



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 1/6/22

Date Approved/Held: _____

School Committee Chair: [Signature]

School Committee Meeting
December 9, 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; Karen Kast-McBride; Thad King,
Interim Superintendent

L. Murphy reads audio visual disclosure.

3. Public Comment:

Tina Santos approaches and asks if public comment will take place after the interviews on Tuesday. L. Murphy replies no. G. Vine explains that there will be public comment before the interviews, but after the interviews, the committee will go into deliberation.

Ms. Santos asks if the committee will be taking input from the public who attended the meet and greets of the finalists. L. Murphy recommends that they email the committee or to come to the meeting on Tuesday night.

4. Student Representative Report:

Student representative gives report of the student council and National Honor's Society's holiday initiatives, as well as the Wreaths Across America event at the Veterans Cemetery. Updates on sporting events include boys' basketball and ice hockey.

Stephanie Rondeau approaches and gives an update on the students' trip in April to the Mediterranean port, which has been moved twice already. Student, Liam Lambert has received \$1,000 scholarship toward his trip, and his application was outstanding. Ms. Rondeau explains that the schools coordinate with the guidance counselors' office to do a gift card drive as well as winter coats and hats.

4. Consent Agenda:

L. Murphy introduces Consent Agenda.

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

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Bus Issues:

Representatives from NRT, Scott Sheridan and Pete Delano, approach to address the many issues the district has had with bus transportation. Mr. Delano explains the issues with staffing due to COVID.

The representatives and the committee agree that NRT will draft a memorandum to be sent out to the families of Winchendon, apologizing for the issues that have occurred and explaining what they are doing to attempt to counteract the staffing shortages. T. King asks that the company look more closely at the timeliness of their communications to the district regarding bus changes or delays.

b. COVID Update:

T. King gives update on COVID in Winchendon Public Schools. After the spike in positive cases before Thanksgiving, the numbers leveled off; however, this week has seen another spike. Due to sub and staffing shortages, administrators are helping to cover classes. Additional COVID support nurses have been hired, and the Heywood Health Clinic has been helpful as well.

R. Forsythe asks if the School Committee can do anything to help in the staffing issues.

T. King explains that the district has been working with DOE, who have expedited COVID tests and helped to enter data.

Board of Health Chair, Keith Kent, approaches and gives an update on the local Numbers of positive COVID cases in Winchendon and surrounding towns.

c. Budget Update:

T. King explains the Year to Date budget report, which shows the percentages of each line item and their total usage for the current fiscal year.

R. Forsythe asks if the district has received the grant money from Robinson-Broadhurst. T. King responds that the district has not yet but will notify the committee when it does.

7. New Business: None

8. Old Business: None

9. Future Agenda Items:

R. Forsythe requests that a bus update be added for a future agenda item. K. Kast-McBride suggests doing this toward the end of January due to the holidays. G. Vine suggests February.

T. King suggests that the site visits from the high school be considered for a future agenda item.

K. Kast-McBride suggests adding the Sizer Charter School update as a future agenda item.

10. School Committee Closing Comments:

K. Kast-McBride closes by asking that any information or support for candidates be sent to the board members. She also requests that people keep their children home if they are ill.

R. Forsythe echoes K. Kast-McBride regarding the letters of support for the candidates and encourages people to come to the meetings so that the candidates can meet staff, students and families. R. Forsythe also congratulates Liam, the scholarship recipient on the global citizenship scholarship.

11. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted: _____



Liz Latoría, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached: None