

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting Minutes - Amended

Date: September 13, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hicks Room

Meeting Facilitator: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent
Nora MocarSKI, Acting BOE Chairman

Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora MocarSKI, Kristin Peterson, Sondra Strubhar, Tara Sundie, and Renata Waldron

I. Call to order: @7:00pm Pledge of Allegiance:

II. Roll call: Tara Sundie, Jeannette Brodeur, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora MocarSKI, Melony Brady-Shanley, Renata Waldron, Salvatore Lovetere, Sondra Strubhar, Kristin Peterson.
Excused: Doug Pfenninger.

III. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: September 13, 2022

Melony Brady-Shanley would like to request that the Board add a crowdfunding request form from teacher Victoria McDonald under Section 12, Item B.

MOTION to add to agenda.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U.

Melony Brady-Shanley would like to add a motion for Policies #6172.1(a) Gifted and Talented Students Program as an action item for a second read.

MOTION to add Policy #6172.1(a) Gifted and Talented Students Program to the agenda for a second read under action items.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U.

Melony Brady-Shanley would like to add Policy 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation for a second read.

MOTION to add 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation to a second read under Board action items. Item 12.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, 7, 1 opposed.

IV. Comments from the Chairman:

Nora Mocarski would like to commend Melony Brady-Shanley publicly, along with the teachers, the whole workforce, and the District, for what we are going to see today on how well the kids did on their standardized tests.

We all know it takes a village and a community and it was very clear with the opening of the new school. We had a lot of people come out over the weekend on their own time who wanted to step in and assist with the preparation of the school opening.

I would also like to commemorate the taxpayers who were willing to put forward the monies to bond for this project. I think it adds a new vitality and attracts more people to our community.

V. Presentations:

a) SBAC and NGSS Assessment Results

Presented By: Melony Brady-Shanley, Seamus Cullinan, Barbara Silverio, Rosanne Field, Glenna Doulakis, Rachael Manzer, and Shannon Ball.

Nora Mocarski would like to recognize the efforts of everyone for the progress that we are making as a District. We need to give everyone a round of applause.

Tara Sundie added that the science achievements may correspond with enthusiasm.

At the end of August, Melony Brady-Shanley was invited by the Commission of Education to participate in a press conference along with four other superintendents to speak about Winchester's performance for the state scores.

She highlighted the following:

1. Pacing and making sure our curriculum was on target and ensuring we maintained the education expectations throughout the pandemic.
2. Social-emotional, for our kids to have a connection to after-school programming Bringing a sense of normalcy and wanting to preserve kids being able to be kids. Kids are not meant to be isolated, and it's not healthy. We worked hard to make sure they had experiences to thrive. We developed CHAMPS at home, which gave kids online access to activities. In the winter, we took the kids skiing at Ski Sundown and taught them how to ski.

QUESTION: Once you get back the SBAC scores, what is the process for the next school year?

We give the students their scores, and we review what they did, where they are going, and what will be taught going forward. Students are given a target which they will work towards.

VI. Public Comment:

Board of Education Chairman to read Public Comment Regulations. Three minutes are allotted to each speaker per Board Policy #1120. No BOE employee, student, or community member should be defamed within a public comment.

Candy Perez, 605 West Wakefield Boulevard, Winsted. I wanted to congratulate the students on their test score performance. I'm also here to support Policy 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation. We are fortunate that the Board, and especially the superintendent over the past 6 years, have implemented best practices and kept policies up to date by law. In recent years, accommodations have been made to include everyone.

VII. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – August 9, 2022

MOTION to approve Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – August 9, 2022

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U.

b) Minutes of Committee Meetings – August 23, 2022

MOTION to approve Minutes of Committee Meetings – August 23, 2022

First: Salvatore Lovetere, Second: Tara Sundie, 6, 0, 2.

VIII. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

Greg Shugrue congratulated the Winchester staff and teachers for their hard work and dedication. He mentioned that the Gilbert School had a smooth start and is looking forward to attending Winchester Board of Education meetings going forward.

IX. Correspondence to the Board:

a) Resignation Letters

- Alison Welcome
- Roger Katz
- Julie Breton
- Sarah Goldie
- Leonel Viera
- Rhonda Holloway
- Kim Roy
- Sibyl Webb

- Lyris Milera-Rivera
- Alexis Calder
- Theresa Rode

QUESTION: How are we handling all the resignations?

We are currently working on actively hiring special education and paraprofessional positions. The paraprofessional position is the most difficult to fill due to the pay rate.

MOTION to accept with regret.

First: Salvatore Lovetere, Second: Kristin Peterson, U

b) Attendance Information

X. Superintendent's Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Superintendent's Report
- b) School Enrollment
- c) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment
- d) Monthly Budget Summary - FY22
- e) Monthly Budget Summary - FY23

XI Board Discussion

- a) Enrollment and the impact on school faculty - Discussion submitted by Sondra Strubhar.
- b) Discussion of School Security Meeting (hosted by Winchester Public Schools) - Discussion submitted by Melony Brady-Shanley

Melony Brady-Shanley had an offer to hold a school security meeting at the end of August but, unfortunately, it didn't happen. The concept of having a security forum is extremely valuable and on the minds of families and staff. A valuable conversation we should engage in to help our community understand how we are making our schools as safe as possible. I would like to open this up for discussion tonight.

My proposal is to hold a school security community forum on Wednesday, October 5, from 6:00-7:00pm. We would hold it at the Pearson School cafeteria. It would be hosted specifically by the WPS, and we would have the following representatives:

- Melony Brady-Shanley representing WPS
- WPS hires a school security consultant to work with us on our all hazards/safety plan
- The Winchester Police Department
- The Winchester Fire Department
- The Winchester Emergency Management Director
- Winsted EMS - waiting for confirmation who will be representing

- Town Manager
- Head of Gilbert School

We have a well-rounded participation panel where we could share important information with our community.

Topics to be discussed:

- General security practices
- Some of the safety procedures
- Required training
- Local support response (from fire/police services)
- Mental health supports that we can provide in school
- Safety assessment that we go through

Melony Brady-Shanley is attending training on September 19-20 on assessing the seriousness of a school threat. She will be in a partnership with the Torrington Police Department.

We will ask people to submit questions ahead of time, so we can prepare for the questions accordingly.

Cheryl McGlynn recommended that we proceed with the school security community forum.

The Board has agreed to move forward with the school security community forum.

XII. Board Action Items:

a) New Hire(s)

- Caroline Morales, Paraprofessional
- Erinn Hunt - Kindergarten Teacher
- Nicole Matysiak - Speech and Language Pathologist
- Jordan Powell - Custodian
- Hannah Kearns - Interventionist
- Amy Mahtaney - Fourth Grade Classroom Teacher
- Heather Erha - ELL Specialist
- Rachel Fulton - Building Substitute
- Abigail Passini - Paraprofessional
- Jennifer Labbe - Music Teacher
- Sarah Ward - Interventionist
- Kaysie Palmer - Paraprofessional

Questions: How many openings do we currently have?

We have 2 special education positions and 3 or 4 paraprofessional positions.

Melony Brady-Shanley and Barbara Silverio met with Victoria McDonald, who is a teacher at Pearson School. She had an idea that came from a story on the news that aired last year about the Hartford public school system receiving a book vending machine. It has a display of all different types of books.

We have been looking for an incentive opportunity for our students at Pearson school.

We are looking for a fundraiser to obtain one of these vending machines. The machine will have chapter books in it, and when students receive special acknowledgments, they will receive a special token. They can pick out a high interest chapter book of their choice. Mrs. McDonald is asking for the Board's support. The machine is approximately a \$6,000 investment.

MOTION to grant Mrs. McDonald permission to move forward with applying for grants and seeking out potential fundraiser opportunities for the purchase of this vending machine.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U.

Policy 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation to a second read under Board action items. Item 12.

MOTION to approve Policy 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation

MOTION to approve Policy 4118.114(a) Gifted and Talented Students Program

First: Kristin Peterson, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, 6, 2, policy passes.

Policy #6172.1(a) Gifted and Talented Students Program to the agenda for a second read under action items.

MOTION to approve Policy 6172.1(a) Gifted and Talented Students Program

First: Jeannette Brodeur, Second: Nora Mocarski, U

XIII. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

a) Teacher Supplies Donated - Hubbell Power Systems

Christine Goodall from a local business in Winsted reached out to Melony Brady-Shanley wanting to donate filled boxes with items teachers were in need of.

Barbara Silverio mentioned the following items that were donated:

- Paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Sticky Notes
- Tape

- Markers
- Zip lock bags
- Tissues
- General school items

MOTION to accept Teacher Supplies Donated - Hubbell Power Systems.

First: Kristin Peterson, Second: Cheryl McGlynn, U.

IX. Public Comment:

Board of Education Chairman to read Public Comment Regulations. Three minutes are allotted to each speaker per Board Policy #1120. No BOE employee, student, or community member should be defamed within a public comment.

David LaPointe, 11 Hillside Avenue, Winsted, CT. I came here tonight to discuss an issue I addressed with the acting Chair. September 17, 1787, was the signing of the US constitution. This gives us equally the rights granted to us citizens of this great country. Rights can be violated by all people in our country. I think it is appropriate that the district and Gilbert school teach the constitution on that day and celebrate that week. You, as a Chair and teacher, assured me that this is being done. I am very happy as a parent and taxpayer to see and hear tonight the presentation by your superintendent on the district's success. Congratulations.

Linda Groppu - 18 Cherry Street, Winsted, CT. I've been here since 7:00 pm listening to all the student's achievements and congratulations. Over a little over six years ago, the town of Winchester's education system failed and was a total embarrassment. Thanks to a strong board of education chairman and Board who are committed and cooperative and look at what has been achieved. Change is difficult, but history has shown that change is good, and the world is changing by the minute. To be successful, we must continue to be proactive and forward-thinking and need to be inclusive to be a strong community. Everyone needs to feel safe and included in school, at home, and throughout our town. Our children are watching us, and everyone is a role model for our young people. We need to focus on what is best to prepare our students for a competitive future and to respect each other and the law.

Chris Bird, 75 Meadow Street, Winsted, CT. Congratulations to the Board and the teachers. Six years ago, we were at rock bottom, and look where we are today. We've come a long way, and I wanted to commend everyone. The second thing I came to talk about today is the policy that was added to the agenda. I wanted to say congratulations on passing (Policy 4118.114(a) Pregnant Employee in the Workplace/Lactation Accommodation). I work in corporate IT, and I work with billion-dollar global companies that emphasize HR policies. Being gender neutral is essential, and I would ask the Board to consider any future policy discussions that gender neutral is almost a given. It's the world that we live in. It's the way that corporate America is instructing its CEOs and its people who write policies and amend policies. I understand many views come to these meetings, but thank you for taking the right and aggressive route. Thank you.

Melony Brady-Shanley would like to include Barbara Silverio in the Executive Session.

MOTION to move to Executive Session including Barbara Silverio.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Kristin Peterson, U.

XI. Adjourn: @ 8:39 pm

X. Executive Session - Discussion of the Assistant Principal position at Pearson School.

MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 9:16 pm.

First: Kristin Peterson, Second: Tara Sundie, U.

MOTION to not fill the Assistant Principal's position and reallocate up to \$35,000 for the hiring of a Behavioral Technician for Pearson School and to pay a stipend of an additional 30 minutes per day for the Superintendent of Schools and Pearson Principal.

First: Jeannette Brodeur, Second: Cheryl McGlynn, U.

MOTION to adjourn the Winchester Board of Education meeting at 9:19pm.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U.