

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Special Meeting - Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7966671341?pwd=OGh4c1haZkkvcGJ2UHVtZXo4M0VkdDdz09>

Phone: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 796 667 1341

Passcode: 12345

Call to Order: 7:06 PM

Roll Call: Doug Pfenninger, Kristin Peterson, Cheryl McGlynn (absent - excused), Steve Sedlack, Jennifer Marchand, Ellen Marino, Dr. Tony Serio, Alison Shea (absent - excused), Melony Brady-Shanley, Dr. R. Dutton

#### I. Acceptance of Minutes

##### a) Meeting of November 19, 2020

Motion - Sedlack, 2nd Marino - U.

#### II. Business

##### a) Winchester Board of Education Ad Hoc Negotiation Committee and The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation

###### 1) Negotiations

E. Marino - Sole Designation - Open for discussion but would like more information regarding other designated districts. Length of contract - Believes that historically, WPS has been unstable more so than TGS, e.g. receivership. Would prefer a long-term contract, more than two years. October 1, 2020 - Willing to consider using this date to set the enrollment figure that's used to calculate per pupil cost and pro rata shares in the following year. Seeking to establish a process for establishing tuition rather than setting a flat rate.

D. Pfenninger - Sole Designation - Gilbert would remain a choice. Acknowledges that TGS has been around for a significant time. WPS would like to observe the transition to the new Head of School model. Enrollment - October 1 - Adjustment is made in the following school year. Capital expense - Expecting significant spending in the near future. Seeking clarification on how to handle capital increases over the coming years. Need to protect taxpayers from sudden surge.

E. Marino - Does not believe the contracts set by the Receiver were precedent setting. Believes WPS should appreciate having seats on the Corporation as they have direct input on budget. Does not believe the capital improvements are the responsibility of the Trust just like the Town side of municipal budget is not responsible for capital improvement, the WBOE is. Reports that history shows the budgets have been relatively stable so concern about a million or two million dollar surge is unfounded.

D. Pfenninger - Does not believe that TGS would be irresponsible with regards to capital improvements. WPS is seeking to protect capital increases through planned savings for

projects. Concerned regarding the cost of the five year plan and how the projects would be funded.

E. Marino - Budget - Gilbert has a capital reserve account and plans ahead for capital improvements. Proposing a process to establish tuition. Trust paid for the renovation of TGS as well as building the facilities. By closing the door on a long-term contract, WPS denies GBOE access to state for reimbursement for school construction projects. Winchester is the vehicle through which bonding is obtained. GBOE position is we can work together on capital improvements. Questioned the Mayor's proposed legislation to change state law regarding endowed academies and what WBOE position is as it relates to our negotiations.

D. Pfenninger - Not looking to talk about proposed legislation during this negotiation session.

E. Marino - Seeking WPS to "sell" the educational program to the town should increases need to be made. Acknowledges WPS has, post receivership, made tremendous and needed improvements to the Winchester school system and the loss of commission funds was expected. Now is the time to maintain what has been established and it would be better for the town if both districts promote the education system collaboratively. Seeking a process for setting tuition.

D. Pfenninger - Need clarification on what impact enrollment decrease/increases have on tuition amounts.

E. Marino - Trust the superintendents to set the budget and the board ultimately approves it. We need to respect the process and let them do their jobs. Both districts must offer a quality education to all students.

D. Pfenninger - Budget development committee. What would the role of the committee be?

E. Marino - Committee would pre-determine prior to the board and determine if the budget is reasonable. Committee membership would have insight/input into the budget process/development. Communication in the process would be key but the board is the only entity that approves the budget.

D. Pfenninger - Agree regarding the importance of communication and transparency. Committee would have no say over the budget approval. Approval would only be done at the Board level.

E. Marino - Would like the Boards to be more collaborative.

D. Pfenninger - BOE has concerns regarding small class size. Seeking for explanation regarding scheduling and class development. Thought process behind determining sections vs. enrollment.

E. Marino - Enrollment - Agreeable to use October 1 date for census. Adjustment in following year.

D. Pfenninger - Would like to discuss with the team and reconvene in 2 weeks.

III. Adjournment - Motion - Marino, 2nd Sedlack - U. 7:55 PM.