

Date Approved/Released: 3/16/17

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School Committee Chair: D. LaPointe

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY MARCH 2, 2017
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

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

Present: Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Dawn Fronte, Larry Murphy, Felicia Nurmsen, Steve Haddad-Superintendent, Richard Ikonen-Business Manager

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson D. LaPointe called for a moment of silence for Mary Ellsworth. She worked in the school system for over 20 years.

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments:

J. Corbosiero reported that, at the invitation of K. Mecelicaite, she observed a monthly guidance meeting. She commended the energy, the dynamics and the flow of information between Memorial School and Toy Town Elementary. S. Haddad noted K. Mecelicaite, who watches all of the schools, wanted them to share their successes and challenges. Today was Dr. Seuss' Birthday; the district participated in Read-Across-America Day to celebrate. S. Haddad noted he was very impressed by the 1st grade students at the Memorial cafeteria, who were excited but quiet and controlled, monitoring their own behavior. They agreed that Memorial is successfully preparing those students to move on to Toy Town Elementary.

4. Correspondence and Announcements: None

5. Student Representative: None

6. Student Recognition: (2nd meeting of the month), Blue Devil Cool Award: The recipient was unable to attend and will be recognized at a future meeting.

7. Superintendent Report:

Read-Across-America today to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday was a lot of fun; he read "Horton Hears a Who". We received a letter from The Murdock Trust announcing that we will receive \$170,000 for the educational purposes for children ages 10 and above. He sent the trustees a letter thanking them for their support. On March 9th, the committee is invited to the Youth Venture Spring Showcase at Great Wolf Lodge from 5:00-7:00 PM. Approximately 20 communities will be represented; 2 teams from Winchendon are presenting their projects, which are designed to help their communities. Memorial School is presenting a McTeacher Night to raise funds for school activities; school staff will be working behind the counters. The staff/class working schedule was reviewed.

Kindergarten Registration:

- Open Registration is from March 20th to April 14th.
- Evening registration for Incoming Kindergarten - Tuesday, April 4th from 5:00-7:00 PM.
- Parent Orientation Night - Wednesday, May 17th from 6:00-7:00 PM.
- Kindergarten Screening for Incoming Kindergarten (by appointment) on June 1st and 2nd from 9:00 AM -2:30 PM. There will be no Kindergarten classes for current students on those 2 days.
- Make-up dates for Kindergarten Screening - August 29th from 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM by appointment.
- Kindergarten Visitation Day for all new Kindergarten students - August 30th from 10:15 AM - 1:30 PM.
- First Full Day for Kindergarten students - August 31st.
- Pre-School Screening for new students - May 3rd and 10th.

The Winchendon Community Safety Forum is scheduled for May 3, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 PM (tentatively at the Murdock High School Auditorium). The forum will address the opioid use and abuse crisis. District Attorney Joe Early will participate; his office will work with the district. S. Haddad and D. Fronte, as part of the Winchendon Substance Abuse Task Force, will also participate.

Suzanne Michel has been given the new title of Assistant Director of Pupil Services to encompass all of her responsibilities. Her duties remain the same; questions should be directed to S. Haddad.

L. Murphy and S. Haddad are going to the Legislative CAPS breakfast tomorrow morning; Senator Gobi and Representative Zlotnik will also attend. S. Haddad read parts of the Senate Bill SD 1905 that would revise and modernize the foundation budget for the 21st century. S. Haddad urged residents to contact Senator Gobi or Representative Zlotnik and ask them to support the bill.

Business Office Report:

R. Ikonen presented the monthly update, noting he is working with the Town Account and is still adjusting accounts that have negative balances. The Circuit Breaker reimbursement is delayed due to late filing of the End-of-Year Report; it should be here within a few weeks. A spending freeze was immediately instituted in January in anticipation of the lag or shortfall of funds; it has been strictly adhered to. He is working now, along with the FY18 budget, to come up with a projection for the rest of the year. He is meeting with his mentor and discussing this extensively to avoid last minute surprises. Reclassifications will be presented at the next meeting. J. Corbosiero noted she is glad to see fewer negative balances but is still concerned about SPED and Tuition to Collaborative. At her request, R. Ikonen will regularly present a report that details which revenue sources will cover the negative line items.

8. Old Business:

- a. School Committee April Meeting: The committee will post meetings for April 6th, 13th and 27th. The Student of the Month recognitions are moved to the 27th. The athletic and extra-curricular group recognition schedule was discussed, including holding them at the high school. Concerns regarding the lack of live-air capability at the school were noted.
- b. Parent Information Sessions for the MCAS Spring 2017 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math tests: March 7th at the TTE Auditorium and March 14th at the MMS Auditorium to discuss the changes to the testing.
- c. School Calendar 2017/2018 Final Approval - J. Corbosiero moved to approve the Winchendon Public Schools Calendar for 2017-18. Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 5-0-0.
- d. Superintendent Evaluation - D. LaPointe and S. Haddad will meet to discuss the results; the document will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

9. New Business:

- a. Recognizing: Boys Basketball, Winter Track, Field Hockey, All District Choir-Each group will be scheduled to be publically recognized by the committee.
- b. Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Letter - Mayor Hawke attended the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's School Committee meeting yesterday where the issue was discussed. S. Haddad is waiting to hear back from Mayor Hawke. The letter from the Winchendon School Committee will be written and sent. J. Corbosiero commented that the Winchendon Board of Selectmen seemed to believe it was their prevue. S. Haddad stated that he feels the School Committee should be part of the review committee and he will include that in the letter. L. Murphy and F. Nurmsen are both representatives on the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Sub-committee. They will be working on ideas to bring forward. L. Murphy hopes one of them will be appointed to the ad-hoc committee. L. Murphy would like to do a position paper to present to different venues, but noted the effort really need legislature help, as this is a state concern. L. Murphy stated that it is important for us to be vocal and vigilant for our students to get a fair and equitable education. F. Nurmsen recommended the committee reach out to BOS to clarify our position and let them know of our intentions.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: None

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

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017
J. Corbosiero moved to approve. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0.

12. Questions and Comments by Members:

D. Fronte reported that Chartwells was serving ice cream at Murdock; S. Haddad will check into it. It is outside of the nutritional guideline. The vending machines do not compete with Chartwells, they are only after school within calorie guidelines. The Gatorade machine is on a timer that starts at 2:05 PM. R. Ikonen will respond to F. Nurmsen's email regarding the Chartwells invoice.

13. Other: None

14. Future Agenda Items:

- a. District Accountability Report
- b. Chartwells Update/Contract Renewal (March 16, 2017)
- c. C. Landanno - CAPS presentation: Definition of Success"

15. Executive Session: None

16. Adjournment: 6:51 P.M. L. Murphy moved to adjourn. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0.

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