



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 11/17/2021

Date Approved/Held: _____

School Committee Chair: L. Murphy

School Committee Meeting October 14, 2021 - 6:00 pm 2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

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

L. Murphy reads audio visual disclosure.

3. Public Comment: None.

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD NOV 22 2021 AM 11:03

4. Student Representative Report

Student Representative from Murdock High School provides update on recent events, including bottle and can drive, vendor bingo and a senior field trip to Salem, as well as sporting event updates.

5. Consent Agenda:

L. Murphy introduces Consent Agenda.

G. Vine makes Motion to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by L. Murphy. No discussion. Vote is unanimous.

G. Vine makes Motion to move item number eight on the agenda, Superintendent Search, down to number ten and that the committee allow Mr. King to excuse himself for the meeting during the discussion on the Superintendent Search. Seconded by K. Kast-McBride. Vote is unanimous.

6. Superintendent's Report

- a. COVID Update:

T. King gives update on COVID in Winchendon Public Schools. The positive test numbers in Winchendon are at 5.5, which is down from 5.64 from last week. The state average is 1.82%. The test rate overall is still high in town. Additionally, a survey was sent out to employees of Winchendon Public Schools this week with a return of about a 50% rate, and overall, about 95% of faculty is either vaccinated or plan to be vaccinated by November 1. 100% of those who responded from Memorial were vaccinated, 90% from Toy Town Elementary and 93% from the high school.

L. Murphy asks for discussion. R. Forsythe states that the first school district in Massachusetts made their way to 80% vaccination; however, they have delayed their decision to go mask free.

T. King states that there has been no suggestion as to how to measure the number of vaccinated individuals, other than looking at the state vaccination database, which is not always accurate.

K. Kast-McBride asks if this discussion has been had with Murdock Academy.

T. King states that the coordinator would be in support of that.

b. Sizer Charter School Update:

K. Kast-McBride makes Motion to table topic. Seconded by L. Murphy. Vote is unanimous.

T. King excuses himself for the Superintendent Search discussion.

7. Old Business:

a. MASC Superintendent Search Update:

Tracy Novick gives update on the current Superintendent Search, beginning with the results of the survey which was conducted.

R. Forsythe asks for more details on the feedback received, including cross school communication.

T. Novick replies that many responses indicated that employees wanted more information regarding student progress and the curriculum.

Discussion progresses regarding the community brochure, and updates are agreed upon.

T. Novick suggests that a search committee be appointed before the application deadline. L. Murphy replies that two representatives from each group of stakeholders should be considered, including one school committee member,

administrators, teachers and students and parents. K. Kast-McBride follows that a SEPAC representative should also be present.

The numbers are agreed upon as follows:

- i. One building principal
- ii. One central office administrator
- iii. Two teachers
- iv. Two students
- v. Members of the community
- vi. Parents of students

The dates the search committee needs to be available are as follows:

- i. November 10
- ii. November 15
- iii. November 17, 18, 19
- iv. November 22

L. Murphy is nominated as the school committee member who will also be on the search committee. Vote is unanimous.

8. Future Agenda Items

None.

9. School Committee Closing Comments

R. Forsythe comments Liz Latoria has helped the committee in being prepared for this evening and completing the tasks that were necessary to meet with Tracy and be successful in setting up the search that's ready for success.

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.

10. Adjournment:

G. Vine makes Motion to adjourn. Seconded by K. Kast-McBride. Vote is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:



Liz Latoria, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached: None