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Winchendon Public Schools

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK

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School Committee Chair: *L. Murphy***SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, May 3, 2018

2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. **Call to order:** 6:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance
Present: Larry Murphy, Danielle LaPointe, Dawn Fronte, Greg Vine
Richard Ikonen-Acting Superintendent/Business Manager

2. **Audio/Video Disclosure:** Barrie Martins

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

4. **Student Representative Report:**

Nicole Lemire reported that Murdock Student Council received the National Gold Council of Excellence Award for the fourth year in a row, one of only 243 high schools in the country. Murdock Middle School will host their annual musical Elf, Jr. in the Murdock High School Auditorium on May 5-6; times and ticket prices were reviewed. There will be a town-wide yard sale at Murdock on May 19th from 8:00-2:00. The yearly scholar's dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 18th at 6:00 pm. Guest Speakers are Sara and Becca Wheeler. N. Lemire noted the highlight of the year was going to the Annual Student Council Conference in Hyannis. The Boys Track Team continues to do very well. L. Murphy noted that Molly Murphy, Girls Softball Team, made and presented gifts to the senior players on the Narragansett team; an example of good sportsmanship. Thad King, the new principal, has been in district at the MMHS one day a week.

5. **Student/Staff Recognition:** None

6. **Teaching and Learning Highlights:** Leadership Training USMC – Heidi Bevacqua
The presentation has been postponed; it will be rescheduled.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Director of Pupil Services Recommendation – Greg Vine thanked R. Ikonen for the email yesterday that reviewed the process for this hiring; he read part of the email. S. Haddad communicated by letter his recommendation that Suzanne Michel be hired as the new Director of Pupil Services. S. Haddad reviewed her history in the district, noting she was most recently moved to the Assistant Director of Pupil Services position. He added that she is invested in this town and district and will continue to focus and advocate for the students and staff to make this district the best. G. Vine thanked everyone who participated in the search committee process, noting each person brought their own concerns and issues they wanted to be addressed. They took the process very seriously and made the decision made the utmost deliberation.

G. Vine stated that he endorses Superintendent Haddad's recommendation that the committee vote to appoint Suzanne Michel as the new Director of Pupil Services. L. Murphy explained that the school committee is doing the hiring because this is a Central Office position. D. Fronte said Ms. Michel is a top-notch candidate and is very pleased with the recommendation. D. LaPointe said acknowledged Ms. Michel's many years of service and agreed with the recommendation. G. Vine noted he heard all the questions as he was on the search committee, noting that she answered them very well. L. Murphy stated 'She is Blue Devil Cool'. He voiced concern that she does not try to do all of this expanded job herself and noted the importance of delegating so the job does not 'burn her out'. He voiced confidence that she will be highly successful for a long time. G. Vine moved that we appoint Suzanne Michel as the new Director of Pupil Services for the Winchendon school district. Second by D. LaPointe. Ms. Michel thanked all of the committee members for investing their time, and stated that she really contemplated whether this was the right move to make. She knows there are pros and cons to hiring a candidate from in-district, and looks forward to collaborating with staff to move the district in the right direction. She welcomes the challenge. G. Vine noted that Ms. Michel was committed to staying in the district regardless of the outcome, adding 'that speaks volumes of her professionalism and her commitment'. Vote: Approved 4-0-0.

8. Consent Agenda:

- a. Field Trips: The Chairman needs to sign the previously approved Field Trip Requests.
- b. Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes: April 11, 2018

D. LaPointe moved to approve all items in the Consent Agenda. Second by G. Vine. Approved 4-0-0.

9. Superintendent/Business Office Report:

- a. Staffing Update – Acting Super R. Ikonen reviewed the lengthy list of new hires and staffing position changes; he reviewed the makeup of each committee and the closing date of each posting. Interviews start next week. There are 4 finalists for the Murdock High School (MHS) Assistant Principal position. The 8 interviewees for the Dean of Students at Toy Town Elementary (TTE) will be narrowed down to 2 and presented to Superintendent Haddad; the new position was explained. Positions include a TTE-5th grade Teacher, an ABA Specialist, a 6th grade Teacher, an Art Teacher at MHS, a Speech Language Assistant and a Speech Language Pathologist. He hired a new History Teacher in the Middle School. There are additional anticipated openings which will be posted.
- b. Organizational Chart (Administration) - The revised April, 2018 document shows the updated flowchart. R. Ikonen reviewed the changes.
- c. Schedule of Events Remainder SY-2018 – Events that the committee will be interested in attending were noted. * June 1 – Promenade at 4:40 pm., *June 2 - Alumni Banquet at 6:00 pm at the American Legion, * June 3 – Graduation - The ceremony will be

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outside weather permitting. D. LaPointe noted the Murdock Middle School Academic Awards are on May 7th. The 7th Grade 'Shark Tank Inventions' presentation is on May 11th. R. Ikonen will follow up regarding the 8th grade field trip.

- d. Update Budget Process- The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the school district FY19 Budget on April 3rd. with a 5-0 vote. The Finance Committee voted to approve the same on April 24th with a 4-2. Finalized warrant articles are in the packet. The Annual Town Meeting is May 21st. The Town Elections are on May 7, 2018.
- e. Final Town Meeting Warrants – See above.
- f. Funding for grants are going smoothly. On Monday, April 30th, he requested approximately \$280,000 that will be used to pay salaries and other expenses in the next 30 days; this will offset many of the negative balances in the Year-To-Date balance sheet line items. Grant reconciliation is underway; he will work with Carolyn Hendricks to bring that up to date on Monday. The Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 Circuit Breaker reimbursement of \$106,000 came in recently. It will be used to offset Special Education expenses or shortfalls. The district will receive \$53,000 for the last quarter, totaling \$212,000 for the year. Specific line items were discussed.

10. Sub Committee Report:

- a. MASC Policies Update Newsletter – D. Fronte reported there has been no action; she has not met with Carolyn Hendricks yet. She noted the WPS Policy Manual is the same as the MASC. She and D. LaPointe will meet to review the newsletter.

11. Old Business:

- a. School Committee Meeting Schedule – After discussion, G. Vine moved to approve the committee meet on May 24th, June 7th and June 21st. There will be no meetings in July. Second by D. Fronte. Meetings will start at 6:00 pm. Approved 4-0-0. R. Ikonen will tell Nicole Lemire and the administration regarding the student recognitions.

12. Future Agenda Items:

- a. School Committee & Staff Communications Policy
- b. School Committee Retreat Day & Agenda
- c. FLLAC Report
- d. CAPS Report – L. Murphy (5/24/18)

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13. **Committee Member Comments:** After discussion, D. Fronte moved to appoint G. Vine to read the warrant article at Town Meeting, if L. Murphy is absent. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0. D. LaPointe will finish her term at the end of June.
14. **Executive Session:** None
15. **Adjournment:** 6:43 pm. G. Vine moved to adjourn. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

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