

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Board Of Education Meeting Minutes - **Amended**

Date: August 8, 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:

II. Roll call: Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Tara Sundie, Nora Mocarski, Doug Pfenninger, Melony Brady-Shanley, Sondra Strubhar, Salvatore Lovetere, Kristin Peterson. Absent: Cheryl McGlynn

III. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

a) Board of Education Agenda: August 8, 2023

Doug Pfenninger would like to request the following:

1. Move up the Greenleaf Solutions - Solar installation for Hinsdale and Pearson Schools

MOTION to Move up the Greenleaf presentation and then the discussion and possible approval of the \$50,000 from the state for salary reduction.

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U

2. We need to approve the disbursement of up to \$50,000 from the state payment that we are expecting to receive from the state that we discussed to make hold of the salary reductions that were given from the Unions in anticipation of a budget cut.

Salvatore Lovetere would like to add discussions around contract negotiations with Gilbert to the agenda.

MOTION to add Contract negotiations with Gilbert under Action Items Discussion Possible Action

First: Salvatore Lovetere, Second: Sondra Strubhar, U

IV. Comments from the Chairman:

Doug Pfenninger would like to welcome Kevin Siebrecht from Greenleaf Solutions

Melony Brady-Shanley wanted to give the Board some background of discussions that were discussed. Since May-June, we have had some shifts in the direction that this opportunity has posed for us, and it will be more financially profitable for us in the long run. Kevin will present the switch that was made over the summer from Green Bank to Greenleaf Solutions and what it will entail. The Pearson School will also need a roof in less than five years. The roof is 44 years old and well past its life expectancy. This enables us to get a new roof through this new process without us having to front the cost of the roof and the ability to own the solar system panels without having to use the PPA. It will give us more long-

term financial power than the short-term purchase agreement that we saw before. Kevin will review the projections for the next 20 years.

Kevin reviewed the presentation to the Board.

Melony Brady-Shanley will email the Board the presentation.

V. 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.

VI. Consent Agenda Items Discussion Possible Actions:

- a) Minutes of BOE Meeting – June 13, 2023
- b) Minutes of Committee Meetings – June 20, 2023
- c) Minutes of Special Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2023

Sondra Strubhar mentioned that the minutes from the Board Retreat did not include the request for a proposal for more physical activity into the day for students, which was discussed. In addition, the adjournment time needs to be edited to PM.

Melony Brady-Shanley, Barbara Silverio, and ~~Rosanna~~ **Rosanne** Field have worked on a plan to add on Monday's a program called Winchester Walks. We are expanding our partnership with 5210, which is a fit program that we have currently going on for about five years now, and they are based out of Torrington and continuing with Dance Party Fridays.

MOTION to approve a) Minutes of BOE Meeting – June 13, 2023

- b) Minutes of Committee Meetings – June 20, 2023
- c) Minutes of Special Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2023, with edits

First: Kristin Peterson, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

VII. Gilbert Report from Board of Education Representative:

Doug Pfenninger had a meeting this afternoon as part of the personnel committee negotiations that have begun with their administrators. We are potentially looking for a 3-year contract with the Gilbert administrators, and we talked about ground rules. The work on the roof at Gilbert has already started. Two weeks ago, Melony Brady-Shanley received a call that they needed \$200,000, the money the town had approved as a capital project for the Gilbert roof. Melony Brady-Shanley gave them a 60% down payment that was required per the contract, ~~\$160,000.00~~ **\$120,000.00**. When the roof is completed, they will get the rest of the payment.

VIII. Correspondence to the Board:

a) Letters of Resignations

- Thomas Bialko
- Addie Mehl
- Meghan Hamylak
- Heather Erha
- Justina McGuire

- Devin Pratt
- Sarah Ward
- Joanna Petti

- b) CABE Liaison Newsletter
- c) CAPPS Alliance Districts

IX. Superintendent's Reports & Action Items Discussion Possible Action:

- a) Superintendent's Report
- b) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment
- c) Monthly Budget Summary - FY23

Sondra Strubhar left the room at 8:13 pm. Sondra Strubhar returned at 8:14 pm.

- d) Paraprofessional HSA subsidy coverage - Legislation and impact on our paraprofessionals

Melony Brady-Shanley is asking the Board to reinstate the **raises of** staff members that gave their salaries to ensure the budget would pass and give them the opportunity to have their funds reinstated. Melony Brady-Shanley will take hers in the spring if funds are available.

First: Tara Sundie, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

- e) Gilbert Contact

Salvatore Lovetere attended his first Gilbert Corp Meeting and was surprised that we have not been able to figure out a contract together. I think the best way going forward, in my opinion, is to start with a small and simple contract that we can move forward with and build on. I am suggesting three items, to begin with to move forward and build a better partnership and collaboration:

MOTION to approve

1. WPS and the Gilbert School agree to hold one meeting annually together one month before the WPS budget meeting.
2. The superintendent or head of schools must forward to the respective boards the board packet. WPS Board materials are located online.
3. WPS and The Gilbert School to explore any contracted services and discuss the possibility of sharing snowplowing services

First: Salvatore Lovetere, Second: Sondra Strubhar, 6, 1 abstention

X. Presentations:

- a) Greenleaf Solutions - Solar installation for Hinsdale and Pearson Schools

XI. Board Action Items:

- a) New Hires
 - Theresa Blanchard, Paraprofessional
 - William Blanchard, Paraprofessional

- Courtney Cappabianca, Long-Term Substitute/Building Substitute
- Savannah Holland, Paraprofessional
- Nichole Hughes, Paraprofessional
- Wayne Hurlbut, Custodian
- Merci-Grace Jenkins, Special Education Teacher
- Lydia Johnson, ELL Specialist
- Stacey LaBree, Paraprofessional
- Samantha Mailhoit, Paraprofessional
- Ben Puffer, Head Custodian
- Zoie Rinaldi, Special Education Teacher
- Jennifer Titus, Interventionist
- Joyce Zaldo, Library Media Specialist

Sondra Strubhar wanted to bring to the board's attention what we are trying to do in regard to non-gender policies. My question is, why are we doing this? Are there other districts doing this? Hartford, Gilbert, and Torrington are not. It is a conversation topic, and going through our policies, I can see benefits. Clarifying languages makes sense to me. I am for inclusivity, **not for ideology, either political to influence school culture or policy.**

XII. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

a) Policies for a First Read

1) Policy #4118.112(a) – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Workplace

MOTION to move Policy #4118.112(a) – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Workplace to second read with edits

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Tara Sundie, U

2) Policy #5113 (a) – Attendance, Excused, Dismissal

MOTION to move Policy #5113 (a) – Attendance, Excused, Dismissal to second read

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Renata Waldron, U

3) Policy #5114 (b) – Suspension and Expulsion

MOTION to move Policy #5114 (b) – Suspension and Expulsion to second read with edits

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Tara Sundie, U

4) Policy #5125 (a) – FERPA Regulations

MOTION to move Policy #5125 (a) – FERPA Regulations to second read with edits

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, 7, 1 abstention

5) Policy #6141.327 (a) Electronic Resources

MOTION to move Policy #6141.327 (a) Electronic Resources to second read

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

6) Policy #6142.63 Physical Education Aquatic Safety

MOTION to move Policy #6142.63 Physical Education Aquatic Safety to second read

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Renata Waldron, U

7) Policy #6144.1 Exemption from Instruction

MOTION to move Policy #6144.1 Exemption from Instruction to second read

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Renata Waldron, U

8) Policy #6153 Field Trips

MOTION to move Policy #6153 Field Trips to second read

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

b) Policies for Second Read

- 1) Policy #0521 – Non-Discrimination
- 2) Policy #1330 – Community use of school facilities
- 3) Policy #3281.1 – Crowdfunding
- 4) Policy# 3516(a) - Safety
- 5) Policy #3541 – Transportation Guideline
- 6) Policy #3541.22 – Bus Drivers
- 7) Policy #3542.1 - Food Service
- 8) Policy #4001 – Personnel/Athletic Coaches
- 9) Policy #4111 – Affirmative action – Recruitment and Selection
- 10) Policy #4112.5(a) – Security Check – Fingerprinting
- 11) Policy #4113.6(a)/4213.6 – Remote Work/Telecommuting Policy/Telework
- 12) Policy #4118.15 – Workplace Bullying
- 13) Policy #4152.6 – Family & Medical Leave Act
- 14) Policy #4410 – Occupational Exposure to Blood borne Pathogens
- 15) Policy #5111 – Admission – Placement

MOTION to move all policies under the second read to implementation

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

c) CT SDE High Impact Tutoring Grant - Math

d) Family Resource Center Grant

e) School Readiness Grant

f) School Readiness-Competitive COLA Grant

g) School Readiness - Competitive Enrollment-Based Grant

h) CHAMPS After School Enrichment Program

i) National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistant Grant

MOTION to accept all Grants

First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U

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.

Bryan Sundie, 152 Spencer Hill Road, Winsted. I wanted to applaud Board Member Lovetere for the spirit of what you are trying to accomplish in bringing the two boards together, to work more collaboratively and have a more positive relationship going forward.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Jeannette Brodeur, Second: Sondra Strubhar, U

IX. Adjourn: @ 9:13pm