

WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
BUDGET MEETING -WINCHESTER LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 29, 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 6:33 pm.

K. Bazan advised this is the first Budget meeting. He would like to schedule meetings for the season.

The Town is going with Tuesdays for their meetings.

J. Lewis – Need to keep Negotiations in mind.

The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, October 18th and Monday, October 24th, both at 6:30 pm.

The Board agreed to schedule two meetings for now. They want to have the input of the full Board when scheduling the rest.

K. Bazan advised he wants to keep the meetings to two hours tops.

K. Bazan asked administration what budget information would be available and when.

K. Bazan advised for the next meeting the Board would like a copy of the budget and to know what new, bigger items administration is thinking of now.

Administration feels it might be better to present the budget they are requesting and explain why.

K. Bazan feels some sort of agenda would be good to post to let the public know what they will be discussing.

The Board and administration agreed to “chop it up” by budget items.

K. Bazan wants to be sure everyone understands the budget.

J. Lewis advised he along with E. Jackson, L. Picard and H. Griffus will be going to Concord on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 pm. for training on School District Budgeting.

E. Jackson feels anyone who can go, should.

K. Bazan will let them know if he can attend.

K. Bazan asked administration when they can get a bid out for next year’s transportation.

J. Lewis advised he wanted to bring that up here; wants discussion on buying our own busses.

L. Picard- We would have control over hiring people, training, maybe discipline, etc.

J. Lewis – Not talking a fleet, talking maybe one for field trips, sports, etc.

K. Bazan would like to give a deadline of 10/31 to put transportation out-to-bid.

E. Jackson advised they are still moving routes around.

J. Lewis feels that would be tight. They don’t want to do a shoddy job.

J. Lewis and E. Jackson feel the end of the calendar year is realistic.

K. Bazan advised they still need to put a number in the line.

J. Lewis feels they could still put a pretty good number in there.

E. Jackson will see if surrounding schools’ contracts are ending for the year. She will contact Hinsdale and Monadnock. She will bring information to the next meeting.

E. Jackson advised it would be for Special Ed transportation.

J. Lewis - That’s the highest cost.

J. Lewis – Will check to see if a short bus/van is diesel.

K. Bazan advised on October 18th he would like to get some sort of information as to what administration sees for next year and the goals for next year. He doesn't mind throwing out some of his goals. Advised he would like to see a Health Teacher and Foreign Language teacher. Those are his biggest hopes.

L. Picard is very excited that Band and Chorus were implemented.

L. Picard asked why the particular Fall sports were chosen.

J. Lewis advised Soccer is a Fall sport and Cross-Country is an individual sport for kids who don't want to join a group sport.

L. Picard – What happened with Cheerleading?

J. Lewis explained they felt there wouldn't be enough for kids to do all the sports.

L. Picard thinks they should ask the kids and see if they are interested in Cheer. They will be behind now. They have missed the season. If it is not a financial thing, perhaps it can be considered. Feels we shouldn't choose for them. Advised we do very well in Cheer at Keene.

J. Lewis advised they need to write a new MOU for ACCESS.

K. Bazan advised they will discuss it at the next Board meeting.

J. Lewis – Beth Baldwin, Executive Director of ACCESS will be the guest speaker at the meeting on the 18th.

L. Picard asked what the plan is for the overall goals of the 2017-2018 budget. We won't be discussing it by October 18, right?

J. Lewis doesn't think so.

K. Bazan would like to hear from the Board if they have any interest in adding any programs.

K. Bazan asked if by being in a league, could they see other costs coming up for sports.

J. Lewis – More games, more traveling, more officials. There are those associated costs.

H. Griffus heard only Fourth grade and up can play Basketball; but she was told kids could be in the third grade.

J. Lewis – That program was with ACCESS.

V. Carey advised Cross-Country includes fourth grade because it is an individual sport and not a contact sport. We definitely wouldn't include students under fifth grade in other sports.

K. Bazan would like to hear from administration as to how the program is going and what the plan is. Is it possible to get a divider for the gym?

J. Lewis – Absolutely. The stage needs to be replaced.

K. Bazan thinks if they cut the space in half, it would work well as a performance space. We could get sound dampeners for the gym.

K. Bazan – When people come in for events, we need a performance space.

K. Bazan feels if there is an interest in music, they should support the interest.

E. Jackson feels it would be good to hear from the music director.

K. Bazan advised they would welcome her to come to a meeting and hear what her vision is.

K. Bazan and J. Lewis advised the bleachers make them nervous.

E. Jackson advised the bleachers aren't set up with emergency lanes.

K. Bazan - That is part of the strategic plan. Will a couple of these items be part of your budget?

The Board asked if they would be ready for the October 24th meeting.

V. Carey advised they are very busy. She would like to look at the first part of November.

L. Picard – When is the Town looking for the budget?

E. Jackson advised the second week in December is when they would like it.

K. Bazan advised there will be a big change this year. The Budget Committee will be approving the budget. The School Board will not approve it this year.

K. Bazan advised this year a warrant will be needed for the teachers' contract. They need to keep all these things in the back of their minds.

The Board reviewed the Manifests and asked questions.

E. Jackson advised they should look at getting the lift elevator under contract.

E. Jackson will try to e-mail the Board the manifest ahead of time, but often she gets the bills at the last minute.

L. Picard – What items will be brought for the next meeting?

J. Lewis - Need to add to the budget or a warrant article, an architect for the third floor – big ticket item.

E. Jackson explained the roof person came in. He walked the rubber roof; a seam is open. He needs a lift to do an assessment. He advised when he has his lift back, he will contact E. Jackson. He advised the rubber roof of the Julia B. Thayer building has five to eight years left on it. There are two leaks on the sixth grade side of the rubber roof.

E. Jackson advised on this building the tiles are dried out and cracked. The contractor said it shouldn't have happened. They should be thirty-year tiles. E. Jackson will go to Baybutt's insurance company.

E. Jackson advised there is an issue with the tarred roof dripping. They could put up dropped tiles. The tar will drip, but it won't land on students.

K. Bazan is concerned about the heating system on the Elementary side. How much life is left?

K. Bazan thinks they should get a professional in here.

E. Jackson explained Jamrod has serviced the system for a long time. They will be here to service the system and set it back on for the season.

Sue Rice knows someone who might be interested in doing the plowing.

E. Jackson explained it is going out to bid tomorrow. They would encourage anyone to bid.

After review and questions, **L. Picard MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$1,076.50; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$121,722.57; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

E. Jackson advised the contractor said there was really no need to snowplow the roof; it could do harm. The issue was probably ice dams.

L. Picard asked if they would be opening up Citizens Comments at the Budget meetings.

K. Bazan doesn't think it needs to be on the agenda.

K. Bazan - Could make comments at regular Board meetings.

K. Bazan MOVED to approve the Operating Manifest of 9/29/16 in the amount of \$6,145; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary