

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Board Of Education Meeting Minutes - Amended

Date: November 14, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall – Hicks Room

Meeting Facilitator: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent

Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora Mocarski, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, and Jonathan Morhardt

- I. Swearing in of New Members by Town Clerk Glenn Albanesius @ 6:30 p.m.
Nora Mocarski, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, and Jonathan Morhardt
- II. Call to order @ 7:00 p.m.
Melony Brady-Shanley started the meeting by reading the rules of the Election of Officers and handed out the ByLaws of the Board. Votes will be made by paper ballot.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance:
- IV. Roll call:
Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora Mocarski, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt, and Melony Brady-Shanley
- V. Election of Officers – Winchester Board of Education Organizational Meeting
 - a) Election of Chairperson
Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.
MOTION to accept the nomination of Sondra Strubhar as Board of Education Chair 5, 4, 0
 - b) Election of Secretary
Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.
MOTION to accept the nomination of Nora Mocarski as Board of Education Secretary 7, 2, 0

Melony turned the meeting to the new Board of Education Chairperson, Sondra Strubhar.

Roll call:

Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Nora Mocarski, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt, and Melony Brady-Shanley

Pledge of Allegiance

c) Committee Assignments:

1) Election of Policy Chair and Membership,

Policy Chair – Jeannette Brodeur

Membership for Policy: Cheryl McGlynn, Shayne Deschamps, Renata Waldron, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt, and Nora Mocarski

Quorum 4

2) Election of Curriculum Chair and Membership

Curriculum Chair – Nora Mocarski

Membership for Curriculum – Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, Jonathan Morhardt

Quorum 4

3) Election of Finance Chair and Membership

Finance Chair – Sondra Strubhar

Membership for Finance: Cheryl McGlynn, Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Nora Mocarski, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, and Jonathan Morhardt

Quorum 5

VI. Agenda Review Discussion Possible Action:

a) Board of Education Agenda: November 14, 2023

MOTION to accept the Agenda with the following changes:

Move Presentations before IX

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Cheryl McGlynn → U.

Add a Phone Call from Kevin Siebert from Greenleaf Energy at 7:45 p.m.

First: Jeannette Brodeur, Second: Shayne Deschamps → U.

VII. Comments from the Chairman:

Sondra Strubhar attended the Veterans Day Celebration at Hinsdale. Seeing all the kids sitting there watching the veterans and grandparents was nice. Thank you for doing this celebration.

We need to keep putting the kids first. We appreciate Melony and the tone set that Doug left behind. Thank you. We do not want to be at the state average but above. We also need a commitment to work with Gilbert and continue working towards this goal.

Thank you

VIII. 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.

Sondra Strubhar read the Public Comment Regulations.

IX. Consent Agenda Review discussion Possible Action:

a) Minute of BOE Meeting – October 10, 2023

MOTION to approve:

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jeannette Brodeur - 5, 1, 3 abstained

b) Minutes of Committee Meeting – October 24, 2023

MOTION to Approve:

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jeannette Brodeur – 5, 0, 4

X. Presentations:

a) Safe Student, Safe School Presentation from Pearson School – Monica Messenger and Barbara Silverio showed a PowerPoint Presentation.

- An informational sheet was sent home with the students to let the parents know what the training would look like, and a pizza party was held after the training with the students.
- Assertive Skills were taught by Kelly Thurmond; students did role-playing on their new assertive skills.
- Conflict Resolution was taught by our Behavior Technicians
- Mindfulness / Self Regulations was taught by Monica Messenger
- Cyberbullying was taught by Barbara Silverio and Kelley Thurmond

Kevin Seibert from Greenleaf Energy joined virtually.

Eversource goes out to bid twice a year, and in our Aug 1 bid, Hinsdale was awarded to receive the benefit. The second bid goes out around February and will potentially be awarded in 30 days. We are happy to move it forward. The cost of the project is as previously presented at Hinsdale. The next step is to accept the award. We have ten days left.

We have a couple of years to install, but it will not take long.

We will schedule the installation in 2024.

Any question: Can you remind the BOE of its benefit to the District?

- Eversource will pay annually, approaching a million dollars over the lifetime.
- No out of Pocket cost to BOE
- Tax Credits
- Day one system is installed – Green Bank finances the entire project
- Credit from Eversource in the first year
- Annual revenue of \$28,000. For 25 years under the program over the lifetime will save about \$709,000 dollars
- Using the roof space to create revenue will benefit about \$709,000.
- Maintenance in years 8, 9, or 10. BOE might want to hire a company to come out and inspect the system annually. To make sure bolts are in place, etc., This is optional.
- System is guaranteed for 25 years.

Need to receive the award to execute.

MOTION to Approve

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Nora Mocarski – U

Cheryl McGlynn made a Point of Order the elections were invalid as they were supposed to be by a signed ballot. Elections for BOE Chair and Secretary were redone.

a) Election of Chairperson

Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.

MOTION to accept the nomination of Nora Mocarski as Board of Education Chair 5, 4, 0 by signed ballot

b) Election of Secretary

Nine nomination ballots were collected and counted.

MOTION to accept the nomination of Sondra Strubar as Board of Education Secretary 5, 4, 0 by signed ballot

c) Curriculum Committee Chair was voted on again.

MOTION to accept Verbal vote to accept Renata Waldron as the Curriculum Chair. 9, 0 – U

XI. Correspondence to the Board:

- a) Letter of Resignation – Catherine Vigliotti - Accepted with regret
- b) CABA Liaison Newsletter

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

a) Superintendent's Report

Melony read through the Superintendent's Report

b) Monthly Registration & Staff Vacancy Report

1 Para Opening and the Social Worker position was filled as of today

New Student Registrations – 9

Students Withdrawals – 4

c) School Enrollment

608 Students as of 11/1

d) Chronic Absences

Coming down right around 15%

e) Gilbert Enrollment & Grade Level Enrollment

426 Enrolled as of 11/1

f) Monthly Budget Summary - FY24

- Please refer to the stapled packet that was handed out.
- Placement and Transportation Costs due to Special Education
- Appropriated budget: we needed to add Paras at Hinsdale for student support due to student need
- Out-of-district transportation costs are astronomical – due to the lack of transportation and students needing individual transportation. This has been an unexpected expense.
- Cassandra's office is constantly trying to decrease the cost of transportation.
- Bringing transportation in-house is a huge liability.
- Nancy explained the Grants and how the worksheet reads.
- Melony explained the layout of the different accounts and how they are used to new BOE members.

g) 2024-2025 Budget Calendar Review

The Budget Calendar sets up the work that needs to be done over the next several months.

Everyone will be sent calendar invites for these meetings.

XIII. Board Action Items:

a) New Hires

Amy Jeannette, Shahinda Ahmed, and Alexcia Jackson were all hired.

XIV. New Business Discussion and Possible Action:

a) Additional staffing for the Homework Club

BOE approved in September Homework Club. We now have one teacher for 30 students, which is a lot. We are looking to hire two more staff members, one for each school.

MOTION: Approve the addition of two staff members for the homework club.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jeannette Brodeur – U

b) ARO/SRO Discussion

Gilbert is in the process of discussing hiring an ARO. Salvatore Lovetere spoke to the Chief of Police, and in his opinion, we should have some protection in our schools and put this into the budget for next year.

- SRO School Resource Officer is an officer of the Police Department and Cost more.
- ARO – Armed Resource Officer is a Retired Officer. They would be trained on all of our policies.

Cheryl suggested having a subcommittee to go over the information. Gilbert is a high school, we have little kids, and having guns in the building is different between the High Schools and Elementary Schools. Maybe Gilbert would share the information they have found on ARO/SRO's. The community should be part of this discussion, including the Police Chief, Principals, Parents, BOE, and Administrators. We need to gather this information from our community. This is not a one-meeting discussion.

MOTION to set up a subcommittee: AD Hoc Subcommittee Pre-K – 6 to gather information and present to the BOE and Chaired by Salvatore Lovetere regarding the ARO/SRO's.

First: Shayne Deschamps, Second: Jonathan Morhardt – U
Quorum 3

Committee Members:

Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt, Salvatore Lovetere, and Sondra Strubhar

It was suggested that we meet right after the committee meetings.

c) Gym Floor and Bleacher Considerations

Two years ago, the roof leaked, and a 20 x 20' section of the gym floor bubbled. We took out this 20 x 20' section of floor and replaced it with Maple. The bleachers are old and are no longer ADA-compliant. They are difficult to pull out. In August 23, a former custodian was trying to buff the floor. However, there was a rock in the buffing machine, and it scratched the floor. Now, there are swirls on the floor. I'm asking the Board to consider using the \$660,000 for a one-time expense and not have to go to the taxpayers. Would the Board like to leave it as is, have it sanded, re-varnished, completely removed, put a poured surface in, and/or replace the bleachers? What would the BOE like to do? Look into cost, or don't do anything at this time.

Is there a ballpark figure?

- Poured Floor approx. \$70,000 - \$80,000
- Resurfaced approx. \$30,000 - \$40,000
- Bleachers approx. \$70,000 - \$80,000

Cheryl stated since the bleachers are not ADA-compliant, we need to look into getting the bleachers replaced for our community. Melony will look at pricing and scenarios to present to the BOE.

d) MOU between TGS and WBOE

The MOU we are considering is on page 29. Concerns regarding the joint meeting discussing the budget. It's been back and forth between WPS/Gilbert. Renata said we could come to their meeting and listen and take notes but not be a part of it.

MOTION to Approve with one edit. Under Purpose should read. This MOU will outline two ~~four~~ basic tenets.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Shayne Deschamps - U

e) Maintenance and Custodial Staff Contract Reopener (year 3 of 3)

MOTION to approve the reopener of the Custodian Contract to put a step back in the contract.

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Shayne Deschamps – U

f) Kindergarten Transitional Plan

Significant change next year: Currently, the cut-off for Kindergarten entrance is they need to be age five by December 31. Next year students will need to be age five by September 1. We need to identify these kids to figure out who will not be Kindergarten eligible. This could mean we have a smaller kindergarten class next year.

The letter to parents, Cheryl McGlynn, stated it needs to be updated to include the information regarding the waiver. Melony will make the adjustments.

g) Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2024

MOTION to approve BOE Meeting Schedule 2024 with the edit to BOE time to 7:00 p.m.

First: Cheryl, Second: Sondra - U

XV. 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.

XVI. **MOTION** to adjourn meeting at 9:30 p.m.

First: Salvatore Lovetere, Second: Cheryl McGlynn -U