

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting MINUTES

Date: November 9, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: In-Person - Town Hall – Hicks Room

Meeting Facilitator: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent  
Doug Pfenninger, BOE Chairman

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

Masks are required at the Town Hall

- I. Swearing in of New Members @ 7:03 pm by Town Clerk, Sheila Sedlack:  
Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Sondra Strubhar, and Renata Waldron
- II. Call to order @ 7:03pm
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll call:  
Jeannette Brodeur, Richard Dutton, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn (Excused to leave at 7:17 pm), Nora MocarSKI, Kristin Peterson, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Doug Pfenninger
- V. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:
  - a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: November 9, 2021

Superintendent M. Brady-Shanley would like to suggest the movement and addition of the following items for tonight's agenda:

1. To move item "c) Pearson HVAC Discussion with Ken Eldridge from Silver Petrucelli & Associates Inc." under "New Business Discussion and Possible Action" to item "b" in "VIII Presentations" following "a) Winchester Kid Governor Presentation."
2. To add to "Action Items" under Letter J "New Business and Possible Action" to approve ARC and ESSER, and X grant for \$XXX
3. To add to "Action Items" under Letter J under "New Business and Possible Action" to approve Kloter Farms Barn quote for \$67,804.

**MOTION** to accept all three changes as recommended

First: N. MocarSKI, Second: K. Peterson: → U.

- VI. Comments from the Chairman:  
Winchester Board Chair Doug Pfenninger welcomes new members to the Winchester Board of Education, and we are very excited to work with diverse backgrounds. Please do not be hesitant to ask questions.  
We are very fortunate to have the talent and dedication of all the administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The credit belongs to these individuals working in the day-to-day business of educating children.

VII. Election of Officers - Winchester Board of Education Organizational Meeting

a) Election of Chairperson

Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.

**MOTION** to accept the nomination of Doug Pfenninger as Board of Education Chair

First: C. McGlynn, Second: K. Peterson → 9-0. U.

b) Election of Secretary

Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.

**MOTION** to accept the nomination of Nora MocarSKI as Board of Education Secretary

First: R. Dutton, Second: S. Strubhar → 9-0. U.

c) Committee Assignments will be created in the December meetings. Please email Chairman D. Pfenninger on preferences before this time for the following committees:

- 1) Policy Chair and Membership
- 2) Curriculum Chair and Membership
- 3) Finance Chair and Membership

VIII. Presentations:

a) Winchester Kid Governor Presentation - Finalists presented their platforms

b) HVAC Presentation with Ken Eldridge from Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Inc. [Handout]

(This item was moved up from "New Business Discussion and Possible Action")

OPTION #1: VRF upgrade - \$6,847,500 ← Recommended by Silver Petrucelli &

Assoc

OPTION #2: RTU upgrade - \$9,130,000

OPTION #3: CHILLER upgrade - \$9,828,500

Spot cooling takes place, rejecting air over the windows. The age of equipment is past its useful service life; Some equipment was non-functional; Deterioration and in-operability due to deferring maintenance.

Question: Can you rank order options based upon consumption of most electricity?

- VRF - all-electric. Using compressors doing heating and cooling and are highly efficient; High on electricity, low on fossil
- RTU - combined electrical and gas for an upgrade. Gas rates might go up shortly at 30%.
- CHILLER - all-electric. Decent efficiency but must add water flow and maintenance to a system that would be difficult to maintain and require a service contract.

Next steps: operational costs will increase any of these systems you would install.

Question: Can these be set up to incorporate a solar array to offset electrical costs? Yes.

Expecting a 72% reimbursement rate. ARP and ESSER funds would support some of these costs and project based funding through the Department of Administrative Services. BOE could fully fund without.

Will the ductwork need to be replaced? Many units sit up against the wall. All ducts would be small ventilation ducts, so the small, tempered units. Can repurpose much of the existing work.

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.

Michelle Hintz, 67 Holmes Road of Winsted, wished the newly elected congratulations and thanks BOE Chairman D. Pfenninger for bringing calm, and thanks to Superintendent M. Brady-Shanley for her leadership. All here truly for the kids.

M. Hintz also passes along to new members the following as had been learned from CABA six years ago: Leave politics and personal agendas at the door. Be respectful. Once a vote has been made, accept it. Know your "seat on the bus." Know your role and stay in it. Ask questions and learn. This Board is about the kids. We've been through a lot in six years and hope the positive direction shall continue.

Tara Sundie stated that it had been a pleasure to work alongside a dedicated group of volunteers as a former Winchester Board of Education member. She thanked the Board for encouraging her to ask questions and stated that it was good to know Board members were there. She expressed thanks to Melony, Nancy, and administrators for their dedication to kids and their opportunities. She is also happy to be here for the announcement of Kid Governor. T. Sundie is proud of the opportunity to sit on the BOE and hopes everyone has the same experience.

Christine Rogers asked if the meeting would be recorded tonight? Chairman Pfenninger stated that it would be via the town website, and it is streaming live via Youtube, whose link is found on the Town of Winchester page. It is also on Channel 194 on the Charter network. A recording will also be made of this meeting on the Youtube Channel. We can also ask the Town Manager to send this information.

X. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – October 12, 2021  
Change "mounting" to "amounting" under "V. A. 2" and change, "are" to "have" under XIII. A. 1.
- b) Minutes of Policy Meeting – October 26, 2021
- c) Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting – October 26, 2021
- d) Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting – October 26, 2021
- e) Minutes of Special Meeting – October 26, 2021

**MOTION** to accept the minutes of the Consent Agenda Items, a) through e) with two edits as presented (page 15 and page 17)

First: R. Dutton Second: K. Peterson → U. 4-0-4

XI. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

Mr. Shurgue looks forward to continuing the collaboration between the Winchester Board of education and The Gilbert School. Facing challenges in "doing school." Doing curriculum writing. Unpacking the CCT, It is good to be back.

Question: What is your testing regiment at Gilbert?

Answer: Assessments used include SRI, SBAC, PSAT, SAT data, and SARS. Mr. Shurgue is familiar with and recognizes that the NWEA assessment is a valuable test for student growth K-6.

XII. Correspondence to the Board:

a) CABA Liaison Newsletter

New Board members have an informational packet in front of them.

b) Letter of Resignation

**MOTION** to accept the letter of resignation with regret

First: D Pfenninger, Second: N. Mocarski → U.

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

a) Superintendent's Report

A reminder that Superintendent MBS presents information with the lens of "Instruction," "Operations," and "Leadership" because her annual assessment document measures these indicators.

Report pages 26 through 27 read into the record, including today's news of a new "Screen and Stay" protocol allowing parents to attest that their child is symptom-free and can attend school.

b) School Enrollment

Highest enrollment in about eight years in the district. Total 559 students. Nexus: 673.

With 104 kindergarten enrollment, Winchester is bucking the trend of Litchfield County.

c) Chronic Absences

Ave daily attendance 93% as of October

It is hoped that "Screen and Stay" can help this number improve.

d) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment

422 students at Gilbert, 17 international, 1 out of distinct 440 students

e) Monthly Budget Summary - FY22

Appropriated Budget was discussed (page 32)

Summary Operating Budget was discussed (page 33)

Grant Budget Year was discussed (page 34) with graph (page 35)

f) Monthly Hinsdale Report

The report on pages 37-38 was read into the record.

The global supply chain has not hit this project too hard. However, there was one issue about the Rigid Foam Materials. This material will not be available until October of 2022, so this has forced a change in some designs, but it will not impact the ready date. It is now set as July 2022. This was moved back from June 2022 because of the problem of the pitch of the sanitary septic line. This sanitary line was dug up and repitched.

XIV. Board Action Items:

a) New Hires

Valerie Knorr, Gena Giumarro, Michelle Mongeau, and Amy Carlson have been hired.

b) 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

MBS thanks Mr. Shugrue for coordinating their school calendars

Hinsdale's timeline is tight because we are hiring a moving company.

We have shifted the early start summer program (ESY) to Pearson from June 13 to June 30 because of the building moves.

Shifted the start of school to August 31 to give construction the optimal amount of time.

Half days to support professional development

Half days in October aligns with Gilbert

**MOTION** to accept the 2022-2023 school calendar

First: N. Mocarski, Second: K. Peterson → U.

- c) Review of the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF & E) Package for Phase 2 of the Hinsdale School Renovation Project to be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services.

209 page-report includes Phase 2 of three phases of the Hinsdale project.

The "Furniture, Fixture or Equipment" rules must last at least 20 years and/or attached to the building. This is not "consumable" material.

Does not include lighting.

Total FF & E package is \$172,761, page 58.

**MOTION** to accept the package review for Phase 2 of the Hinsdale School Renovation Project to be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services.

This is an acknowledgment that we have received it.

First: N. Mocarski, Second: J. Brodeur → 7-0-1

- d) Review of the Playground Package for Phase 3 of the Hinsdale School Renovation Project to be submitted to the Department of Administrative Services.

**MOTION** to approve the Playground Package for Phase 3 of the Hinsdale School Renovation Project (5-12 Playground: \$138,854.00 + 2-5 Playground: \$111,755.00)

First: N. Mocarski, Second: K. Peterson, → 7-0-1

XV. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

- a) Policy #4118.239(a) - COVID Vaccination Requirements - 2nd Read

**MOTION** to accept Policy #4118.239(a)

First: N. Mocarski, Second: K. Peterson → 6-2. Passes.

- b) CABE Training for Board of Education Members and the Superintendent - Potential available dates - 11/22, 11/23, **11/30 (7:00)**, 12/1, 12/9, 12/14, 12/20, 12/21, 12/22

The Board Chair proposes that Nick Caruso come and give the Winchester Board of Education a refresher.

An email will be sent confirming Nick Caruso for this training at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

- c) Approve ARP IDEA 611 \$54,747. For recovery. Programmatic costs only. It cannot be used for staffing but can be used for contractor support. Example: BCBA support, Professional development in reading, for instance, to contract speech pathologists. For kids who have lost ground due to COVID.

**MOTION** to accept ARP IDEA 611 for \$54,747.

First: R. Waldron, Second: K. Peterson → U.

- d) Approve ARP IDEA 619 \$5,235. This grant is for the same purpose but a different age group.

**MOTION** to accept ARP IDEA 619 for \$5,235.

First: J. Brodeur, Second: K. Peterson → U.

- e) Approve ESSER II SPED Recovery Activities \$40,000

**MOTION** to accept ESSER II SPED Recovery Activities for \$40,000.

First: N. Mocarski, Second: K. Peterson → U.

- f) Approve ESSER II Bonus SPED Special Population Recovery \$25,000

**MOTION** to approve ESSER II Bonus SPED Special Population Recovery \$25,000.

First: R. Dutton, Second: S. Strubhar → U.

- h) Approve ESSER II Bonus Dyslexia Recovery \$16,250

**MOTION** to approve ESSER II Bonus Dyslexia Recovery \$16,250.

First: N. Mocarski, Second: K. Peterson → U.

- g) Approve BOE to Request BOS to Deposit \$307,274 into BOE Non-Lapsing Account

**MOTION** to request the Board of Selectmen to Deposit \$307,274 into the BOE Non-Lapsing account.

First: N. Mocarski, Second: R. Dutton → U.

- h) To approve ARP IDEA and ESSER grants for \$10,196 for homeless students.

**MOTION** to approve ARC and ESSER grant for \$10,196 for homeless students.

First: J. Brodeur, Second: R. Waldron

- i) To approve Kloter Farms Barn quote for \$67,804.

Discussion: A barn to cover our district equipment because we will lose the barn at Batcheller. A conduit line will be put in during the Hinsdale construction process. It will hold some Pearson equipment.

The wiring of this barn would have to be put out to bid because it would be anticipated to be over \$5000.

**MOTION** to direct the superintendent to provide the Winchester Board of Education with additional quotes for the purchase of a storage facility and foundation up to \$80,804.

First: S. Lovetere, Second: S. Strubhar → U.

XVI. 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.

NONE.

XVII. Adjourn:

**MOTION** to adjourn @ 10:09pm

First: R. Waldron, Second: K. Peterson

Minutes submitted by Nora Mocarski, BOE Secretary.