

Winchester Board of Education
Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting MINUTES
Date: May 12, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7966671341?pwd=OGh4c1haZkkvcGJ2UHVtZXo4M0VDdz09>
Phone Number: 1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 796 667 1341
Password: 12345

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

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

Call to order @ 7:02

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:

Board of Education Members Present: Nora Mocarski, Kristin Peterson, Richard Dutton, Alexandria Propfe, Cheryl McGlynn, Michelle Hintz, and Tara Sundie
Board of Education Members Absent: Shana DeVaux
District/Central Office Staff: M. Brady-Shanley, Superintendent, N. O’Dea-Wyrick, Director of Finance & Business Services, Seamus Cullinan, Director of Student Services,
Winchester Administrators: Barbara Silverio, Principal of Pearson School, and Rosanne Field, Principal of Batcheller School

Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: May 12, 2020
MOTION to add under “Executive Session” the letter from Attorney Alison Shea under attorney-client privilege.
First: C. McGlynn, Second: M. Hintz → U.
MOTION: To add a sole source for repair work under “Board Action Items”
First: K. Peterson, Second: C. McGlynn → U.

Comments from the Chairman
None.

Gilbert Report:

Steve Sedlack delivered news on three items:

What is going on at Gilbert in terms of learning?

Some students are thriving, some struggling, but most students are in between.

Faculty organized a faculty parade last Friday to attempt to reconnect to students. At the end of the parade, they visited seniors.

Focus shifting to reopening

Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative structure met.

It is a 10-member committee. There are three subgroups, each looking at one of three models:

1) The existing model, 2) A head-master model as a superintendent and principal, 3) A shared superintendent model. Timeline on a decision is before the fall.

PPP Monies

TGS is a quasi-public school, non profit, and they requested a loan under Small Business Administration (SBA). They have looked for other sources for liquidity. There is a \$250,000 gap. The budget is not balanced. The Town Manager cut the WBOE budget by \$240,000, and the worst-case scenario includes no international students. Approximately \$900,000 is uncertain at this time. The PPP is to be used for salary benefits, mortgages, rent payments. Gilbert is looking for loan forgiveness down the line. \$480,000 shortfall.

A request was made by members of the Winchester BOE that the School Corp guarantees that, in the event that Gilbert cannot get “loan forgiveness,” Gilbert does not look to the taxpayer of the Town of Winchester to pay this loan. Mr. Sedlack stated that he would bring this request back to the Gilbert Board. .

Members of the WBOE expressed disappointment in the way the discussion at the Gilbert School Board progressed last Thursday night. A WBOE member stated that he believed that this the PPP request it is unethical, illegal, and that the town is playing twice for these services.

It was suggested that the Winchester BOE withhold the May and June tuition payment to Gilbert until this is sorted out.

Presentations:

- a) Custodial Work Load
Page 3 read into the record.

Public Hearing:

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

None.

Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – April 7, 2020
- b) Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting – April 28, 2020
- c) Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting – April 28, 2020

MOTION to accept the minutes items a, b, and c, above with the amendment to the Winchester BOE Regular Meeting on April 7, 2020 that Cheryl McGlynn was not absent, but late . **Cheryl McGlynn (entered 7:15pm)**

First: M. Hintz, Second: R. Dutton → U.

Correspondence to the Board:

None.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Superintendent’s Report
Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley would like to publicly thank Nancy O’Dea-Wyrick, Seamus Cullinan, Barbara Silverio, Principal of Pearson School, and Rosanne Field, Principal of Batcheller School, for working 12-16 hour days to make the district-run smoothly during COVID

Page 15 of the BOE packet was read into the record.

On “Virtual Playgroups” - Guidance Counselors have created a schedule for every classroom to meet online biweekly. This is time to see each other face to face and to socialize with some guidance with an adult. There are generally themes for each of the meetings. This is also working in collaboration across the district.

This past Friday, Superintendent Brady-Shanley was nominated and approved to be the Secretary of the Litchfield County Superintendent’s Association. This means that eventually Melony will become the president of the organization over time. Congratulations were shared.

EFinance Program - The WBOE bought a program that had a municipal side to it with the goal to work with the municipal side. At the moment, this is not working in conjunction with the town. The town has yet to move over to EFinance.

b) Monthly Budget Summary

Appropriated budget:

Balance has grown since our last BOE meeting. Drivers of this balance are wages, transportation, purchase professional / technical services.

Areas needing funding are facilities. For example, Elevators,

There may be a lot of encumbrances and unknowns in light of COVID

Operating budget:

Grant budget - we received definitive feedback from the State so far as constraints from the federal government, thus allowing us to carry these balances over.

Foodservice budget:

We are looking good to date. Activity has fallen a bit, but has been maintaining. We are a community provider so reimbursement is for all meals. We anticipate we shall finish in the black.

Line item transfers:

We have wage monies left over due to no need for substitutes, cheaper teachers, and no math coach. There is a request to move money to “building maintenance” and “repairs.” This is used to improve Pearson School

We anticipated savings in transportation to shore up Special Education Out of District tuition. Professional technical services money to go-to supplies budget. To purchase special cleaning supplies.

Question: Where do we anticipate our “Out of District Tuition” will be?

We have been working with agencies such as EdAdvance to negotiate better terms.

We are in a good place. We are seeing savings, but does not always show on the paper because the savings realized gets absorbed somewhere else for other needs.

The big question will be the impact, if any, of the closing of St. Anthony’s school.

MOTION to move to approve the line item transfer requests of \$100,000 from “Wages” to “Building Maintenance and Repairs” and \$70,000 in “Transportation” to “Special Ed. Out of District Tuition” and \$35,000 from “Professional Technical Services” to “Supplies”

First: C. McGlynn, Second: M. Hintz → U.

Discussion:

a) Custodial Disinfectant Device

Device was described.

b) Budget Presentation – May 14, 2020

Gilbert budget will be presented, Winchester budget will be presented. The online process will be different in light of COVID. We will advocate for the Winchester budget.

We are hoping that the meeting will be a Zoom meeting.

Board Action Items:

a) Appointment of District Reopening Team. Rationale: Winchester is not waiting for the State of Connecticut to make decisions. Rather, Superintendent Brady-Shanley believes in being proactive in the reopening process of the Winchester Public Schools. The area superintendents will begin to meet next week. This includes the superintendents from Regional School District #7, Explorations, and The Gilbert School Superintendent, who will join after The Gilbert School graduation.

Superintendent - Melony Brady-Shanley
Business Director - Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick
Administrators - Barbara Silverio, Rosie Field
Special Education - Seamus Cullinan, Glenna Brooks
Leadership Team Member(s) - Rachael Manzer, Theresa Padin, Myra Desroches, Kimberly Roy
Teachers' Union Rep- Denise McLaughlin
Custodial/Maintenance - Kenny Perrault
BOE Rep - Doug Pfenninger
Paraprofessional - Donna Serafini
Exec / Admin Assistant - Linda Farnham
Lunch - Lisa Whipple
Nurse - Julia Turtoro
Parent - Kalyn Flockhart
SEL Psychologist - Cassandra Murphy

b) Sole Source Item:

MOTION to approve DJ Hall Roofing as the sole source for the repair Batcheller roof for the amount of \$5,600.00 for emergency repair.

First: K. Peterson, Second: R. Dutton → 7-0-1

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

Executive Session:

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:34pm and to invite Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley for the purposes of discussing COVID, Gilbert / WPS Negotiations, and the letter from Ms. Alison Shea

First: C. McGlynn, Second: M. Hintz → U.

Discussion of Gilbert / WPS Negotiations

COVID - Discussion

Letter from Attorney Shea

MOTION to come out of executive session at 9:47pm

First: M. Hintz, Second: C. McGlynn → U.

Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn at 9:47pm

First: C. McGlynn, Second: M. Hintz → U.

Submitted by: N. MocarSKI