

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting - Minutes

Location: Town Hall – P. Francis Hicks Room, 2nd Floor

Date: August 14, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Board of Education (BOE) Members (in alphabetical order by last name): Shana DeVoux, Jamie Duffy, Dr. Richard Dutton, Cheryl Heffernan, Michelle Hintz, Nora Mocarski, Secretary: Doug Pfenninger, Chairman: Alexandria Propfe, Christine Royer

Call to order @ 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:

PRESENT: M. Brady-Shanley, Superintendent S. Cullinan, Director of Student Services, J. Duffy, R. Dutton, C. Heffernan, M. Hintz, N. Mocarski, N. O’Dea-Wyrick, Director of Finance & Business Services, D. Pfenninger, BOE Chair, A. Propfe, C. Royer, S. DeVoux

ABSENT: None

Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

Motion to establish Liaison to the PTO

First, M. Hintz, second J. Duffy – 8- 0 unanimous

Motion to read Dr. Ellen Stolts letter

First: M. Hintz, second J. Duffy – 8-0 unanimous

Motion to move up the appointment of Batcheller’s principal

First, C. Royers, second M. Hintz – 8-0 unanimous

Comments from the Chairman:

BOE Chairman D. Pfenninger gave a refresher of the July meeting. He read the Winchester Schools mission statement and the Board of Education mission statement. He stated the Board’s mission was to emphasize growth and development in students.

Presentations:

a) New Staff Members to Winchester Public Schools – Principal Silverio of Pearson and Acting Principal Ms. Field of Batcheller recognized and presented new staff members of Winchester Public Schools; Pre-K (Mary Sue Hinks and Kishana Pinnock), Kindergarten Assistants (Jessica Seymour, Sheryl Dorie, Barbara LeFrancois) Kindergarten (Kaitlin Fasino), 1st/2nd grade (Samantha Carpinello, Katie Cimmino, Chiara DeBisschop), Special Education (Rebecca Daddona), Paraprofessionals (Monica Namey, Gigette Ursone, Kristy Stearns) Behavioral Technician (Alexis Calder) Climate Control Officer (Matt Fadziewicz) Nicollette Kovacs (Speech & Language) and Interventionists (Justina McGuire, Sherry Artruc). Closing statement

b) Alliance Building Grant Update – N. O’Dea-Wyrick presented the Alliance Building Grant Update. Alliance Building Grant goes through to the end of October. Projects attempted at Hinsdale, state willing to switch Batcheller’s and Hinsdale. State provide permission to replace/repair the front steps at Batcheller. Bids are due on the 22nd of August. Pearson school projects completed – repaving of the parking lot and walkway, hand dryers installed, trying to replace countertops and sinks, trying to replace kitchen freezer with refrigerator/freezer combination, etc.

c). Presentation of Rosanne Fields as Batcheller’s school Principal effective August 15th, 2018

Motion to approve Rosanne Field’s appointment as Principal

First: C. Royer, second: J. Duffy. – unanimous 8-0

d) Finance Report FY 2018 – N. O’Dea-Wyrick presented. Larger remaining balance than anticipated, with an appropriation balance of \$151,676. Grant funding not distributed until midyear. Used the state money first and held onto the town funds as long as possible. 72,000 balance in professional technical services and speech and language service/psychological services. Transportation was down due to lack of out of district attendance. Couldn’t get contracts by June 30th. A bit leftover because of workers comp and insurance cost reductions and fewer services for students in out of district magnet school. Transportation, All-Star, replacement of the buses for new equipment stated in the contract for four new big buses and two new small buses. All-Star is doing well and managed to get six new big buses and three new small buses. A fleet of 8 big buses within two years. Benefits of new buses – diesel, more reliable, under warranty.

e) 1% non-lapsing fund. N. O’Dea-Wyrick presented. A non-lapsing fund is a fund with the authority to carry its balance from one fiscal year to the next. Requested nod to seek the Town’s permission to establish the fund for possible use as the go-ahead money for Hinsdale. \$151,000 available for the fund. The non-lapsing fund cannot roll-over and has to be spent each year. Seamus, no surprises in special ed, numbers are

down, with 26 students placed out of district as compared to and when Seamus started which was the 60s.

f) Facilities Update Pearson and Batcheller's teachers ordered to empty classroom and custodians ordered to do deep clean, with progress sheets on every room door – everything cleaned and painted. Batcheller's playground cleaned up. Pearson walkway and parking lot repaved. Maintained lighting and eliminated middle island, which opened for 15 parking spaces. New carpeting in the music room. Pearson gym flooring was redone. Lockers repainted. Library new carpet and fresh paint, and new tables and whiteboards. Friends of Main Street donated train and decorations donated by the PTO to Pearson Library. Books organized by content and theme rather than the Dewey Decimal system which makes it easier for kids and teachers to find the necessary books. Group learning areas added to Pearson Library. Science labs painted, and new storage spaces added. Student resource center at Pearson painted and carpeted, with physical, sensory, and relaxing exercises added over the years for the students. C. Royers asked if the Pearson library is satisfactory, and Silverio stated there is still a long way to go, but there has been a lot of progress. Alliance Structural Grant has social media and updated books budget allotted. Outdated books have been replaced, but new books are always appreciated. Chairman asked about the exterior doors and exterior steamed windows. Nancy is still awaiting approval on the doors from the state, but the steamed windows are underway. Seamed windows would need to go to bid. Architectural mockup due back Sept. 10th. Eversource Project agreed to be utilized at Pearson and Hinsdale. The additional cost of 17,000.

Report on Hinsdale School Renovation Committee – Michelle Hintz

Two meetings so far. First used to meet everyone and establish positions. Second meeting walked through RFP. Friday to walk through Hinsdale with eight architects and a walk through with community members. Bids back Sept. 10th. Sept. 24 and 25, interviews with the architect. Architect announced Sept. 28. Completed Nov. 16th and prices estimated. After Nov. 16, Board of Education the matter will be put up for a referendum. C. Heffernan asked about State funds for the project. M. Hintz and M. Brady-Shanley advised the State will not get involved until the town has shown its support for the project but that the architects that bid on these projects are very experienced in what the State will agree to. Winchester has a high reimbursement rate for these projects at 70%. Hinsdale School renovation committee meeting information is available on the Winchester School.org and the Winchester townsite.

Public Hearing:

None.

Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – June 12, 2018

Motion to approve – First C. Heffernan. Second J. Duffy – 8-0 unanimous

- b) Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting – July 9, 2018

Motion to approve – First C. Heffernan, second J. Duffy – 8-0 unanimous

Correspondence to the Board:

Dr. Alan Stolts to the Commissioner of Education – praised the Winchester public schools and the Board of Education. When adults focus on the development of all student, all students benefit.

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:

a) Superintendents' Report - Continue curriculum with EdAdvance - Math and EL units completed by October 2018. Fall BOE meeting with an overview of the unit and curriculum changes. 20 staff members spend the summer working on the unit and curriculum planning, having completed NGSS training at Pearson. Students will focus on tsunamis. August 23th and 24th are new teacher orientations. August 27th BOE members welcome to attend 8:00 AM convocation. August 27th from 5:30pm-6: 30 pm PreK and K are running an Open House/Meet and Greet. August 27th and 28th is Teacher Professional Learning Day. August 28th from 2:00pm-3: 00 pm Grade 1 to 6 are hosting a Meet and Greet. September 4th is the first day of school for PreK and Kindergarten. September 18th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm is Open House for Grades 1 and 2. September 20th from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm is the Open House for Grade 3 to 6. Student have the first week of school to develop relations and start the first unit of study. Completed Alliance Grant application and Commissioner's Network Grants for \$625,000 to Batcheller and \$725,000 to Pearson. BOE held the 2nd Annual Summer Retreat. Summer finance report released, received via post. Postcards to family, more eye-catching then letters. Playground set to be delivered on August 27th – on site on the 29th and erection Sept. 4th. Two weeks to construct.

b) School Enrollment – Increased enrollment – new families from St Anthony's, magnet school programs, and move-ins. Enrollment before was 531, as of now its 540 total students. The highest number of students in years. Torrington teachers say Winchester schools are doing well.

c) New Hires – Listed in the packet. Seamus adds they hired a special education teacher for essential skills class – Rebecca Dadona– for the kids with anxiety.

d) Gilbert Enrollment - conversation with Gilbert on enrollment – 464 Winchester students, international students number not yet reported, two students from

other districts – 466. J. Duffy request to list by section. J. Duffy asked for the list in June, and Gilbert said did not have time to provide at that point.

e) Submission of Commissioner Network and Alliance Grant – submitted the application of the Alliance Grant. Currently, have the Commissioner’s Network Grant.

Board Action Items:

a) Cost of School Lunches – N. O’Dea-Wyrick presents. Need to raise the cost of school lunches based on a formula dictated by the feds. The formula states \$2.92 for lunch. Currently charging \$2.75. Suggests \$2.90 for school lunches.

Motion to charge \$2.90 for school lunches

First: M. Hintz, second, C. Royer. 8-0 unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

None

Executive Session:

Initial discussion regarding Gilbert Contract Negotiations and Winchester Education Association Contract.

Motion to go to executive session

First J. Duffy, second C. Heffernan.

Motion to exit executive session

First M. Hintz, Second A. Propfe

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn @ 9:19pm

First: C. Royer, Second C. Heffernan