

Winchendon Public Schools



Date Approved/Released

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Michael J. Bales
School Committee Chair

School Committee Meeting

January 23, 2025 – 6:00 pm

2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

Attendance:

K. Kast, D. Iannacone, Mike Barbaro, E. Marinelli, Marc Gosselin, Interim Superintendent, Liz Latoria, Business Manager

1. **Call to order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Audio Disclosure:**
4. **Public Comment: None**
5. **Student Report: None**
6. **Consent Agenda:**
7. **Superintendent Report: None**
8. **New Business:**
 - a. **Budget Work Session –**

Dr. Gosselin: Gives an overview of how school funding in MA works.
L. Latoria: Review the FY25 and FY26 budget priorities. Explains the FY26 Budget process that has been done so far. Goes over projected general fund revenues and sources. Student enrollment projections, school choice (sending and receiving)
 - b. **Budget Timeline and Outreach Plans:** Reviews budget drivers. Special Education cost projections. Budget Scenarios: 3 budget models – Level Service Model, Level Service Plus Model, and Program Improvement Model, and explains each model. Goes over the cost of the program improvement requests. Goes over the next steps in the budget process.
D. Iannacone: Ask to clarify the student enrollment projections and ask about bargaining units and how they were calculated.
Dr. Gosselin: Explains that there is a placeholder for the unions.
L. Latoria: Explains the reason behind the student's projections.
M. Barbaro: Comments on the budget and discusses his thought process regarding the budget.
Dr. Gosselin: Adds to the budget discussion based on M. Barbaro's comments.
M. Barbaro: Talks about regionalization, transportation and insurance. Dr. Gosselin adds to this his thoughts on this discussion.
Dr. Gosselin: Discusses his plan and reason for meeting with the team to about the media strategy.
M. Barbaro: Ask if we have staff retiring at the end of the year.
L. Latoria: gave the totals of teachers and paras retiring at the end of the year.
Dr. Gosselin: discusses retirement and social security.
K. Kast, Dr. Gosselin, and M. Barbaro had a decision regarding Special Education.
L. Latoria suggest sending out a survey. K. Kast agrees and asks if she has any examples.

E. Marinelli: Brings up her concerns about the programs they are talking about, the need for high-quality staff that would be needed for these programs, and what we would need to do to keep the high-quality staff without going through an agency.

D. Iannacone and Dr. Gosselin: Discuss support for students who do not move on to college.

K. Kast: Discusses the budget.

E. Marinelli: Offers to help with the survey.

All members discuss on how to bring budget information to help clarify and answer questions they may have. They also discuss ideas and an idea of time/where/when for this.

9. Old Business:

a. Tri-Board Meeting

K. Kast: Asks if anyone has anything to add. Notes that she added transportation. Also, ask questions about the how transportation is paid. The school or the town budget. M. Barbaro clarifies. K. Kast decided that transportation is no longer needed.

b. February Meeting Dates:

E. Marinelli: Wanted to clarify why they meet twice a month while other school committees meet once a month.

M. Barbaro: It's been past practice, and otherwise, we put everything in one meeting and stay pretty late because of that.

E. Marinelli: Notes that they are usually pretty late anyway.

K. Kast: states some districts do one meeting a month, while the majority do two a month, for the reason M. Barbaro mentioned

6th and 13th for February meetings.

Changed the budget hearing back to March 20th

10. Subcommittee Reports: None

11. Future Agenda Items:

a. Superintendent Contract

b. Program of Studies

c. Graduation Requirements/Competency Determination

d. Regionalization

e. Weekend Backpack Program

Add Transportation Contract and NRT

12. Closing Member Comments:

E. Marinelli – excited to move forward

M. Barbaro – mentions the incidents of buses not picking up students. Has serious questions about the bus company. Believe they have not been great with the districts.

M. Gosselin – Says thank you, everyone.

D. Iannacone - None

K. Kast – thank you to everyone.

13. Adjournment:

M. Barbaro motions to adjourn. Second by D. Iannacone. Vote is unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:


Darcie Morin, Payroll & HR Generalist

Documents Attached: None