



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 7/11/22

Date Approved/Hold:

School Committee Chair:

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School Committee Meeting

May 5, 2022 - 6:00 pm

Town Hall - 2nd Floor Auditorium

Attendance:

School Committee: Larry Murphy, Chair; Greg Vine; Dr. Ryan Forsythe; Mike Barbaro; Thad King, Superintendent; Robert Mullin, Director of Finance

1. Call to order

L. Murphy reads audio-visual disclosure.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment: None

4. Student Representative Report:

Student Representative presents information on student council member who was selected as Unsung Hero for the Central District for 2022. On May 20, the Special Education Department will host Special Olympics. A pep rally for the event will take place on May 19. Updates are given on WPS sports teams. Murdock High students had a wonderful trip to Europe.

5. Consent Agenda:

G. Vine moves to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

6. Superintendent's Report:

R. Mullin presents COVID update for the district. On May 3, the Director of Pupil Services sent out a message to middle school families with a recommendation that students wear masks due to an increase in positive cases.

Upcoming dates are reviewed by Mr. Mullin. May 17, the Scholars Dinner will take place. Eligible students will be notified and may invite up to two parents or guardians to attend. On May 27, there is a senior class field trip to Boston. On May 31, there will be a mock crash presentation coordinated with the Winchendon Police Department. Also on May 31, juniors and seniors will have a powderpuff game at alumni infield. May 31 through June 1 will be final exams. June 2 will be class day, and June 3 will be prom. June 4 will be the

senior class celebration, and June 5 will be graduation.

R. Mullin presents budget update. He states that total available funds is \$3.8 million, of which \$3.3 million is in salaries. That leaves an additional amount of approximately \$500,000 to spend before June 30. R. Mullin states that he has been allowing individual budget line items to remain in the negative for the past month without making the micro-adjustments that have been done over the past year. He feels it gives him a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the budget.

L. Murphy states that his expectation is that we will not be giving a large amount of money back to the town at the end of the year without addressing the needs of the school District.

7. New Business:

L. Murphy introduces Stephanie Rondeau to present high school seniors who received Lions Club and Adams scholarships.

Field trip permission slips are presented for out of state trips to be approved by the committee. G. Vine moves to approve prom being held at Hidden Hills in New Hampshire. Seconded by M. Barbaro. Discussion is had for clarification of the two permission slips included in the packet. Vote is unanimous.

G. Vine moves to approve second field trip permission slip for a college visit to a Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. Seconded by M. Barbaro. Discussion is had. Vote is unanimous.

R. Forsythe suggests tabling the discussion of Superintendent Evaluation as members are not present. R. Forsythe moves to table discussion. Seconded by M. Barbaro. Discussion is had. Vote is unanimous.

R. Mullin reads the Superintendent's recommendation for the number of School Choice seats the district will offer for school year, 2022-2023. L. Murphy asks if this is an increase or decrease in the numbers from last year. R. Mullin does not know. M. Barbaro moves to accept the open seats for discussion. Seconded by G. Vine. M. Barbaro states that it is a bad idea to limit the number of School Choice seats due to the amount of money that is lost to students who leave to go to other districts. He asks why we are limiting ourselves to such a low number. Director of Pupil Service, Nicole Heroux, approaches and explains that it is a necessity to limit the number of School Choice seats due to the class sizes being very high at Toy Town Elementary. The district feels it is in the best interest of its students and staff to keep the class sizes down. M. Barbaro states that he does not buy Mrs. Heroux's argument and does not agree with her statement. He states that as we have budgeted for new teaching positions, the district should create additional classes to accommodate more students. L. Murphy asks Mr. Barbaro what his suggestion is. M. Barbaro states that he would like to see more of a discussion. R. Forsythe states that these counts were calculated by the Central Office and Principal staff

based on the recently passed FY23 budget that did include additional teachers; however, the class sizes remain high, and he is very happy to see the School Choice counts as they are presented. Discussion is ended. Roll call vote as follows: R. Forsythe: Y; G. Vine: Y; M. Barbaro: N; Chair: Y. Motion carries.

M. Barbaro moves to approve the district school calendar as presented. Seconded by G. Vine. Discussion is had. R. Forsythe expresses gratitude to the school administration. He states that half days are challenging for families, and this calendar does include many half days. His hope is that in the future, we do try to limit the number of half days whenever possible. Discussion is ended. Vote is unanimous to approve the calendar as presented.

8. Executive Session:

G. Vine moves to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to reconvene in open session. Seconded by M. Barbaro. R. Forsythe asks if there are any agenda items that should be moved ahead of the Executive Session so that the committee can reconvene for the vote and then adjourn. Future agenda items include Murdock Trust Breakdown, presentation of ESSER funds. Vote to enter Executive Session is unanimous.

Committee reconvenes after Executive Session for the purpose of take a vote. M. Barbaro moves to approve the Agreement between the Winchendon School Committee and the Winchendon Support Personnel Association as presented. Seconded by G. Vine. Vote is unanimous.

9. School Committee Closing Comments:

R. Forsythe thanks WSPA and its leadership for very constructive and productive negotiation of the new contract. He thanks Mike Barbaro for his service to the school committee. He also thanks the teachers during this Teacher Appreciation Week. Nicole Landry was recently recognized for receiving the LifeChanger of the Year award.

G. Vine echoes those thanks to the teachers and the work they do. He also complements Nicole Landry for her service to the district. He thanks Mike for his service to the Community.

M. Barbaro thanks the voters who came out to vote on Monday and congratulates Alicia Jordan for her win and wishes the committee members the best of luck. He thanks Mr. King for working to rebuild the district and helping Winchendon move in a positive direction.

L. Murphy thanks Mike for stepping up to help out in the school committee. He hopes that Nicole Landry will attend a meeting so she can be recognized for her accomplishments. He thanks the other committee members for the work they have done this year.

10. Adjournment:

G. Vine moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by M. Barbaro. Vote is unanimous.
Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: Liz Latoria
Liz Latoria, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached: None