



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: Dec 19, 2024

Date Approved/Held: _____

School Committee Chair: K. Kast

School Committee Meeting

October 30, 2024 – 6:00 pm
2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

Attendance:

J. Caitlin, Karen Kast-McBride, Mike Barbaro, Marc Gosselin, Interim Superintendent

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Audio Disclosure: Audio disclosure not given due to no one in audience
4. Public Comment: No public comment
5. Student Report: Homecoming was last week. Standings for class cup are as follows:

Sophomores at 250, Freshman 300, Juniors 350, and Seniors are at 575 points. Dance was at Toy Town on Saturday, 170 students attended. Student council members attended officer workshop on 10/26 at Worcester Tech High School. Murdock High hosted Haunted Hallways on 10/26, 200 people attended. Results of the favorite rooms: first place – Freshman, Second place – Sophomores, Third place – Seniors, and fourth place – Juniors. Proceeds from event will help the cause of tower yearbooks. Murdock Middle will host a Halloween dance of Friday, November 1st. On November 6th student council will attend the Central District Regional Conference at Blackstone Valley Tech High School. On Friday, November 15th National Honors Society members will attend the fall conference at the College of the Holy Cross. This Friday, Murdock plays Air Shirley. Cheer has competition in Grafton at 1:30 Saturday and in Marlborough on Sunday. On October 21st was the Gardner Co-op with field hockey.

K. Kast – Asked if the student rep was going to stay the rest of the night and mentioned that if he has “pressing homework or anything just let them know ahead of time and they will excuse you” No other questions from the committee.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes – M. Barbaro moved to approve the minutes. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote unanimous.
- b. Sandy Hook Promise Donation of funds to support SAVE Promise Club Activities for 24-25 school year. –

M. Gosselin – This was an outcome of a conversations that began last year with Ruthann as we looked at the opportunities to enhance Social- emotional learning. The grant would provide middle and high school with \$500 to start a promise club which is a youth led organization that will help students improve their schools and create friendly environments & spaces to learn. No questions from committee.

M. Barbaro motions to move to accept the \$500 from Sandy Hook Promise to support the saved Promise Club activities for the year 24-25 school year. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.

- c. Chevy Back to School Program through Salvadore Chevrolet, donation of funds to support Murdock Middle School after school clubs.

M. Gosselin – The donation comes from the Salvadore Chevy, a part of the overall Chevrolet back to school program which they select one school within the community to support. This year they have selected the Middle School. They would like to donate \$500 to help support that go on at the school and would like to come out and join us a little celebration present us the check and they ask for us to hang some back-to-school posters honoring the award they gave us. This will go to our PTO or PTA to help sponsor the school supported events, just to do fun things for students. It's going to be a no strings attached type of award. Someone also from the newspaper reach out and would like to come out and do a story on it when we receive the check.

K. Kast – When will that going to be?

M. Gosselin – It depends on you all. If you approve this now, we can contact them and schedule a date. But we can't schedule that until it has been approved.

No other questions from committee.

J. Caitlin – Would like to move to accept the \$500 from the Chevy back to school program through Salvador Chevrolet for the 24-25 school year. Second by M. Barbaro. Vote is unanimous.

J. Caitlin – if there are businesses in the community they would like to come up with a program of their own or a business who already has a program what would be the best way for them to get in touch with the appropriate people at the school level.

M. Gosselin – best way would to be call or email me. My contact information is on the district website. Then we will set up a meeting to discuss the desire of the business and the needs of the school and see if there is a mutual interest and put something together.

K. Kast – Suggested we should put something on the school's website to thank the business and people that have donation.

M. Gosselin – will talk to Bill about putting something together.

K. Kast – Willing to help if needed. Has done "web designs before"

7. Superintendent's Report:

a. Interim Superintendent's Update: Dr Gosselin, Interim Superintendent

October 9th & 10th – opportunity to join other elementary principals J. Forsythe and B. French and visit class rooms to observe the implementation of wit and wisdom program. A trainer from Great Minds joined.

October 10th – Met with all the town department heads at the senior center. It was nice to get together and get on the same page.

October 16th – met with area of Superintendents over at Fitchburg State. Discussed mainly on increasing teacher preparation pipeline. What are some things we can do? What programs exist? There is a fast-track program being offered through the state of Massachusetts for Paraprofessionals that want to become teachers also DESE looking to introduce a new teacher apprentice program requirements would be High School graduate and at least 18 years of age, and if they were to get hired from a school district they would work like a teacher in training. They would work in the classroom alongside with the main teacher, learning how to become a teacher and taking classes on the side. Two years later they can get their initial teacher's license. Still working out the details, and working together with the group of Superintendents and to write a proposal with Fitchburg State on trying to implement something like this in the region and see if we can help our own teacher pool.

K. Kast – Not sure who to talk to, maybe S. Rondeau. But they were doing something like that no an apprenticeship but Ronan did something like while he was a student in the in the dual enrollment program.

M. Gosselin – Knows about districts putting together these grow your own programs but the thing with the teacher apprentice program is almost like paid student teaching. It's really a fast-track way for people to start training getting real experience while getting

paid and being able to get trained to become teachers. Right now, there is a crisis across the country we are preparing about 2/3 fewer teachers than we have historically.

K. Kast – I think seeing how we've been doing it right when the kids came back COVID. So, its recently.

M. Gosselin – Will talk to S. Rondeau.

K. Kast – Notes that the kids were getting paid too. They weren't doing this as volunteers. Believes it was a grant.

M. Gosselin – Talked about a preschool program that he had in one of the districts that he worked for.

K. Kast – Notes that when she was in Boston and talks about the set up that they had there for a Preschool/Daycare program.

M. Barbaro – We also partnered with Franklin Peirce. They have a teacher program there and would send students out that were interested in teaching and would come and mentor with the teachers in different grades.

M. Gosselin – will look into the Franklin Peirce program and send any ideas his way. Admin team has been busy to strategize how to improve learning outcomes. What are Somethings that are getting in the way and where we would like to be, what are some obstacles and how do we remove them. Almost at the finishing line of the districts improvement plan and hopefully be able to share at our next committee meeting.

October 21st – a team met with coaches from Education Development Center (EDC), which is partnering with DESE in the May Institute. We are working with these coaches to develop a multi-tier system to support students those along those social, emotional and behavioral needs. The team has been working on plan and hoping to present this at a future committee meeting.

K. Kast - What is the goal of that?

M. Gosselin – the goal is to figure out what students in the tier 1,2 and 3 and what need with in the social emotional behavioral needs and create together a more coherent and aligned system.

K. Kast – but this is geared towards social, emotional, behavioral needs versus academic?

M. Gosselin – Yes and no. it's particularly geared towards that but would bring the social, emotional, behavioral domains into a larger umbrella of MTSS. So, we would be just looking at the academic and attendance but all other areas as well for successful student outcomes and helping students thrive.

Oct 21st – Met with the HEEL Collaborative Committee.

Oct 22 & 23rd – Met with Admin team and a couple of teachers. Tasked with creating Special education plans based on our district's needs to improve graduation rates and reduce drop out rates for our special education student.

K. Kast – So you had to write an IEP for the district?

M. Gosselin – Pretty much. We've been meeting with folks from DESE's statewide system of support. Discuss with DESE to come up with a different corrective plan for the district that meets our needs instead of inheriting a plan that's has not bee affective for the past 3 years.

K. Kast – Just to be clear we have had the same conversation with them at several meetings. We are doing the something over and over again.

J. Caitlin – Your (M. Gosselin) is doing exactly you should be doing and represent the community as the way we would like you too. You have our support. Thank you.

Met with representatives from NRT our bus and van company address some issues with our special education's students on the vans and how we can partner with them to improve bus behavior overall.

Today, MSBA board of directors voted to invited the Town of Winchendon into its accelerated repair program to join MSBA and conducting a design study at Memorial

Elementary School, Toy Town for potential roof and window/door replacement project. Murdock High school for replacement project. The high schools' windows are one year short to qualify for replacements.

Last Friday some staff from Central Office hosted a coffee with the community. Chance to engage with the community and listen to what they think about the district and their hopes for the schools.

Toy town had a fine dining event past Tuesday. The staff (teachers & custodians) played the waiter and waitresses, they had table cloths and the kids dressed up for the event.

This morning we had instructional rounds. Looking for student engagement.

Tomorrow Halloween parades. No school on Friday, PD Day for staff.

Motion for a five-minute recess. No second. Vote unanimous.

8. New Business:

- a. **MASC Delegate Assembly Resolutions** M. Barbaro motions that we allow the chair because there's a lot of motions made to vote on what the resolutions are pending the changes as she feels they're fit. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.
- b. **Consider for Adoption the 2024-2025 Student Handbooks** – M. Barbaro motions as presented. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.
- c. **Recycling of Obsolete Tech Equipment** – M. Barbaro motions to approve recycling of obsolete tech equipment as presented. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.

9. Old Business:

- a. **Yes on 2 Resolution** M. Barbaro motions to approve out stand on question 2 that we are back question two. That MCAS be taken away as a graduation requirement. Yes, on question two. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.
K. Kast – Just to clarify this the stance of the school committee, that doesn't not necessarily mean that is individual stances. Want to put out there for people that are not here.
- b. **Organizational Meeting** – Tracy is going to be here on November 21st so we can do it on November 21st. All present members agree.

10. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Athletics
- b. Regionalization

11. Closing Member Comments:

M. Barbaro – Have a nice, safe Halloween.

J. Caitlin – reiterating what M. Barbaro said and to bring back knowledge for us from the meeting next week. Says thank you to M. Gosselin for his report tonight.

Student Rep – Has no closing comment.

K. Kast – Is to reiterate everything everyone else has already said. Have a wonderful Halloween and watch out for Vinnie jumping out to scare you and Jake jumping out from behind a cow.

12. Adjournment: M. Barbaro motions to adjourn. Second by J. Caitlin. Vote is unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Darcie Morin

Darcie Morin, Payroll & HR Generalist

Documents Attached: None