

WJ
5/19/16

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:01 P M.

Present: Dawn Harris, Greg Vine, Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Larry Murphy
Steve Haddad-Superintendent
Marc Chapulis-Business Office, TMS

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: none

4. Correspondence and Announcements: J. Corbosiero wanted to thank the Winchendon school employees who write the grants that bring in more than 1.3 million dollars a year to the schools. List Deb Scortico, Mary Aker, Kristina Mecelicaite, Suzanne Michel, Jennifer Haddad, Kate Levenworth, Carolyn Hendricks, Josh Romano, Jessica Vezina, Kathryn Vanderhoof, Mike Fontaine, James Murphy and Cindy Darcy. She stressed these people write the grants on their own time, with no compensation from the district.

5. Student Representative: Aidan Provost announced that inspirational speaker Davie Muse will present a program to the high and middle school on April 13th. He will speak about leadership and overcoming struggle. There is a Meet the Candidates night for CDMASC to hear student council candidates speak. There is a Middle School dance on April 15th. The CDMASC conference is on April 29th, when the elections are held. The 7th & 8th grade students will attend a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at The Winchendon School. All sporting events were postponed this week due to the weather; the updated sports schedules are on line. The Junior Class won the Best Play award at the Tournament of Plays last weekend. Aidan noted it was a good, competitive year. They will perform for the school. L. Murphy commented that the quality of all 4 classes was outstanding. He congratulated the actors and the behind the scenes crew.

6. Student Recognition: Jacob Lively, 4th grade, raised \$100, one of the top fundraisers as part of Jump Rope for Heart; to benefit the American Heart Association. Teacher of the Month-Andrew Herrick, Middle School Science teacher, was nominated by Becky Benedict. She noted his energy, attentiveness and concern for his students has made a difference in his 2 years in the district. S. Haddad stated it is a great honor to be nominated by a coworker and a parent. Committee members commended his enthusiasm, noting it is inspiring and infectious. L. Murphy highlighted his desire and efforts to be better.

G. Vine moved to take under New Business Agenda sections (Items) 9a, f, g and h out of order and dispense with that business now. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 5-0-0.

9a. 3rd Grade Spelling Bee-Duane Bernier-Sellers: Kathryn Vanderhoof noted he competed against 8th graders. Guidance Counselor Mr. Londo arranges the competition. School committee members voiced their admiration.

6:28 PM D. LaPointe moved to take a 5-minute recess. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

6:34 PM Reconvened.

9. g. Wellness Policy Presentation

Simona McClure and Kristina Mecelicaite reviewed the areas that were changed district wide. Chartwells food services have been very helpful in cases of food restrictions and health education. Physical activity is a focus. Feedback for the backpack program has been very positive. L. Murphy moved to accept the wellness policy as written for the 1st reading. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

f. Social Emotional Learning and Guidance Curriculum Presentation-Kristina Mecelicaite presented the standards for Preschool and Kindergartens. She reviewed the impact on Winchendon and her recommendations for going forward. The SEL follows 5 national standards and the Mass. Curriculum; the district will make a committee to determine how many standards are already embedded in the curriculum. She noted that many of the standards are already incorporated; the district is ready for implementation. She wants to get paid training for the staff. The need to get staff to understand the standards and to make it endemic to all classrooms was stressed. The importance of reinforcement at home was noted. Suggestions could be included in each newsletter in an effort to teach the parents and community.

f. SISEP- Committee Presentation-Josh Romano, Kathryn Vanderhoof and Jessica Vezina reviewed the purpose of the team and updated the progress of the initiatives. The district is in the 3rd year of a 5-year grant that supports the systemic implementation of science based practices in way that fits the districts' resources. They reviewed where each school building is in the program; updates will be presented to the school committee twice a year, before budget season starts and in June. Additional grants will be applied for; L. Murphy stated the work is so important it should be put in the budget. The committee thanked them for their work.

7. Superintendent Report: S. Haddad noted April is Autism Awareness month. The Kiwanis Bike Program at Old Murdock is on April 16th. He is still reviewing the AESOP attendance computer program; it interfaces with Harpers and Munis. A meeting has been scheduled for staff and secretaries to view it. Patty Jackson, President of the Para-professionals union, sent a letter asking for clarification of the school committee policy regarding para compensation. The policy sub-committee will review the policy as soon as possible.

Business Office Report: M. Chapulis noted he sent the LEA procedure reports, grant and revolving account expenditure reports to the committee; they will be discussed in detail at the next meeting. The Sped transportation line is running over; the Business office is working with the Sped office to identify funding sources; they may have to do some transfers within the warrant article that will not affect the town budget. The office is reviewing all accounts and encumbrances to determine available funds. He will report at the next meeting. L. Murphy voiced concerned about the transition of TMS to the new Business Manager. S. Haddad noted the search time line, the contract with TMS could be extended to allow help with the transition. The new Business Manager may shadow TMS for several days.

The SPED deficits will be addressed. The generator funds were encumbered but they do not cover the entire project; Monty Tech students might put the pad in. M. Chapulis said most line items will be addressed by the April 28th meeting. The Sped tuitions cannot be balanced until the Circuit Breaker funds come in around June 30th (paid quarterly).

8. Old Business:

a. Student Activities Account Audit-D. Harris noted the document was not an audit; it is a report to guide the committee on procedures. Some correcting needs to be done; a policy committee needs to revise the policy to meet MASC requirements. Student fundraising activities also need revision; DESE will put forth a handbook procedural guide. Corrective actions for each finding/item were reviewed. Procedures need to be enforced.

Chris Ricard, President of the WTA, noted she had requested the audit last fall. She requested an audit be done and cover back to the last one 5 years ago. M. Chapulis will communicate with Roselli and Clark; it had been requested and believed to be paid for. A copy of the supplemental contract will be forwarded to the committee. D. LaPointe offered apologies on behalf of the school committee.

Discussion included the appropriate use of student activity funds, best practices and deficiencies in practices. There are remaining funds in graduated class accounts that need to be put into an alumni account. C. Ricard noted that by law the district cannot use student activity accounts; appropriate uses were discussed. Classification of specific fundraising money was discussed. Lisa Paulitzky, Middle School Secretary, will meet with Len Mackey, Middle School Principal, to solve dilemmas she brought forward.

9. New Business:

b. Appointment of School Committee member to Business Manager Search Committee- L. Murphy nominated J. Corbosiero. Second by G. Vine. J. Corbosiero accepted the nomination. Approved 5-0-0. The first meeting will be right after vacation. There are 4 applicants.

c. Appointment of School Committee member to Town Audit Committee-L. Murphy nominated G. Vine. Second by J. Corbosiero. G. Vine accepted the nomination. Approved 5-0-0.

d. Superintendent Haddad three year contract- Effective July 1, 2016-June 30, 2109. L. Murphy moved to accept and approve the three (3) year contract for Superintendent Steven Haddad. Second by D. LaPointe. L. Murphy-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye; J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

e. WTA Contract-J. Corbosiero and L. Murphy commended the collaborative process. The committee noted its' 3 goals-- 1) contracts to be competitive to keep teachers here; 2) language to better support the goal of having teachers be the professionals we know they can be and 3) contract to be fair and accomplish the desired goals. The contract vote passed 62-4. D. LaPointe moved to accept and approve the WTA contract. Second by G. Vine. L. Murphy-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye; J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0. C. Ricard will bring the contract to the Superintendents' office to be signed.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: none

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

a. Joint Meeting SC, BOS, FinCom-February 29, 2016-D. LaPointe moved to table to the next meeting. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0.

12. Questions and Comments by Members: D. LaPointe asked people to support the Out of the Darkness Walk at MWCC on April 30th to support suicide prevention and awareness of mental health issues. D. Harris read a notice from the Winchendon CPAC inviting the committee to attend a presentation by John Walker on April 13th. The next committee meeting is on April 28th. S. Haddad and the entire committee will attend the Day on the Hill on April 26th.

13. Other: none

14. Future Agenda Items:

a. Monty Tech Representative - FY16 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

b. Day on the Hill-April 26, 2016

c. Town Meeting-May 16, 2016

d. Wellness Policy-2nd Reading

e. Town Election-May 2, 2016

15. Executive Session: none

16. Adjournment: 8:52 P.M. G. Vine moved to adjourn. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary