



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 1/6/2022

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: L. Murphy

School Committee Meeting

November 18, 2021 - 6:00 pm

Town Hall - 2nd Floor Auditorium

1. Call to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Larry Murphy, Chair; Ryan Forsythe; Greg Vine; Shauna Lapointe; Thad King, Interim Superintendent

L. Murphy reads audio visual disclosure.

3. Public Comment:

Brian Croteau, Public Works Director requests a letter of recommendation from the School Committee for the Safe Routes to School grant, which the DPW is applying for in collaboration with WPS to rehabilitate existing sidewalks and crosswalk signage and install sidewalks in areas that do not currently have them. Mr. Croteau details the plans for these improvements in the town of Winchendon, should the grant be approved.

Motion by G. Vine to instruct the Chair and Interim Superintendent King to work together on a letter of endorsement for grant application. Seconded by S. Lapointe. Vote is unanimous.

4. Consent Agenda:

L. Murphy introduces Consent Agenda.

G. Vine makes Motion to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by R. Forsythe. No discussion. Vote is unanimous.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. COVID Update:

T. King gives update on COVID in Winchendon Public Schools. Guidance was received by MASS Legal Counsel relative to the possibility of vaccine mandate for

school employees, advising the district to put a plan in place if the state decides to initiate a vaccine mandate for school districts. The district was also advised to consider requiring a daily rapid test for unvaccinated employees.

T. King expresses concern over COVID numbers and gratitude for the school nurses. School was canceled the previous Friday due to COVID numbers, which will be required to be made up at the end of the school year. The state will not allow remote or hybrid learning at this point. One class at Toy Town Elementary was quarantined due to high COVID numbers in that class specifically. No trends are currently being seen in specific classrooms or areas of contact; however, the increase in cases seems to revolve around groups of friends. T. King goes over the current COVID numbers for the district. Additionally, a vaccine clinic is being planned for the district.

c. School Improvement Plans:

i. Megan Weeks - Murdock High School:

Ms. Weeks goes over the School Improvement Plan for MHS, outlining the details of Portrait of a Graduate, professional development for teachers, lesson planning and pedagogy. Turnaround practices are discussed and outlined, as well as site visits which are part of the grant from the BARR Foundation. Discussion is had regarding the selection of which schools are chosen for site visits. Ms. Weeks discusses discipline, attendance and test scores, and their use in improving student supports and achievement. Special education is also a big part of the Improvement Plan. Finally, MHS is working on its DEI training and has put together a task force to determine what professional development is needed.

R. Forsythe comments that the MHS School Improvement Plan is very comprehensive but asks if there is a vertical alignment with the other schools. M. Weeks replies that it is being worked on in DLT meetings.

ii. Jessica Vezina - Murdock Middle School; Anne Diaz - Toy Town Elementary:

Ms. Vezina introduces her school's Sustainability Improvement Plan, which in combination with Toy Town Elementary, is necessary as both schools were identified via MCAS as being in the lower 10% in the state. For this reason, Sustainability Improvement Plans must be submitted to DESE and approved. Ms. Diaz discusses the district's plan to work with the union on specific instructional focus areas. Additionally, curriculum development, revision and evaluation are a large part of their plans. These two turnaround schools are looking at the data to determine what they are getting from students and what needs to be incorporated into what they are learning.

G. Vine asks what forms of data would be examined.

Ms. Diaz responds that utilizing tutors who work half days, they are able to do individual assessment through all students. Also, on a half day, staff looked at all students' work in grades 3, 4 and 5. Through this evaluation, they have been able to determine what steps need to be taken to help improve student success.

Ms. Vezina states that the middle school is working closely with the younger grades to build cohesion as students move to sixth grade. In addition to this, they are using evidence based classroom practices and literacy content in all areas.

L. Murphy asks if the schools are still doing PBIS.

Both Ms. Vezina and Ms. Diaz respond affirmatively.

G. Vine makes Motion that the School Committee endorse the turnaround and improvement plans as presented by administrators. Seconded by L. Murphy. Vote is unanimous.

7. New Business:

a. Robinson-Broadhurst Grant Application:

Motion by G. Vine to accept the Robinson-Broadhurst Grant Application as presented. Seconded by S. Lapointe.

In discussion, G. Vine asks for amendment to the motion to take the individual applications and vote on them separately. R. Forsythe asks for synopsis of the Grant Application. T. King explains that the grant is broken into large groups. One is for the laptops and laptop program, one is for dual enrollment program, one is for Memorial Elementary as they do not qualify for Murdock Trust funds.

G. Vine withdraws previous Motion and makes new Motion to accept the Robinson-Broadhurst Grants other than the Grant currently presented which is related to Worcester State, to approve these as presented. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

G. Vine then makes Motion to accept the Robinson-Broadhurst Grant relative to Worcester State as presented. Seconded by L. Murphy. S. Lapointe votes aye; R. Forsythe abstains; G. Vine votes aye; Chair votes aye. Motion is passed through majority vote.

b. Ronald L. Lavigne Annual Scholarship:

L. Murphy explains the significance of the Lavigne Annual Scholarship, which

is available to Murdock seniors and past graduates pursuing a career in forest and wildlife protection or management, protection of natural resources, sustainability, environmental stewardship, animal husbandry or the like and attending a four-year, two-year or certificate program.

Motion made by G. Vine to accept the Ronald L. Levigne Annual Scholarship and approve the awarding of the scholarship. Seconded by R Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

8. Old Business: None

9. Future Agenda Items:

G. Vine asks T. King for information regarding the requirements of teachers and Staff during a physical altercation on school grounds. He asks if there is a written policy for this matter. T. King suggests that it be listed as a Future Agenda item, as well as a report from Ms. Weeks regarding her site visits with the BARR Foundation.

10. School Committee Closing Comments:

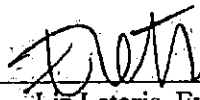
R. Forsythe asks that an alternate member be appointed to participate on the paraprofessional contract negotiation subcommittee. L. Murphy appoints G. Vine as alternate.

S. Lapointe submits letter of resignation from the School Committee, as she needs to pursue an opportunity that would conflict with her ability to serve on the committee. L. Murphy thanks S. Lapointe for her service on the committee and wishes her good luck with future endeavors.

11. Adjournment:

G. Vine makes Motion to adjourn. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:



Liz Latoria, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached: None