

Winchester Board of Education
Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting Minutes
Date: April 7, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Online Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/7966671341>
Meeting ID: 796 667 1341 - Password: 783693

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

Call to order @ 7:10pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

Board of Education Members Present: Nora Mocarski, Kristin Peterson, Richard Dutton, Alexandria Propfe, Michelle Hintz, and Tara Sundie

Board of Education Members Absent: Cheryl McGlynn, 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: April 7, 2020

MOTION to amend letter “a)” under “Board of Education Action Items” to add “cafeteria workers”

First: A. Propfe., Second R. Dutton → U.

Comments from the Chairman

Unknown is the impact of the virus on education, but we must continue to adapt and teach our students. A thank you goes out to Superintendent Melony Brady Shanley and the administration, the cafeteria, and faculty, and staff. They are standing outside on the corner every day and handing out food in all sorts of weather.

We are looking forward to the end of the virus, but it will continue and mostly likely come back. Challenges ahead include how we will evaluate our schools, and what this means for education in the future. But fortunately we are not alone. Board Chair Pfenninger reiterating a thank you to Superintendent Brady-Shanley, the faculty and staff in continuing the schooling and education of our students.

Gilbert Report:

Steve Sedlack absent

Per Seamus Cullinan, Director of Student Services, 13 students have stayed here in Winchester and not returned home to their sending countries.

Presentations:

None.

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.

Persons can unmute or call Superintendents' cell phone # 860-921-1747 for public comment.

None.

Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – March 10, 2020
MOTION to adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular BOE meeting.
First: M. Hintz, Second: R. Dutton -- > U.

Correspondence to the Board:

- a) Winchester Police Department – Thank You Note
PPE was lacking for our first responders. It was reported that the First Responders were down to five masks, so Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley gathered gloves and masks in the three schools. 2000 gloves, 500+ masks were distributed to EMS to aid them through this COVID-19 crisis.

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Superintendent's Report - pages 8 and 9 were read into the record.
Principals and Superintendent Brady-Shanley are currently cleaning the schools to get them ready for return.
- b) Monthly Budget Summary
Much is in flux depending upon what will happen with grants which will have a direct impact upon the appropriated budget. Superintendent M-B-S is seeking an increase of more than 2% carry over in light of the unusual circumstances
Special education facilities - how do we assess what we owe the providers?
Answer: We are following the state and federal guidelines. Seamus is in weekly contact with outplacement programs they are taking on the online components and are providing distance learning through chromebooks. Keeping staff whole and programs whole per State Department of Education. Strongly suggested to keep programs whole.

Discussion:

None.

Board Action Items:

- a) Stipend Approval for Custodians & Cafeteria Workers

Superintendent Brady-Shanley proposed that the Winchester Board of Education approve of a one-time stipend of \$500 to those staff members who are working consistently on the front-lines interacting with the public each day in handing out food to those in need during this COVID-19 crisis. Staff members have handed out over 300+ meals each day for families in need. This would be a token of appreciation for each staff member who is going above and beyond in serving our community.

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

b) Sole Single Source – Otis Elevator

The Batcheller elevator leaks hydraulic fluid and is a must repair item to return the elevator to service. It requires replacing a cylinder and an “o” ring in the cylinder. The cost is \$8201.54 and Otis is a must vendor.

MOTION: to approve funds for Otis Elevator as a sole source provider to repair the elevator at Batcheller for \$8201.54

First: M. Hintz, Second: T. Sundie → U

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

Policy # 6114.8(a) Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies – 2nd read

MOTION to adopt Policy #6114.8(a) as is with the removal of the word, “flu.”

First: A. Propfe. Second: N. Mocarski → U.

Of note, Winchester Board Chair Pfenninger reported that Gilbert is forming an Ad Hoc committee to consider its administrative design options. Chair Pfenninger has appointed Winchester BOE member Kristin Peterson to serve on the Gilbert Special Ad Hoc Committee to study their administrative structure. Per K. Peterson, the next Ad Hoc meeting is not scheduled at this time, but anticipates a date after the next Gilbert School Corp meeting.

Negotiations between Gilbert and Winchester are on hold until after Gilbert determines its administrative structure. We would pick up negotiations once they made their decisions.

It was recommended by the Winchester Board that Kristin Peterson reiterate our strong position that we wish to share a superintendent for grades, PreK through 12.

K. Peterson reminded the Board members that there is a meeting with the Commissioner of Education on the status of education in the State of Connecticut in light of COVID-19. All are welcome. Thursday, April 9th at 12pm.

To access this meeting:

Please join us for a virtual meeting with Commissioner of Education Cardona on **Thursday, April 9 at 12:00 pm**. This is an opportunity to receive an update from the Commissioner. Commissioner Cardona will be joined by CT State Department of Education Legal Director Jessa Mirtle and Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith.

Log In Information:

Meeting with CT Commissioner of Education

Thu, Apr 9, 2020 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/974923133>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 974-923-133

Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn at 8:07pm.

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