

Winchester Board Education

Type of Meeting: Committee Meetings Curriculum, Policy, Finance Meeting, and AD HOC School Security Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023, @ 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Hinsdale School

Curriculum Committee Meeting Facilitator: Renata Waldron

Committee Members: Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, and Jonathan Morhardt

Invitees: Nora Mocarski, Sondra Strubhar, Cheryl McGlynn, Melony Brady-Shanley, Barbara Silverio, Rosanne Field, and Cassandra Murphy.

Sandra Strubhar would like to be added to the curriculum committee.

Quorum: 4

- I. Call to Order @ 6:32 pm
- II. Roll Call Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, Jonathan Morhardt, Melony Brady-Shanley. Absent: Salvatore Lovetere
- III. Agenda Review
 - a) Review of Curriculum Committee Agenda – December 19, 2023

MOTION to approve Review of Curriculum Committee Agenda – December 19, 2023

First: Jeanette Brodeur, Second: Jonathan Morhardt U

MOTION to move informational only: Overview of standardized assessments to our board meeting in January.

First: Jonathan Morhardt, Second: Shayne Deschamps, U

- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Review of Curriculum Committee Minutes – October 24, 2023

MOTION to approve Review of Curriculum Committee Minutes – October 24, 2023

First: Jeanette Brodeur, Second: Sondra Strubhar, 3, 0, 3. Passes 3 to 0

- V. New Business
 - a) Discussion of the MOU from Ralph Nader

Open Discussion:

- Would it be a contract and funding up front? Yes.
- Would we receive recognition as a District? Yes.
- Does Ralph Nader fund any other programs in the District? No.
- What other programs do we have in our District?
 - TAG
 - Drone
 - In-house writing publishing program
 - Art
 - Band
 - Ceramics
 - AMP with art
- Ralph Nader should create an informational flier and post it throughout town, and if there is interest, people can sign up for the program. Then, this becomes a sign-up opportunity for the community as an after-school program.
- Do we accept money from groups? Yes, we receive donations.

Melony Brady-Shanley will respond to Ralph Nader with the feedback from the BOE.

b) Literacy Team Update

Melony Brady-Shanley met with Benchmark Advance and reviewed the programs for the Winchester Public Schools.

- Aligned with Science of Reading Research, Benchmark Advance is a core language arts program that provides a cohesive structure for developing literacy skills and content knowledge.
- Benchmark Advance encourages students to be active learners and collaborators. Students spiral through comprehension skills and strategies to prepare for testing and lifelong learning.
- Winchester will shadow the Torrington District to see how the program works and then go to the Litchfield District.
- Plan to bring to the Board in February with hopes of approval and recommendations from the Committee in March.
- Teachers will begin the pilot in the spring
- Training will begin at the beginning of the next school year

Informational only: Overview of Little Owls program, School Readiness, and Head Start Programs and how they all work together.

Melony Brady-Shanley gave an overview of the programs.

Head Start Program

Head Start provides an array of comprehensive, quality services, including health, nutrition, parent support, education, and mental health, to children ages three to five and their families. The program's vision is "each child and family leaves Head Start healthy, eager to learn, and ready for success." Program staff work closely with families to ensure that each child has the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in kindergarten. The Early Head Start program provides services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in Torrington and Winsted through home visiting and socialization.

Little Owls Program

Winchester Public Schools offers an integrated Preschool program for 3 and 4-year-old students. This program blends typical peer models with students requiring special education services due to disabilities and eligibility based on specific criteria established by the district in keeping with federal and state requirements. Peer model students refer to those "typically developing" students who are included in the integrated classroom settings. This is the model that the Pre-K Program utilizes in order to follow best practices for providing preschool special education programming within the public school setting.

Our preschool classroom offers students vast learning experiences and opportunities to build social relationships. The Pre-K Program follows the CT Early Learning and Development Standards and assessments to guide its curriculum, into which other methodologies and strategies are woven in order to provide optimal learning experiences and kindergarten readiness for all students. The program also maintains a developmentally appropriate philosophy that meets students where they are and sets goals to support the individual's progress across cognitive, social, and motor domains.

Peer models are selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Preschoolers can become eligible for this program after applying online during the open application period and completing the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, a developmental screening tool. Applicants must be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1 and attend a preschool screening at the Mary P. Hinsdale School.

School Readiness

A state-funded initiative administered by the Office of Early Childhood, which develops a network of school readiness programs geared to enhance federally funded readiness programs among the state and its various agencies, the communities, and families.

Informational only: Overview of standardized assessments. Moved to January
Informational only: Discussion of Approved Draft by the CT State Dept. of

Education of the Social Studies Standards as of 10/4/2023.

Nora Mocarski discussed the Approved Draft by the CT State Dept. of Education of the Social Studies Standards as of 10/4/2023.

1. SDE Approval Motion, November 1, 2023

Discussion regarding Gilbert's Reading Assessment Performance (SRI) and Alignment with WPS Reading Performance (iReady)

Renata Waldron shared with the Board that Grades 7-12 are below grade level. She has concerns about why this is happening.

Melony Brady-Shanley explained that, unfortunately, we have our students for 7 hours a day and how important it is that our students continue to use the skills they are taught during the day into the rest of their day, but under certain situations, this is not happening.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Shayne Deschamps, U

VI. Adjourn @ 8:02 pm

Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Facilitator: Nora Mocarski

Committee Members: Cheryl McGlynn, Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Sondra Strubhar, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, and Jonathan Morhardt

Invitees: Melony Brady-Shanley and Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick

Quorum: 5

I. Call to order @ 8:03 pm

II. Roll call: Renata Waldron, Jeannette Brodeur, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, Jonathan Morhardt, Sondra Strubhar. Absent Cheryl McGlynn and Salvatore Lovetere.

III. Agenda Review

a) Review Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Agenda – December 19, 2023

IV. New Business

a) Budget Review

Melony Brady-Shanley reviewed the Budget calendar.

- 11/6/2023 Budget Assumptions
- 11/14/2023 Review Budget Calendar to set dates with BOE
- 11/28/2023 BOE Finance committee Canceled
- 12/12/2023 Review Internal Staffing and Non Personnel Requests
- 12/19/2023 BOE Budget Update at Finance Committee
- 1/3/2024 BOE Budget Workshop 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- 1/23/2024 Budget Review at Finance Committee
- 2/5/2024 BOE Budget Workshop 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
- 2/13/2024 Superintendent Presents 2025 Budget
- 2/27/2024 Budget Review at Finance Committee
- 3/6/2024 BOE Budget Workshop 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
- 3/12/2024 Regular BOE Meeting 7:00 pm
- 2/27-3/15/2024 Public BOE Budget Presentations (Staff, Community Groups, BOS)
- 3/15/2024 Budget Submission Due to Town
- TBD BOE Budget Public Hearing scheduled by BOS

Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick passed out hard copies of Enrollment Projections for review.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Jonathan Morhardt, Second: Shayne Deschamps, U

V. Adjourn @ 8:22 pm

Policy & Bylaws Committee Meeting Facilitator: Jeannette Brodeur

Committee Members: Cheryl McGlynn, Shane Centrella, Renata Waldron, Shayne Deschamps, Jonathan Morhardt, and Nora Mocarski.

Invitees: Sondra Strubhar, Salvatore Lovetere, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, and Melony Brady-Shanley

Quorum: 4

- I. Call to Order @ 8:22 pm
- II. Roll Call Renata Waldron, Shane Centrella, Shayne Deschamps, Jonathan Morhardt, Sondra Strubhar. Absent: Cheryl McGlynn
- III. Agenda Review
 - a) Review the Policy/Bylaws Committee Agenda – December 19, 2023
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Review of the Policy/Bylaws Committee Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2023

Melony Brady-Shanley suggested auditing our 1000 series with Shipman's 1000 series policies and having them ready to present hard copies at the Policy meeting in January.

MOTION to table

Policy Title IX Personnel from Shipman & Goodwin and

Policy Title IX Students from Shipman & Goodwin to January 2024 meeting

First: Jonathan Morhardt, Second: Shayne Deschamps, U

MOTION to direct Melony Brady-Shanley to begin the audit for the 1000 series

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jonathan Morhardt, U

V. New Business

- a) Policy Title IX Personnel from Shipman & Goodwin
- b) Policy Title IX Students from Shipman & Goodwin
- c) Policy Meal Charging

MOTION to move Policy Meal Charging to first read at the January Board meeting

First: Renata Waldron, Second: Sondra Strubhar, U

- d) Discussion Regarding Possible Revision of Voting of Officers Board Policy.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Nora Mocarski, Second: Jonathan Morhardt, U

VI. Adjourn @ 8:30 pm

AD HOC School Security Meeting Facilitator: Salvatore Lovetere

Committee Members: Sondra Strubhar, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella, and Jonathan Morhardt

Invitees: Nora Mocarski, Jeannette Brodeur, Cheryl McGlynn, Renata Waldron, Melony Brady-Shanley, and Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick

- I. Call to Order @ 8:39 pm
- II. Roll Call Sondra Strubhar, Jonathan Morhardt, Shayne Deschamps, Shane Centrella
- III. Agenda Review
- IV. New Business
 - a) Opening Topics

b) Survey

Melony Brady-Shanley reviewed the student and adult school security surveys and made the suggested edits.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Jonathan Morhardt, U

V. Adjourn @ 9:05 pm