

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MAY 2, 2013**

Board Members Present: T. Croteau, E. Jackson J. Cardinale, B. McGrath  
R. Horton arrived at 7:35 pm.

Administration Present: J. Lewis, L. Schmidt, P. Bigelow, D. Chamberlain

The meeting was called to order by Chair, T. Croteau at 6:34 pm.

**B. McGrath MOVED to approve the Board minutes of April 18, 2013 with corrections; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, amending Lea McLaughlin's title on Page 1 to *Health Trust Pool* and also on Page 1, under T. Croteau asked about the status of the lawsuit and how it impacts us, changing 2012 to 2011; on Page 4, M. Harris should be *M. Harrison*; B. McGrath advised on Page 7 where B. McGrath asked if D. Chamberlain could do those repairs, *he was referring to the circulator. L. Schmidt checked with LGC who advised it would be better to have a professional do it*; VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

L. Schmidt explained she has been working on grants; Title 1 and IDEA have been claimed and finalized through February; the 21C and DFC grants are current and she is still working on the Title II grant as well as three small grants for \$10,000 each. She has been busy with open enrollment and various payroll items, so she has not been able to shut her phone off and close her door to work on grants as she planned.

P. Bigelow advised that M. Harrison wanted to publicly thank L. Schmidt for all her work in getting the grants done up through February.

L. Schmidt explained when she gets through April that will be about \$200,000 for one grant. Advised the goal is to have all grant claims done by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

After review and questions, **J. Cardinale MOVED to approve the Manifest in the amount of \$167,008.62; SECONDED by: B. McGrath, VOTED : 4-0, Motion Passed.**

L. Schmidt advised that Medicaid billing is the next big item to deal with. She had mentioned at a previous meeting about the possibility of looking at the option of another system. She explained that currently, bills are turned over to MSB for payment and the SAU has no control over them once they are submitted. They pay 9% to MSB for processing. L. Schmidt is proposing that the SAU go with the Easy Medicaid System. She spoke to Monadnock and Rochester schools who both have the system in place. M. Braley is already handling most of the process; would only be adding the billing piece. L. Schmidt feels the first year will be a wash as far as cost; it will be more efficient and reduce liability exposure if we were to be audited. L. Schmidt hopes to recoup more revenue than we are now. This type of system would give better control; checks and balances are built in as well. L. Schmidt would propose the transition for next year.

L. Schmidt reviewed the proposal and answered questions of the Board. Explained not all students are eligible for Medicaid. It would cost \$3.00 per month for each Medicaid eligible student for 10 months out of the year. E. Jackson and T. Croteau were concerned that the new Medicaid System would put L. Schmidt further behind.

**J. Cardinale MOVED to start the process to switch over to the Easy Medicaid System; SECONDED by: E. Jackson, after discussion, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

T. Croteau had requested that J. Lewis draft a letter to the Charter Trust Co. requesting checks for various Scholarships. J. Lewis gave a copy of the letter to T. Croteau who read it to the Board.

**E. Jackson MOVED that T. Croteau sign the letter on behalf of the School Board to be sent to the Trustees of the Trust Funds; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 4-0, MOTION PASSED.**

J. Lewis advised that D. Chamberlain picked up the files from SAU 38 in his own vehicle.  
The Board advised D. Chamberlain should put in for mileage.

MFS is very interested in renting the third floor; will come again next week and take measurements, etc.

J. Cardinale would like to show MFS the offices in the Ford Building, also. He feels that area could work and it would move the adult population to one area.

J. Lewis and four staff members will be visiting Greenland School on 5/21/13. J. Lewis and staff also plan to visit Gilmanton and Franklin at some point.

J. Lewis asked the Board if they would consider a mandatory Math class for struggling students. Ultimately, parents would have to agree to it. It could possibly be put in place for next year.

J. Lewis advised Access funding is available.

After discussion, the Board could "highly recommend" it, but they don't think they can require it.

J. Lewis advised Winchester will need a reverse 911 system. At the end of the fiscal year, we will no longer be on the system with Hinsdale. After discussion, T. Croteau asked J. Lewis to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

READ Posters – The School will be making family picture posters tomorrow to be put up around the school. The Board is welcome.

Discussion by J. Lewis regarding a student who will be aging out of the system this month. J. Lewis presented information to the Board for discussion and review, after much discussion, it was agreed that the Board would leave the decision to the discretion of the Superintendent and they will work on a policy.

Danielle Milde distributed information, gave a presentation on possible sites and costs for Nature's Classroom and answered questions of the Board. She feels there is a possibility they could send the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes every other year together. If they go every other year, the entire Middle School would go and get the experience together. Costs have gone down. Trips have been taken in the Spring in the past, but a Fall trip would be cheaper and you can book anytime; the Spring trips book up quickly.

R. Horton feels they should work on a plan for the Fall and make it a reality for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.  
L. Schmidt will need to crunch some numbers to see if it is possible.

D. Milde can get a fundraiser set for the beginning of the year for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

P. Bigelow reminded everyone that the NECAP testing takes a good chunk of October.  
The Board appreciated D. Milde's time.

J. Lewis brought a resignation to the Board. He read the letter from Joanne Gardner.

P. Bigelow advised what J. Gardner has single-handedly done for the school is amazing.

**R. Horton MOVED to accept the resignation of Joanne Gardner with regrets; SECONDED by: J. Cardinale, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.** The Board thanked her for her years of service to Winchester.

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

\*P. Bigelow advised the Ready for Kindergarten workshop is coming up next week. At some point they would like to do an actual mailing to parents to get more interest.

\*Feels phone system is a safety concern; parents with cell phones cannot be reached with the school's current set up. She would like the Board to consider changing the phone system.

#### **FACILITIES REPORT:**

\*D. Chamberlain advised the parking lot storm drain has been patched and the lot has been swept. Things are going well; no problem with the faucets.

B. McGrath asked about the fire doors near the cafeteria.

D. Chamberlain advised it needs new hinges.

B. McGrath advised he can help if needed.

D. Chamberlain feels he should be all set.

L. Schmidt believes the school has set up a Grainger account to purchase that type of item.

\*Oil – thinks they are in good shape, but will hold off a couple of weeks and then request a check for the overpaid oil.

J. Lewis gave an update on the playground. They made \$800.00 at the Talent Show and received \$938 from Box Tops for Education. Explained they have the option of having a supervisor come and work with volunteers, etc. to set up the playground equipment. J. Lewis waiting to hear back from them and then wants to get the ball rolling.

E. Jackson hopes it will be in place for next year.

Someone vandalized the bookmobile; they threw a rock through the window. Nothing was stolen.

B. McGrath wondered if perhaps D. Milde could send a query to parents to see what they would be willing to pay towards Nature's Classroom.

B. McGrath distributed notes/questions to Administration and the Board from the Standards of Learning book and reviewed.

P. Bigelow thinks he will find out they are doing everything in this book.

B. McGrath advised he is still in the dark about information on the Committees he is on.

T. Croteau advised he will be receiving information.

B. McGrath attended the NHSBA Orientation; advised it was an eye opener – felt it was very interesting.

B. McGrath asked about policies.

The Board advised they are on-line.

E. Jackson explained that is the Board's primary role, to review and make policy.

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

Keene Withdrawal Study Committee: R. Horton will work with E. Jackson. They will spread the information about the Committee by word of mouth; putting it in the paper hasn't sparked much interest.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

\*J. Miller advised 81 books were handed out today; three ladies from the Winchester Ladies Club have volunteered to read. He thanked B. McGrath for the books.

\*Three new students in the GED program.

Val Wilbur feels that when thinking about Nature's Classroom, maybe they should just take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year and then every other year due to funding. Feels it may be more doable.

E. Jackson advised it costs less the more people that go.

P. Bigelow advised some locations don't take small groups.

D. Milde will talk to the team this week.

**T.Croteau MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm; SECONDED by: B. McGrath, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary