

Date Approved/Released: 10-27-16

Date Approved/Hold: 12-15-16

School Committee Chair: D. LaPointe

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:03 P M.

Present: Danielle LaPointe, Dawn Harris, Larry Murphy  
Steve Haddad-Superintendent, Richard Ikonen-Business Manager

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: Middle School Football team members Jack Polcari, Justin Thira and Corey Fasulo invited the school committee to their home game against Uxbridge on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. The team is undefeated. L. Murphy and S. Haddad offered congratulations to the players and commended the team. Team members cleaned the Ingleside fields after Fall Festival and plan to visit the senior citizens at Broadview as part of their community service.

4. Correspondence and Announcements: S. Haddad reported the district is working with Officer Flagg regarding the recent clown incidents, noting an 'all call' will inform parents the situation is a hoax. He stressed there is no danger or threat to the students or residents and read a statement from the WPS. There will be a heightened police presence at the schools. The procedure for reporting any suspicious activity was explained. D. LaPointe noted there is an information session for families interested in Camp Takodah on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. S. Haddad introduced his mentor, Joe Buckley, and reviewed his credentials and their work together.

S. Haddad announced the new recognition called the Blue Devil Cool Award and said the administrative team unanimously agreed upon Martin Johnston for his hard work and dedication to the district. S. Haddad noted and reviewed some of Mr. Johnsons' most recent projects. L. Murphy commended him for his work that saved the district thousands of dollars. He included Jim Murphy for his work contributions despite having very little resources at their disposal.

S. Haddad also recognized Suzanne Michele for going above and beyond with her service to the students and staff. He offered several examples, calling her a wonderful asset to the administrative team, as when she stepped in as TTE principal for a week. He stated 'her work ethics and educational priorities make our school system better'. L. Murphy noted that in his short time on the committee, he is aware of the effect and influence on the students and families, as well as the staff. He applauded the superintendent for starting this award. S. Michele stressed it is a team and school community effort that makes it work. S. Haddad announced that Greg Vine resigned from his position on the school committee due to a conflict with his new job at the Gardner News. He commended his support of the Winchendon community and the schools, and looks forward to more positive stories. S. Haddad and the committee presented him with a bag of gifts. G. Vine thanked the committee and the administration, noting he will continue to promote the schools.

5. Student Representative: none

6. Student Recognition: None/Teacher of the Month: None

7. Superintendent Report: S. Haddad announced the last graduate of the class of 2016 is Tyler Gallant. Joshua Romano noted Tyler will join the Marine Corps in a week. Shawn Houle graduated from Murdock Academy and Devon Berndt earned his high school diploma. He is glad these persons took advantage of the expectations the district sets for the students and is very proud of their accomplishments. S. Haddad commended J. Romano for his persistence and dedication. L. Murphy noted how the staff is willing to work with the students until they make it.

S. Haddad reported that the district has been chosen for a comprehensive district review, and read parts of a letter from DESE. K. Mecelicaite will be the District Liaison. She spoke about the review plan process and the documentation that needs to be collected as part of the review, due October 26, 2106. DOE representatives will do onsite visits and interview staff and students and observe in classrooms. The district will be able to review the final document for corrections. She believes the report will highlight areas where the district can improve. She submitted updated job descriptions for the school committee to consider and approve. D. Harris will replace G. Vine on the policy committee for the short term. Wellness Committee minutes were also submitted for informational purposes. S. Haddad noted this district review could be beneficial to the Strategic Plan he is developing. The final document to be submitted to DESE by the Superintendent does not need approval by the school committee. The final document will be sent to and presented to the committee. The DOE findings will also be presented next spring. L. Murphy thanked her and her team for taking on the task, noting it is a big challenge that fits their skill set.

S. Haddad, R. Ikonen and Bill Clinton met with the town manager and accountant to discuss the security cameras for the schools; funding is from town meeting vote and Robinson-Broadhurst. The phone system also needs to be upgraded (cost-\$62,000). The district will discuss making a joint purchase with town hall to maximize savings. The town manager offered the district the use of its' portable security cameras for school events such as games and plays.

Business Office Report: R. Ikonen sent out the budget update for the committee to review; he will also meet with committee members to further discuss the numbers. L. Murphy credited the staff for bringing in 1 million dollars in grants.

8. Old Business: none

9. New Business:

- a. Approval of Field Trip--Keene, NH- Alison Galipeau requested permission to take 29 high school students to the Red Fern Arts Building in Keene, NH on October 28, 2016. D. Harris moved to approve the field trip to Keene. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0.
- b. Cathy Desmaris, teacher in the All Program at MHS, requested permission to bring the students to the Rindge, NH Market Basket once a month to do their shopping. D. Harris moved to approve the field trip to Rindge, NH. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0.
- c. FY-2017 Grants to accept-R. Ikonen reported the district has received 9 grants totaling \$1,052,847.52. D. Harris moved to accept these grants as listed for \$1,052,847.52 Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0.
- d. Authorize Murdock Middle & High School Student Activities Accounts--J. Romano reported that he and Fay Wheeler consolidated and closed redundant accounts. Additional information was not included in the packets. D. Harris moved to table to the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0.

- e. Fundraiser Calendar-Information was not included in the packets. D. Harris moved to table the fundraiser calendar discussion to the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0. The calendar will be presented in the spring from now on.
- f. Wellness Committee Minutes-December 16, 2015, March 25, 2016 and June 8, 2016. No vote is needed. D. Harris noted she signed them.
- g. CAPS update-L. Murphy noted he passed the ethics exam and is a certified board member. He shared items from the meeting he attended. He reviewed the items discussed, noting the program is very solid, financially sound and moving in the right direction. 10 Winchendon students are in the program.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: none

11. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released:

L. Murphy moved to vote on a, b and c together. Second by D. Harris. Approved 3-0-0.

D. Harris moved to accept all three meeting minutes as written. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 3-0-0.

- a. Thursday, September 1, 2016-Regular Meeting
- b. September 15, 2016-Regular Meeting
- c. Tri-Board Meeting Minutes-September 15, 2016

12. Questions and Comments by Members-D. LaPointe offered thanks for the flowers and thanked Janet for covering for her in her absence. L. Murphy said he felt really good about the meeting tonight, the positive energy, and the exemplary work people are doing. He noted 'we have to recognize we have to be better every single day to move from Level 3 to Level 1'. He noted people tonight showed how hard they are working. S. Haddad thanked the middle school students, noting they each invited a favorite teacher to the Narragansett game; approximately 20 teachers attended. All of the students are remaining in-district rather than opting to school choice- out. He noted the importance and benefits of getting them involved in their community.

13. Other: none

14. Future Agenda Items:

- MCAS Test Scores
- District Improvement Plan
- Building Improvement Plan
- SSIP team-November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Monty Tech Representative - FY17 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

15. Executive Session: 7:17 PM D. Harris moved to go into Executive Session for Purpose #1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties, and to come back into open session only to adjourn from open session Second by L. Murphy. L. Murphy-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye. Approved 3-0-0.

16. Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary