

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting MINUTES

Date: September 14, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: In-Person - Town Hall - Hicks Room

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

Members: Nora Mocarski, Kristin Peterson, Richard Dutton, Alexandria Propfe, Cheryl McGlynn, Michelle Hintz, Shana DeVaux, and Tara Sundie

Mask are required at the Town Hall

- I. Call to order @ 7:01pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll call:

BOE PRESENT: M. Hintz, R. Dutton, N. Mocarski, D. Pfenninger, T. Sundie, C. McGlynn, A. Propfe, K. Peterson

BOE ABSENT: Shana DeVaux (unexcused)

Central Office Present: Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Director of Business Services & Finance

Administration Present: Principal B. Silvero, Principal R. Fields

- IV. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: September 14, 2021

To add under "Action Items" discussion about "Trunk or Treat."

To add under "Action Items" appointment of Winchester Board of Education Members to the WEA Teacher Negotiation Committee

To add to "Correspondence," the letter received to the Winchester Board of Education from the State Department of Education

- V. Comments from the Chairman:

Winchester Board Chair D. Pfenninger recognizes and commends the Winchester community's fortitude and dedication in mitigating factors, including the wearing of masks, to help ensure that our students are physically in school, and thus, benefitting from an in-person education. He also recognizes and thanks students for being resilient in overcoming obstacles and making decisions based on the community's needs.

- VI. Presentations:

a) NWEA / ICA Assessments – M. Brady-Shanley [HANDOUT]

Four major reasons were provided for the inquiry into which assessment tool would be the best for the district. The first few steps in selecting the assessment products were described, and a list of "pros and cons" of each of the three products under examination was shared. The rationale for the final selection of the assessment tool was presented. In summary, it was deemed that NWEA will be the final assessment tool. The Board presented the final rationale, including the general layout of the next steps entitled, "Three-Prong Approach."

A review of the effectiveness of NWEA shall be made by the Fall of 2022.

- VII. Public Hearing:

Five minutes allotted to each speaker per Board Policy #9325 No BOE employee, Students or community members should be defamed within a public comment.

Jeannette Brodeur introduced herself, provided her background, and stated that she was running for the Winchester Board of Education in the November 2021 Elections.

Renee Waldron introduced herself, provided her background, and stated that she was running for the Winchester Board of Education in the November 2021 Election.

An unidentified person asked if the remediation provided by Khan, an online platform as part of the "Three-Prong Approach" as outlined with the NWEA presentation, was during home or at school hours. Superintendent MBS replied that it is a combination of both, at school, during time built into the school's schedule called "WIN" (What I Need Now), and at home as students have district laptops that provide access.

VIII. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – August 17, 2021

MOTION to accept the Minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting dated August 17, 2021

First: C. McGlynn Second: T. Sundie → 7-0-1

IX. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

Winchester BOE representatives who sit on the Gilbert School Corporation reported that both districts are looking to secure a date at the end of September to discuss common goals and objectives. The Board was reminded that Gilbert Head of School Mr. Shugrue was hired on July 1, 2021, and has since conducted many meetings. Gilbert conducted a successful summer program using ESSER funds for intervention. Specific students were sent invitations. Negotiations are currently underway for the teacher's contract with the Gilbert Education Association. Gilbert is having difficulty filling math positions. Fall sports are underway. Masks are required for indoor sports. The auditorium roof repair is underway. Gilbert has decided to stay with Attorney Bezz in his new firm. There will no longer be weekly robocalls. Instead, the website will be updated and be used as an important mode of communication. However, this topic is also on the Gilbert School Corporation agenda for 9/15/2021. An open house was conducted via "bingo-style" to reduce crowding in the hallways in light of COVID. It was estimated 30-40% of parents were present.

X. Correspondence to the Board:

a) Letters of Resignation

The letters of Annamari Curtiss, Speech-Language Pathologist, Lyndsey Rizk, Special Education teacher, and Heather Miller, RN Nurse, were summarized by Superintendent Brady-Shanley.

MOTION to accept the three letters of resignation with regret.

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

b) Letter from the STATE BOARD of education dated September 2021

The letter was read into the record. It acknowledged the importance of in-person instruction as critical for student success. It also recognized the critical importance of mitigation efforts underway that support "safe and healthy school environments."

Charlene Russell-Tucker has officially been appointed Commissioner of Education for the Connecticut State Department of Education.

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

a) Superintendent's Report

Pages 10-11 were read into the record.

Working to reduce the impact of the shortage of bus drivers that exists across the State of Connecticut

The work with Head of School Mr. Shugrue has been very positive and collaborative.

b) School Enrollment

There is an increase in enrollment of 20 students in the district as of September 1, 2021.

This represents the largest enrollment in the last six years. Today it is 564. Increases are largely from families that have moved into Winsted.

Kindergarten is currently at 98. "67" on page 12 is a typo.

c) Chronic Absences

August data was reviewed on page 13.

d) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment

424 Gilbert enrollment

e) Monthly Budget Summary - FY22

The district Appropriated Budget is "in the black" at \$16,417 for this fiscal year 2022, as reported on page 16 of this report.

The Projected Year-End Grant is \$712,075 as of this August 31, 2021 report.

f) Monthly Hinsdale Report

Report on page 19 of the packet was read into the report. We are in good shape with ordering materials, having planned way ahead for these items.

g) Year-End Projection FY21

The year has closed at \$278,315. This is the final report.

h) Executive Order Update 13d – COVID and Mask Update

Executive Order 13d was discussed.

After September 21, 2021 - per Executive Order 13d, WBOE employees and contracted individuals that have contact with students must either be 1) fully vaccinated, OR 2) religiously OR 3) medically exempt. If #2 and/or #3, persons must submit to weekly COVID testing. Persons that are neither #1, 2, or 3 cannot be hired by the Winchester Board of Education going forward.

Reiterated that masking is required in our public schools per the Governor's Executive Order. There have been no compliance issues inside the building.

The State of Connecticut will be issuing directives related to Addendum 5: That is, if students exhibit COVID-related symptoms, the ask is that students do not come to school. Superintendent MBS was already acting in this way.

Students can get a Rapid Test free of charge inside the School-Based Health Center if they exhibit symptoms. However, parents have to be present. It will be administered in the parking lot

in Pearson for all students K-6. School-Based Health Center and grants for COVID are expected to fund this procedure.

Superintendent MBS shared community statistics of vaccinated individuals to date:

Ages 12-17 - 34% vaccinated
Ages 18-24 - 40% vaccinated
Ages 25-44 - 51% vaccinated
Ages 45-64 - 59% vaccinated
Ages 65+ - 91% vaccinated

SOURCE: Torrington Area Health Department

And Winchester has the 4th lowest vaccination rate in the group of 45 towns.

There are 18 different vaccination sites around the State of Connecticut.

It was also noted that the 12-17 age group is the group that impacts our middle and high school. And only 34% of these students are vaccinated.

The statistical analysis here means vigilance against household and community spread is important and mitigating factors are critical to this end.

A COVID vaccination clinic will be available locally on September 18, 2021, from 10 am to 5 pm

XII. Board Action Items:

a) New Hires

New hires, as presented in the BOE packet, were reviewed. Pp 26-35.

b) Approve Dime Oil Contract for up to 20,000 gal

RFP for Dime Oil out of Winchester. Klebe Oil also submitted a bit.

MOTION to approve Dime Oil to deliver oil at \$2.32 per gallon for July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021, up to 20,000 gallons.

First, M. Hintz, Second: K. Peterson → U.

c) Field Trip Request for Family Resource Center

Field trip to Rowley Field Park, Oakdale/Glendale Ave. Park, Brodie Park, Susan Grossman Walking Trail, People's State Park, Platt Hill State Park.

Families are to meet their students at these locations

All families are welcome

MOTION to approve the field trips requested as presented.

First: M. Hintz, Second: C. McGlynn

XIII. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

Informational: There will be a "Trunk or Treat" on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Cars must arrive by 5 pm to be decorated.

The rain date is Sunday, October 31, 2021. The rain date starts at 4:30 - 6 pm.

Looking for members of the BOE to participate.

The Winchester BOE will not be funding this event.

Winchester Education Association is about to begin negotiations for the teacher's contract. Meetings will be held on October 6, Oct 13, 18th, 3:30 to 6:30. The location will be at Town Hall, 3rd floor. There is a call for at least one Winchester BOE member to participate. Preferably two.

The following Winchester Board of Education members who volunteered without objection are:

Doug Pfenninger
Kristin Peterson
Tara Sundie - as a tentative alternate.

XV. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn at 8:50pm

First: C. McGlynn, Second: M. Hintz

Minutes submitted by: N. Mocarski, Winchester Board of Education Secretary.