

MINUTES

WINCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

TUESDAY, May 9, 2017

P. FRANCIS HICKS ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order 7 pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Freeman Burr, Michelle Hintz, Douglas Pfenniger, Nora Mocarski, Christine Royer, Alexandria Propfe, Liz O’Dowd, Nancy O’Dea-Wyrick, Dr. Ellen Stoltz
 - b. Absent: Theresa Starzyk, Rob Vogt, John Pollock
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve: Liz O’Dowd; Seconded by Christine Royer.
 - i. Approved: Unanimous.
- V. Presentations/Recognitions (12-20 Minutes) [PPT Handout]
 - A. Principal Updates
 1. Batcheller - Accomplishments - Debra Grainsky
 2. Pearson - Accomplishments - Barbara Silverio
 - B. Director of Student Support Services Update - Accomplishments - Seamus Cullinan
 - C. Family Resource Center Coordinator Update - Brief History, Responsibilities, & Accomplishments - RuthAnn
- VI. Public Hearing

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

Additional comments for Public Hearings announced:
A reminder to the public that BOE meetings are not public meetings, but rather meetings held in public,
While we value public opinion, we may not respond to public comment,
We expect and will engage in mutual courtesy and respect;
The public is reminded to address comments to the board chair.
These expectations will be posted at all BOE meetings.

 1. BOE’ Agenda Items
- VII. Approval of Minutes
 1. Special Informational Meeting Minutes: 4-11-2017

Minutes approved with the addition of the following members to the standing committees:
Policy Committee - Add: Alexandria Propfe
Teaching & Learning Committee - Add: Liz O’Dowd & Dr. Ellen Stoltz
MOTION: Alexander Propfe; SECOND: Michelle Hintz =
Approved with amendments: Unanimous.
 2. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes: 4-25-2017
 3. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes: 5-1-2017
- VIII. Communications to the Board

A. CABE Communication re: Membership Renewal and Services

IX. CSDE Receiver/Superintendent's Reports & Action Items

A. Reports

1. TGS Contract Negotiation Update

Update sent out last Wednesday.

May 8, 2017 - Received counter-proposal from TGS and was forwarded to WBOE's attorney.

May 10, 2017 - WBOE to sit down with Gilbert team to work out a two year agreement (WBOE: Pfenniger, Cullinan, Burr); 2nd year tuition has variables for percent increases and decreases as tied to enrollment. This second year proposal is the same language proposed by Gilbert two years ago. Using this year's tuition. We have a commitment from State of CT to go forward a two year agreement.

The goal is to settle these contract issues in a positive [way] with an open dialogue in the exchange. There are some disagreements around special education language. There is disagreement in the MOU over language regarding insuring our goal of a "free and public education" including ensuring that student needs get met in-house before a student gets outplaced to avoid high special education costs in the future.

2. Superintendent Search Update

Moving forward. Interviewed finalist. Not prepared to make an appointment at this time. Site visited expected to be conducted sometime around May 15, 16, or 17. The visit is expected to include meetings with their BOE members, parents, colleagues..., over 2.5 hrs. WBOE members to attend may possibly be: Pfenniger, Hintz, O'Dowd, Receiver.

Note that the WBOE had 13 members on the search committee. 100% were in favor of the candidate. High praise for the Search Consultant.

Superintendent expected to start July 1, 2017.

3. Curriculum Update (Project Manager) - Ellen Stoltz - PPT of Curriculum Audit results exist for the public to view. Online.

4. Early Release ½ Professional Development days June 20 -23 was recommended by the Administrative Cabinet and was supported by the WBOE. Goals and rationale:

Professional development to study curriculum changes prior to end of the school year and to share curriculum written by the 12 other colleagues who were responsible for writing it; Ideal days to do this. Includes Paras too. June 23rd is the last day of school for students.

5. Annual Healthy Foods Certification 2018 [Handout]

Note: This must be updated each year. As a BOE, we need to expect this each year to stay in compliance.

X. Board Action Items

XI. Comments by the Board Chair

"It was on May 9th 20 yrs ago we had 20 inches of snow. It was two years ago we heard rumors that a receiver was coming. We would like to take this time to reflect upon what has been received. The state has been generous to [our school district] including the Alliance Grant, [the] Commissioner's Network [funds], an excellent Special Education Director and Finance Director. While we have challenges ahead, we have two great people leading us: Mr. Freeman Burr and Dr. Ellen Stoltz. The direction they have provided has been appreciated.

How we define our relationship with Gilbert is a challenge ahead. We often talk about a transactional relationship, but it is not about money. We have responsibilities for our kids when

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they are up at Gilbert.”

XII. Reports of BOE Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee - Nancy is present for questions on details. April 21st reports. We have a balance of \$2366. Special ed and transportation increases were unexpected.

B. Policy Committee - Michelle: reviewed audit report from Vincent Mustaro (“Vin”) from CABE. He stated that we are missing 16 mandated policies. Vin suggested we include 77 policies that are missing. While these are not mandatory, it is good practice to have them. Last, 63 policies need to be updated because of missing legal references.

OPTIONS moving forward include:

- 1) \$8350 payable over two years to fix all policy issues over two years.
- 2) Include the missing 16 mandated policies and look at the 77 to see if they are good practices to put in and revise/update 32 at a cost of \$5400 payable over two years. This would include having Vin work with us over the most urgent ones. This cost would come out of “contracted services” or possibly payable out of the Commissioner’s Network. Freeman will look into this latter possibility. If paid by the BOE, then charges would be made against the budget via: July 2017-18 - half the cost. and then July 2018-19 the other half cost. CABE - using the “Dues and Fees” line.
- 3) pay \$400 and buy CD and make changes as a policy committee

Committee is recommending option #2. Vin also thinks this is the quickest one and in light of potential new members in November’s elections, this would be the most expeditious; the 16 would be updated right away for next year.

In future - New policy changes would come via the superintendent and as the district is a member of CABE, CABE would be giving these to us and our policy committee would do the updates.

Policy is the framework by which the superintendent will run their district.

NEXT Policy Subcommittee meeting: JUNE 5, 2017 at 4pm at Town Hall.
Second meeting is July 10th at 11am with Vin.

Continued membership with CABE was recommended and supported. \$6000 per year.

C. Curriculum Committee to meet after new superintendent is put into place.

XIII. Unfinished Business

None

XIV. New Business

None

XV. **Adjourn, Time: _____ Motion made: _____ Second: _____**