thought they would.

**K. Bazan MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm; SECONDED by: S. Thompson, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary