

Date Approved/Released: 3/2/2017

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: D. LaPointe

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2017
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. **Call to order:** 6:02 P M.

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Citizen Questions and/or Comments:** None

4. **Correspondence and Announcements:**

Mayor Hawke of Gardner has asked the Winchendon Public Schools' School Committee for support to review, update and revise the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Agreement, due to changes made since the document was originally drafted. The agreement has only been amended 4 times since its original passing, and did not involve policy changes. A sub-committee will work with an outside agency to create a new, up to date District Agreement document. Discussion included the people to participate in the process; all suggestions would go through the recommendation process.

The committee agreed to write a letter to the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School committee to support Mayor Hawke's request to review the agreement and to vote on it at the next meeting. F. Nurmsen and L. Murphy, currently on the Monty Tech sub-committee, will represent Winchendon Public Schools.

There is a Parent Information Session regarding Spring MCAS testing, grades 3-8, on Tuesday March 7th and 14th. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

5. **Student Representative:** None

6. **Student Recognition:** February, 2017: Pre-School - Laney Burgess; Memorial School - Tristan Fuller, 1st grade; Toy Town Elementary - Elise Moury, 3rd grade; Murdock Middle School - Jessica Higbee, 7th grade; (6:25 PM D. LaPointe left the meeting. J. Corbosiero assumed the Chair. 6:28 PM D. LaPointe returned and assumed the Chair). Murdock Academy -Anastasia LaRose. **Blue Devil Cool Award:** None (*1st meeting of the month*)

Josh Romano noted there are 3 Cheerleading competitions this weekend. The final basketball games of the season are being played this week. The Boys Varsity Basketball qualified for the district playoffs. The Track Team, in addition to breaking more records, have 8 members participating in the State Championships tomorrow.

Murdock High School - Hannah Turner, 11th grade, spoke about Blue Hands, an initiative she started to raise awareness and understanding of mental illness. She headed and spoke at an assembly to explain the program; teachers will be trained as first responders. Students can wear band-aids tomorrow as a sign of support and posters have been put up around the school. The committee commended her. F. Nurmsen offered to help her program with her work resources. D. LaPointe noted the annual Suicide Prevention Walk is being planned; she offered to reach out to her and include her program.

6:44 PM J. Corbosiero moved to have a 5-minute recess so everyone can go out and get photographs. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0. 6:53 PM Reconvened.

J. Corbosiero moved to move #9 New Business, completely, up to now. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0.

9. New Business:

a. **Engineering Club** and b. **Teach and Learn** (Murdock Middle School) - Discussion and Students Presentation - Teacher Andrew Herrick briefly explained the Afterschool Program that started in January, 2016. The students explained the history, club activities and what they each liked best about the program. Chris Dack, 8th grade, Devon Melick, 8th grade, Jake Ross, 8th grade, and Cameron Monette presented. Autumn Guild, 7th grade, spoke about the Environmental Club, noting how they are learning about their surroundings and participate in service projects. The students in both clubs plan to enlist 6th and 7th graders to continue the programs; F. Nurmsen suggested they create a sustainability plan so future students can take advantage of the programs. They would also create a peer mentoring program. S. Haddad commended Mr. Herrick.

J. Corbosiero moved to take Agenda Item 8.a out of order. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0.

8. Old Business:

- a. **Secretaries Contract:** L. Murphy moved to accept the Secretaries contract as negotiated. Second by D. Fronte. L. Murphy-Aye; D. Fronte-Aye; F. Nurmsen-Aye; J. Corbosiero - Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

The contract was signed. D. LaPointe thanked the secretaries and the other unions for their patience and flexibility during the tight fiscal times.

7. Superintendent Report:

S. Haddad reported the SBIRT letter will go out and the process will begin in March. The Backpack program will be expanded to Memorial School, starting with 20-30 students. "Read Across America" is on Thursday, March 2nd. After discussion with the faculty, the strategic plan has been turned into a 5-year plan; S. Haddad noted 'we are moving in the right direction'. The Family Skate at the Ritchie Arena was planned as a celebration for the faculty and staff; it was not intended to be open to the public. It is this Saturday from 2-5. He apologized for any confusion regarding who it was open to. The Murdock Trust representative's annual meeting will be scheduled in April. The administrative team is deep into the budget process. The Boys Basketball team (11-7) is going onto district; they are playing Gardner tonight. The team will be invited to a meeting to be recognized. The Track Team will also be recognized. The Field Hockey Team also went to Districts and will be recognized.

Business Office Report:

The audit was completed last week. The management letter had many of the same minor issues as were in the previous letter; they can be rectified quickly and are already being worked on. Future processes will be more efficient and better. The Town-wide Audit Committee meets next week. S. Haddad noted that R. Ikonen started working with a mentor in January. He commended R. Ikonen's hard work. S. Haddad noted that he knew about the unpaid bills last year but had other more urgent issues to deal with; there will be no nasty surprises this year. The budget timeline is being created, working with the Governors numbers right now.

8. Old Business:

- a. **MSBA** - Jim Murphy, S. Haddad and R. Ikonen went before the BOS last week. The MSBA application was approved and the votes certified; the application has been sent to the MSBA.
- b. **School Year Calendar** - Discussion included feasibility of the February vacation and how to end the year earlier. L. Murphy noted the subcommittee meets with administration and teachers for input; no one has brought the issue up since he has been here. He reviewed the research that he has done. The protocol for addressing issues or concerns was reviewed. It was stressed that the committee is open to ideas and discussions.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: None

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

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes August 16, 2016
- b. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes February 2, 2017

J. Corbosiero moved to approve both as corrected in an email on Tuesday (February 14, 2017) and release. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0.

12. Questions and Comments by Members:

L. Murphy apologized for discussing the job performance of B. Martins in an open session. B. Martins stated she is open to criticism of her job performance in the proper setting and accepted the apology. S. Haddad thanked B. Martins for getting the minutes to him by Monday. J. Corbosiero noted the April meeting during the break is still on the calendar; it was moved to April 13th. A meeting will be posted for April 27th; it will be canceled if not needed.

Students of the Month recognition will be on April 13th. The committee is invited to the CAPS Collaborative Breakfast on Friday, March 3rd. J. Corbosiero reported that she and D. Fronte completed the implementation regarding the school committee goal #2. F. Nurmsen voiced concern regarding the sidewalks at Murdock Ave. and Grove St.; the side walk is icy on the Old Murdock side. She is also concerned about the Oak St. sidewalk-it is not plowed and kids walk in the street. Discussion included whose responsibility those area are to maintain.

13. **Other:** None

14. **Future Agenda Items:**

- a. District Accountability Report
- b. Superintendent Evaluation (March 2)
- c. Chartwells Update/Contract Renewal (March)
- d. Cindy Landanno-CAPS-“Definition of Success” (April)
- e. Basketball-Varsity Team, Track, Field Hockey, All District Choir
- f. Letter in support of Monty Tech District Agreement Amendment

15. **Executive Session:** None

16. **Adjournment:** 7:50 P.M. J. Corbosiero moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte.
Approved 5-0-0.

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