

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Special BOE Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7966671341?pwd=OGh4c1haZkkvcGJ2UHVtZXo4M0VDdz09>

Phone: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 796 667 1341

Passcode: 12345

Meeting Facilitator: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent

Doug Pfenninger, BOE Chairman

Jeannette Brodeur, Richard Dutton, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora Mocariski, Kristin Peterson, Sondra Strubhar, and Renata Waldron

Masks are required at the Town Hall

I. Call to order @ 6:31 pm

II. Roll call:

Doug Pfenninger, Nora Mocariski, Sondra Strubhar, Cheryl McGlynn, Kristin Peterson, Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Melony Brady-Shanley. Salvatore Lovetere joined at 6:38 pm.

III. Business

a) Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

i. Financial Resources (Appropriate, Town Support, Grants)

Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick reviewed the chart and gave a year-to-year comparison. The middle column of numbers talks about what we are expecting. The next line is the federal grants that we get every year.

- Under Medicaid, we have many cases where services are not provided due to COVID, and that's why the numbers have decreased.
- Commissioner's Network Grants are complete. Other state and local grants make up the \$83,000.
- Still working on the non-lapsing fund and trying not to utilize it.
- Town support will stay the same. The Champs' after-school program tuition that is collected is put back into the community.

Question: Is the ask if nothing changes, no increase, or flat budget?

- We are looking for our base amount to stay within these amounts. Funds we can reliably use to begin our budget conversation with.

Question: What happens if your expenses go over the contract agreement?

- No services were contracted. A big chunk of it is our employees and occupational therapists. We can reimburse benefit amounts.

Question: Social workers make \$60,000 a year?

- They provide a service, and we can bill medicare for the bill under our salary budget. All employees are in the wages budget.

Question: How many Pre-K students do we have?

- On the enrollment report, it shows 43.

Question: Do you feel you can fill the classroom?

- Elected to keep the kids home, which was unexpected. We are finding birth to 3 with special education needs, and they tend to enroll in the middle of the year. This builds in the space for them. We have to provide services at 50/50 regular and special education. Birth to 3, we work hand and hand with them and are able to secure spots, and then we are able to start the communication.

Question: What is the maximum? When looking at the chart, are those the guidelines? Do we have the flexibility to move staff around?

- It would be difficult because they teach different classes. Projecting 84 into Kindergarten with 4 or 5 teachers.

ii. Teacher/Student Ratio for Kindergarten and Grade 1

Having four teachers is not meeting contractual obligations. If we go with five teachers, we are. The teacher gets compensated over 18 students in the classroom. If we stay with 4, which is \$45,000, and are able to pay the teachers extra. On the other side, the cost for a 5th teacher with fringe benefits will cost \$55,000. On top of that would bring the total to \$68,000.

Question: How would we like us to proceed with Kindergarten?

- \$45,000 is that more than the contract?
- Seems to be a need for lower class sizes 3

Question: Do the numbers include Paras?

- Depends on the student. Not including extra paras, this is driven by what the students needs are

Melony Brady-Shanley would like to suggest leaving five teachers in Grade 1 is acceptable, and we can handle it. Would like to suggest potentially hiring a Kindergarten teacher at the 68 marker. We would agree to hire in late April or early May to ensure the numbers are coming in as we are projecting. We need to budget for the 5th teacher.

Board is going in the direction of having five teachers in Kindergarten and five teachers in First first grade.

iii. Staffing

Melony Brady-Shanley reviewed the 2022-23 Budget Personnel-All Staff slide with the Board and gave a brief overview of each position.

Melony Brady-Shanley reviewed the Hinsdale/Pearson Instructional Supplies slide. Rosie Field, Barbara Silverio took the Board through Pearson and Hinsdale regarding supporting the continued programs.

Pearson

- Language Arts materials
- Pre-K 3 foundations need to buy workbooks, anchor charts that are used. Reading workshop and readers workshop texts that we purchase to read and materials teaching instructional supplies.
- Grade 2 kits that go along with the curriculum.
- Science, number is large primary grade 6 curriculum. Purchase a lot of instructional materials.
- Students have more workbooks and instructions through the teacher, centers, and workstations.
- Curriculum is online, and they do not have to purchase textbooks.
- Purchase consumables.

Batcheller

- Math program.
 - Bridges math, consumable, workbooks in school and home.
 - Supplemental materials that need to be replaced on the unit.
 - Replacement kit items, wear and tear.
 - Additional grade 1 kit for the classroom.
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- Writing

- Same parts of anchor chargers,
- Instruction for writing, supplemental texts that go along with the goals for the lesson, and writing work.
- Grade 1 classroom kit.

Seamus Cullinan explained the calm down corner and talked about examples of how it works and is used with students.

- Keep kids in the classroom and not have to go to the counselor.
- Using sensory types of materials.
- All classrooms in Batcheller have a calm-down corner.
- Reset boxes help assist students that need to be regulated.
- Reset room materials give them the opportunity to fidget with and are used to help calm down the student.
- Students earn incentives and take a 5-minute break in the hallway.
- Tools help regulate them so they can get back into the classroom.
- Available up until 6th grade.

Melony Brady-Shanley reviewed the Art, Music, Library, and Media Programs

Seamus Cullinan explained assessments and protocols to the Board. Concerns and assess strengths and weaknesses. Some come out of grants funding, and certain things are sometimes not grant-funded.

Seamus Cullinan reviewed the Special Education Instructional Supplies Document

Question: What is the number of Special Ed students in K-6?

- Grades 7-12, 75
- Pre-K 110
- Gilbert, 69
- In District, 103
- Out of District, 20

OT/PT

SLP

SEL

Question: Do we have a student resource center in the district?

- We have a resource center at Oak Street School. Next year, we will have one in Hinsdale and Pearson. Program moves with kids' needs.

Field Experiences, support students with alignment with Science and take them out and have hands-on experiences. Reviewed with the Board.

Question: How is transportation arranged? A couple of hours, day?

- Different based on where they're going

Question: Are trips cancelled due to COVID?

- Students are out and about more frequently. During the time of COVID, we have moved to virtual or events have been cancelled. We are eventually moving to the point of being open.

Barb Silverio, Rosanne Field, and Seamus Cullinan reviewed the Software/Licenses.

Question: What is the difference between Lexia and Lexia Core 5?

- Lexia core 5 has power up used with older students.

[Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick](#) reviewed CrowdStrike Cyber Security

Question: Could we work with the Town?

- The Town has not gone down the road for cyber security.

Question: Who made the recommendation?

- The head of our IT Department

Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Melony Brady-Shanley, the Town Manager, the Finance Director got together with our insurance team, and it's collaborative.

Question: Do we have the best cyber package?

- Will look into the information and get back to the Board

Question: Did we pay Efinance an initial fee?

- Yes, we did. This is the annual subscription amount. Support that comes along with the fee.

Question: What is ERate used for?

- It could be Chromebooks and smartboards

Question: Did you find subscriptions that we could eliminate?

- We can review and have the information for you next time.

Melony Brady-Shanley mentioned that we would take the feedback and insert the other objects into the budget and come back to the Board next time. We will review the changes and come back to you with the other budget areas and begin to layout a potential percentile for our next meeting.

Question: To add a column to brief description

- Yes, we can do that
 - iv. Capital Projects
 - v. Selected Object Code Spending Recommendations

IV. Adjournment @ 8:44pm