



# Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 11/04/2021

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School Committee Chair: [Signature]

## School Committee Meeting

October 7, 2021 - 6:00 pm

2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD NOV 18 2021 PM 12:48

### 1. Call to order

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### Attendance:

Larry Murphy, Chair, Ryan Forsythie, Karen Kast-McBride, Shauna Lapointe, Thad King, Interim Superintendent

L. Murphy reads audio visual disclosure:

### 3. Public Comment: None.

### 4. Student Representative Report

Student Representative from Murdock High School provides update on recent events, including homecoming and football games, cross country, soccer, field hockey.

L. Murphy introduces and welcomes three new teachers: Erich Grosse, Casey McNally and Emma Erwin, all teachers at Murdock High School.

### 5. Consent Agenda:

L. Murphy introduces Consent Agenda.

K. Kast-McBride makes Motion to accept Consent Agenda as a whole. Seconded by L. Murphy. No discussion. Vote is unanimous.

### 6. Superintendent's Report

#### a. COVID Update:

T. King gives update on COVID in Winchendon Public Schools. Commissioner extended the mask mandate through November 1, 2021, and he backed up the date

for the opportunity for schools to remove masks. Vaccinated individuals may remove masks if the total number of vaccinated individuals in each school is 80%. This deadline has been moved to October 15, 2021. WPS was given the opportunity to host a vaccination clinic; however, fewer than twenty families expressed an interest.

T. King clarifies at the request of K. Kast-McBride that WPS has created a dashboard on its website to give a snapshot of the positive cases for that school day. Additionally, extra COVID support personnel has been hired.

b. Budget Update:

T. King has no unforeseen budget issues to date. The TAG grants are being written by building principals, and the deadline for submission is October 15. T. King points out the YTD Budget report that is included in the packet which was provided by the Superintendent's office so that the committee can view particular budget line items.

c. Sizer Charter School Annual Report:

Annual report was provided by Sizer Charter School, indicating that WPS does have students attending there. More information regarding the amount of tuition is paid to Sizer, and T. King agrees to bring that to the next meeting.

d. Spring 2021 MCAS Presentation:

Dr. Jonathan Landman gives a presentation for Spring 2021 MCAS results. The graduation requirement for passing the MCAS was changed for the graduating classes of 2020-2022. Declines were shown in scores in grades 3 through 8. Students in Winchendon grew or lost ground more slowly than students across the state as a whole.

Looking ahead, Dr. Landman suggests that we look at WPS students' grade level expectations and gaps in language arts, math and science.

L. Murphy summarizes that WPS students did not make the progress that was hoped for because of the pandemic.

S. Lapointe asks if the data trends were similar in the subgroups that needed support.

Dr. Landman states that he did not go back and do that sort of analysis but will do that and present on it at a later date.

T. King states that the first step is to get over the 10th percentile as it is a threshold that defines a district as one of the lowest performing districts. He believes that WPS will see some positive gains over the next two to three years.

## **7. New Business:**

### **a. Vaccination Discussion:**

R. Forsythe moves to table the staff vaccination discussion. Seconded by L. Murphy. Vote is unanimous.

### **b. School Calendar Change:**

L. Murphy asks the reason for this item being on the agenda.

T. King explains that there were 181 days on the calendar and there are supposed to be 180. He recommends that the last day of school be moved to the 14th and the 9th be made a half day.

S. Lapointe moves to accept the school calendar date change as presented. Seconded by K. Kast-McBride. Vote is unanimous.

## **8. Old Business**

### **a. Superintendent Search Update:**

T. King states that Tracy Novick is available to attend a meeting on October 14. All the forms have been run with district administrators, school based administrators, central office staff. Ms. Novick met with all faculty, staff and students and has also offered community forums. Surveys went out and all are complete. When MASC joins the meeting next Thursday, he anticipates that they will be updated on what the next steps are.

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

K. Kast-McBride asks that a future agenda item be internet capabilities in case the district's COVID numbers go up and we are forced to return to hybrid.

## **10. School Committee Closing Comments**

R. Forsythe comments that administration did a good job of capitalizing on an opportunity with the homecoming event at Hidden Hills and with the sports programs as they are doing great.

K. Kast-McBride thanks Stephanie and T. King for the opportunity as well. She also thanks all involved in providing an education during the pandemic. Even though WPS numbers were low, they were still better in the growth category.

## **11. Adjournment:**

R. Forsythe makes Motion to adjourn. Seconded by L. Murphy. Vote is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:



Liz Latoria, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached:

None