



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released 6/6/24

Date Approved/Hold _____

School Committee Chair R. Kast

School Committee Meeting

May 7, 2024 – 6:00 pm
2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

Attendance:

Jake Catlin, David LaPointe, Karen Kast- McBride, Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Interim Superintendent, Liz Latoria

1. **Call to order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Audio Disclosure**
4. **Student Representative Update:**
5. **Public Comment:**

Winchendon residents – Recently elected to school committee, discusses concerns about Superintendent search and the committee not being transparent. Urges committee not to make decisions on Superintendent appointment until a full board is set so a fair decision can be made.

K. Kast-McBride responds to public comment, stating the decision to extend the contract of Interim Superintendent was made Jan. 18, 2024, when the full board voted unanimously. States that motion was made by committee member, A. Findley; second by committee member, A. Leblanc. Discusses waiver process.

Winchendon Resident – curious on steps taken by the committee with regard to the \$180,000 given to former Superintendent.

Winchendon Resident and Parent – expresses concerns about Principal, Anne Diaz being let go. Discusses loss of former Principal, Jessica Vezina. Discusses concerns about staffing.

Toy Town Elementary Teacher – Reads the Announcement of Vacancy for Superintendent, questions why it was posted that an appointment would be made in May 2024.

Winchendon resident and substitute – discusses meetings with Anne Diaz; discusses issues regarding her grandson's IEP which she has not reported to SPED Dept; discusses concerns about ALL program staffing and lack of substitutes.

Middle School Parent – Discusses severance for former Superintendent.

6. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. **Minutes – Vote**

J. Catlin moves to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023; October 11, 2023 and April 2, 2024 meetings as presented. Seconded by D. LaPointe. Vote is unanimous

7. Superintendent's Report:

- a. Interim Superintendent's Update** – Dr. Goguen, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Goguen discusses personnel updates and contracts offered to current employees; interviews have been conducted for Executive Assistant. Toy Town Elementary Principal search is discussed. Student athlete updates and achievements are read. NRT Bus issues are discussed Toy Town Elementary, still in turnaround status, is working with SSoS on math progress and learning walks took place on April 24th.
- b. FY24 Budget Update** – Mrs. Latoria, Interim School Business Manager
Mrs. Latoria gives update on year-to-date expenses for the FY24 budget. Provides updates on FY24 Improving Ventilations and Air Quality Grant, which the district was awarded \$261,133 to make improvements to the Toy Town Elementary classroom air quality. Plans to install minisplits in classrooms. B. Croteau gives details on how plan was created.

Tiered Focused Monitoring Update:

Mrs. King explains TFM process and updates. State is looking at Special Education and Civil Rights for the district; will require updates to policies and EL; revisions of student handbooks; Bullying and Intervention Plan.

8. Subcommittee Reports: None

9. New Business:

- a. CAPS Collaborative Update - Vote**
Dr. Goguen explains the CAPS Collaborative's desire to add Ayer-Shirley Regional School District to the Collaborative. Motion made by J. Catlin to approve the addition of Ayer-Shirley Regional School District to CAPS Collaborative. Seconded by D. LaPointe. Vote is Unanimous.
- b. Disposal of Facilities and Maintenance Materials – Mr. Brian Croteau, Director of Facilities:**
B. Croteau presents list of items needing disposal, trade in or sale, discusses procurement requirements for such items. D. LaPointe asks about liability for the district for the sale or trade in of items that are out of compliance. B. Croteau states those items are not typically sold but are recycled or disposed of. D. LaPointe moves to approve the disposal of facilities and maintenance materials in the form of trade in, sale or disposal as presented. Seconded by J. Catlin. Vote unanimous.

Open Meeting Law Complaint:

K. Kast-McBride explains Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on the committee due to failure to post meeting minutes. Discusses plan for recreating minutes from the meeting not recorded. Discussion regarding Executive session meeting minute requirements and confidentiality – will not be released unless committee votes to do so. K. Kast-McBride states she will respond to the complainants in writing.

Discussion regarding the severance package given to former Superintendent. D. LaPointe states the matter will be going to litigation, will be pursued by the board, who will hire an investigator to investigate the transaction and protect the interest of the tax payers. Discussion about why the payment was not prevented from happening.

10. Old Business:

a. Superintendent Search Discussion

Discussion regarding the committee's January 18, 2024 decision and vote to extend the contract of current Interim Superintendent. K. Kast-McBride explains the waiver process and why it is necessary as Dr. Goguen is retired. D. LaPointe moves to allow the chair to begin the waiver process. Second by J. Catlin. Vote is unanimous.

11. Future Agenda Items:

- a. School Choice Participations – Vote**
- b. Handbook Updates/Bullying Intervention**

12. Closing Member Comments:

K. Kast-McBride congratulations elected school committee members; thanks voters.

D. LaPointe congratulates elected board members.

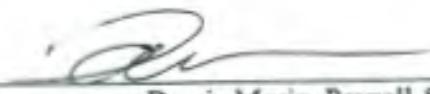
13. Executive Session: The Winchendon School Committee will meet in Executive Session under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Sec 20 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and will adjourn from executive session.

J. Catlin moves Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to adjourn from Executive Session. Second by D. LaPointe. Vote is Unanimous.

14. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm

Respectfully Submitted:



Darcie Morin, Payroll & Data Specialist

Documents Attached: None