

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
BUDGET MEETING -WINCHESTER LIBRARY
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

School Board Members Present: K. Bazan, L. Picard, H. Griffus

Absent: T. Croteau, S. Thompson

Administration Present: J. Lewis, E. Jackson

K. Bazan called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm.

J. Lewis advised Administration met. They feel what the school needs is a Health Teacher. Part of what they would teach would be healthful habits, which would include smoking, drugs, what's right/wrong, self-respect/good attitude, etc. Advised of all the items they will be presenting to the Board this is the highest on the list.

The Health Teacher was presented last year, but had to ultimately be taken out.

J. Lewis advised there would be a concentration on the middle school, but the whole school would benefit.

V. Carey – Health Curriculum is recommended by the State; focuses on healthy relationships.

J. Lewis – Not just physical health, emotional health, too.

K. Bazan advised he would be in favor of introducing a health teacher to the school. He believes it would make a difference for students and families. He wants to find a way to do this.

M. Duprey feels the greatest lacking piece of student knowledge is based around health; the word health doesn't say it all. Feels it is a necessity.

The Board advised they wanted to first go through the wish list.

E. Jackson advised Health is a requirement.

J. Lewis wanted to emphasize how strongly administration feels about this.

A member of the Selectboard feels they should talk to Margaret and Monadnock Family Services about a Grant. Thinks that might be a good starting point.

Language Teacher:

J. Lewis feels it would be more effective to have someone here rather than for example, doing Rosetta Stone.

They have heard recently that Winchester kids going to Keene aren't prepared.

J. Lewis advised it is not a benefited position. Maybe it could be Monday, Wednesday and Friday so they are not asking applicants to split the day and then have to get a part-time job.

V. Carey – Typically students get exposure to foreign language in middle school.

K. Bazan doesn't want kids to be behind when they go to Keene.

V. Carey feels if students haven't had a foreign language they may not want to take one as they might feel they will be behind or if they take one as a freshman and are behind they may not want to take it again.

Crisis Counselor:

Administration feels some kids don't know where to go for help. J. Lewis advised they could rethink the Focus II position.

M. Duprey advised his wish is to have a Pre-K through Eight professional link between home and school. The position would work with agencies, at-risk families and the school. Advised they are doing everything they can here six-and-a-half hours a day. Who knows what kids are exposed to the other hours of the day.

L. Picard – Are there any grant opportunities?

J. Lewis believes so.

L. Picard wouldn't want to fund a position based solely on a grant, but if it could be comprised both from a grant and from the budget, feels it would be a good thing.

V. Carey – There are models out there for transition teams. A transition counselor can be written into an IEP. Feels it brings connection to the family. They will look into models as they move forward.

K. Bazan MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. so members could attend the Budget Committee meeting; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.