Winchester Board of Education
Type of Meeting: Regular BOE Meeting Minutes
Date: January 10, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall – Hicks Room

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

Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora Mocarski, Kristin Peterson, Sondra Strubhar, Tara Sundie, and Renata Waldron

I. Call to order: @ 7:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance:


III. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:
   a) Regular Board of Education Agenda: January 10, 2023

IV. Comments from the Chairman:

Doug Pfenninger updated the Board with Dr. Richard Dutton’s health issues and will keep everyone updated.

V. Presentations:
   a) None

Doug Pfenninger read the new rules and guidelines for public speaking.

VI. Public Comment:

Board of Education Chairman to read Public Comment Regulations. Three minutes are allotted to each speaker per Board Policy #1120. No BOE employee, student, or community member should be defamed within a public comment.

David LaPointe, 11 Hillside Avenue, Winsted, CT
Appreciated changes to public speaking policies in December. Expressed concern over increasing utility costs. Inquired about solar panels at Hinsdale and Pearson and switching electric providers. Savings in utilities could go back into educational costs.

VII. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Actions:
   a) Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting – December 13, 2022
   b) Minutes of Special BOE Meeting – January 4, 2023
First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Kristin Peterson, U

VIII. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

IX. Correspondence to the Board:
   a) Resignation Letter
      • Jamie Duffy
   b) Retirement Letter
      • Donna Serafini

MOTION to accept with regret
First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Kristin Peterson, U

X. Superintendent's Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:
   a) Superintendent’s Report
   b) School Enrollment
   c) Chronic Absences
   d) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment
   e) Monthly Budget Summary - FY23

Melony Brady-Shanley updated the Board on the flood issues that occurred over winter break at the Pearson school.

- Water main broke in the classroom along the exterior wall.
- One of the pipes on the outside wall in the hallway on the first-floor burst.
- The pipe caused damage to the following:
  - Classroom, the adjoining classroom, the main office, Barb Silverio’s office, Melony Brady-Shanley’s office, hallway to the Nurse’s office, the Nurse’s office, and the guidance suite.
  - Carpeting is destroyed
  - Reception furniture in the main office will need to be replaced.

Another incident occurred in the same hallway where a copper pipe burst and caused damage in the industrial arts room. Fortunately, the concrete wall stopped most of the water, but the carpet needs to be replaced.

XI. Board Action Items:
   a) New Hire(s)
      • Mario Manon-Porcella, Paraprofessional
      • Hazim Akter - Custodian at the Pearson School
XII. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:
a) Policies for Second Read

1) Policy 6144(a) – Controversial Issues

MOTION to table Policy 6114(a) - Controversial Issues to the next board meeting
First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Renata Waldron, U

2) Policy 5144.4 – Student Discipline

MOTION to approve Policy 5144.4 – Student Discipline with amendments discussed
First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Renata Waldron, U

b) SRO/ARO Continue Discussion

● Some school districts with SRO/AROs are funded by their Police Departments and should be up for discussion.
● Data indicates that social workers are needed more than a police officer
● There are a lot of social-emotional concerns (medication, home visits, teacher complications)
● Need to be proactive when it comes to mental health concerns
● SRO would take place at a high school level rather than Pre-K - Grade 6.
● WPS Board, TGS, BOS, and WPD need to have a deeper conversation and schedule a joint meeting to discuss all the issues.
● Discuss needs, how resources are utilized, roles, streamlining, and workflow.

Melony Brady-Shanley mentioned that the intention of an SRO/ARO is more from a security standpoint than a mental health standpoint. Parents need to know that their children are protected.

XIII. Public Comment:

Board of Education Chairman to read Public Comment Regulations. Three minutes are allotted to each speaker per Board Policy #1120. No BOE employee, student, or community member should be defamed within a public comment.

Melony Brady-Shanley made a public announcement that on Friday, January 13, the WPS Board of Education and members of the Board of Selectmen will be touring school buildings. They will be starting at Gilbert, then Hinsdale, and then Pearson. They will be starting at 9:00 a.m. This will be an opportunity to observe all the wonderful instruction in our schools.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting
First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Kristin Peterson, U

IX. Adjourn @ 8:16 p.m.