

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting MINUTES

Date: August 17, 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 required at the town hall

- I. Call to order:
Call to order at 7:02pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:
- III. Roll call:
Present: Nora Mocarski, Kristin Peterson, Richard Dutton, Cheryl McGlynn, Michelle Hintz, Shana DeVaux, and Tara Sundie
Absent: Michelle Hintz, Alex Propfe, and Shana DeVaux
- IV. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:
 - a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: August 17, 2021
Motion to add correspondence from Ms. Jessica Duff under "Correspondence to the Board."
First: K. Peterson, Second: R. Dutton → U.
Motion to discuss an invitation to all the teachers from Batcheller for the "Beam Signing" activity tomorrow at 8 am. This is to sign the last beam that is going into Hinsdale
First: K. Peterson, Second: R. Dutton → U.
Motion to move "Correspondence" to the end of the agenda
First D. Pfenninger, Second: C. McGlynn
Motion to add correspondence from Ashley Totino under "Correspondence to the Board."
First: T. Sundie, Second: D. Pfenninger → U.
- V. Comments from the Chairman:
None
- VI. Presentations:
 - a) New WPS Employees
Six new teachers attended the meeting in person and were introduced to the Board of Education. The backgrounds of three other new teachers was also read into the record. Pages 3-4 of the Board packet.
- 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.
None.
- VIII. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:
 - a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – June 8, 2021

- b) Minutes of Special Meeting – June 22, 2021
- c) Minutes of Special Meeting – July 20, 2021

Motion to approve all minutes a), b), and c) with changes to page 10 of the "Minutes of Special Meeting - July 20, 2021" (Summer Retreat) under Item "2-a-i" to spell "Batcheller" correctly, under Item "3-a-i" to spell Padin and Shugrue correctly, and 3a i: Talking points. 8 a) i: Sundie
First: Kristen, Second: Doc -- > U.

IX. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

Members who serve on the Gilbert Board: K. Peterson, D. Pfenninger, R. Dutton reported on the following:

Mr. Shugrue's presentation of the Gilbert School Improvement Plan was quickly summarized. The impression was that the presentation was well organized, covering relevant issues, and was very informative. Standardized scores were discussed, and an increase of 10% in student performance was established for next year. Gilbert is still looking for two math teachers. Gilbert is in the beginning steps of a self-examination. The meeting was convivial, and leadership was open to hearing people's concerns. Mr. Shugrue spoke optimistically of working with all regional superintendents.

X. Correspondence to the Board: **Item MOVED TO Item XIV of this agenda from Motion made in "Agenda Review"**

- a) Letters of Resignation
- b) Letter from Melissa Patterson Received August 3, 2021 – Mask Concerns

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

- a) Superintendent's Report
 - Page 21 was read into the record
- b) School Enrollment
 - Superintendent MBS reports an increase of K to 99 students. We hired an additional teacher for a total of five kindergarten teachers.
 - Total nexus is now at 691.
 - 14 students will come back to WPS who were homeschooled in 2020-21. Eight students will remain homeschooled for 2021-22.
- c) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment
 - Projected to be 424
- d) Monthly Budget Summary - FY22
 - Projection of being "in the black" of \$20,236
- e) Year-End Report FY21
 - Working out on closing FY21. We are at approximately \$263,293, and we are pushing hard to close out FY21 at the end of August. Shipping is a problem. Hard close is scheduled for September 2021 for FY21.
 - The state has been more lenient in carrying over grant monies at approximately \$400,000. See page 29 of the Board of Education packet.
 - ESSER II (approximately \$850,000) is not included.
 - Food services have broken even (page 31 of Packet)
- f) Monthly Hinsdale Report

See images on page 32 of Board Packet. Foundation of the new building is entirely in. The last steel beam will be placed tomorrow. The culvert/stream is now open. Ductwork is being installed, a new wall for the LMC is going into place, bathrooms are being worked on, and the concrete is cut for the sanitation line.
A question about the possible impact of recent heavy rains: MBS responded that the contractors engaged in "dewatering" meditations, but there were no other issues related to heavy rains and the project.

g) WPS Reopening Protocols

Superintendent MBS led two in-person meetings on our WPS Reopening Protocols that occurred, and one of these two was also online.

Governor Lamont's Executive Order on masking is in place, and our district will follow this order for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

If a parent insists on not wearing a mask, we hope to engage and work with the family to move towards this requirement. And parents may also choose to disenroll their children. Of course, we would discourage this and prefer that all students stay in our district.

XII. Board Action Items:

a) New Hires

New hires were announced. See Board Packet pages 38-51.

For clarification, Carlson and Heller will be paid per General Budget

b) Review and Submission of the ARP ESSER Grant - \$1,609,745.00

ARP ESSER stands for "American Rescue Plan Every Student Succeeds...." - This is a grant from the COVID response. This has restrictions on its spending. 20% of the monies must go to academic recovery, and 80% must go to other specifics (see page 52 of Packet).

The grants listed here all have deadlines in which to spend all funding.

MOTION to approve "ARP ESSER Grant" (\$1,609,745.)

First: C. McGlynn, Second: T. Sundie → U.

d) COVID Special Ed Stipend Grant - \$20,000.00

MOTION to approve "COVID Special Ed Stipend Grant" (\$20,000)

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

e) CHAMPS After School Grant - \$200,000.00

MOTION to approve "CHAMPS After School Grant" for \$161,000, a \$61,000 increase to our CHAMPS program with the change to the monetary amount from \$200,000 to \$160,000.

First: T. Sundie, Second: K. Peterson → U.

f) FRC COVID Summer Program Grant - \$18,800.00

MOTION to approve the "FRC COVID Summer Grant" for \$18,800.

First: C. McGlynn Second: T, Sundie → U.

g) School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant - \$3,881.00

MOTION to approve the "School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant for \$3881.

First: K. Peterson, Second: C. McGlynn

c) Board of Education Goals for 2021-2022

MOTION to approve the 2021-2022 Board of Education Goals as presented on pages 53-54 of the Board Packet

R. Dutton, C. McGlynn → U.

XIII. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

a) Discussion of Maintenance Building at the Hinsdale School

Since the district will lose access to the "Red Barn" storage at Batcheller once the school becomes the town's property once Batcheller no longer serves as a school, Superintendent MBS proposes to create some maintenance facility at Hinsdale to house district equipment.

b) Discussion of additional space for Special Education and Preschool

The district needs space for the "Birth to Five" program, tutoring for suspended students if required, and other program development, as well as for four staff members. Superintendent MBS proposes to use the Bank of America for increasing special education needs. Minor renovations would be needed.

MOTION to have D. Pfenninger and Superintendent MBS to attend the BOS meeting on September 7, 2021, to discuss the possibility of using the Bank of America for the space needed for the Special Education program of the Winchester Public School.

First: R. Dutton, Second: C. McGlynn → U.

c) Discussion of HVAC needs at Pearson School

Proposal is to provide whole-school HVAC, which would be in alignment with Hinsdale. The first part would be a study, then drawings to move towards a full-building HVAC

XIV. Correspondence to the Board:

a) Letters of Resignation

Letter of resignation was read and accepted with regret from Sam Carpinello

Letter of resignation was read and accepted with regret from Kayla King

Letter of resignation was read and accepted with regret from Kishana Pinnock

b) Letter from Mellissa Patterson Received August 3, 2021 – Mask Concerns

Letter concerning masking from Mellissa Patterson was read into the record from Board Packet pages 15-20.

c) Letter from Jessica Duff Received August 5, 2021, via email - Mask Support

Letter concerning masking from Jessica Duff was read into the record.

d) Letter from Ashley Totino Received August 6, 2021, via email - Concerned Parent

Letter concerning masking from Ashley Totino was read into the record.

XV. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm

First: C. McGlynn, Second: K. Peterson → U.