



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released: 7/11/22

Date Approved/Hold:

School Committee Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Forsythe", written over a horizontal line.

School Committee Meeting

June 2, 2022 - 6:00 pm

Town Hall - 2nd Floor Auditorium

Attendance:

Larry Murphy, Chair; Ryan Forsythe; Greg Vine; 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. Reorganization of Committee:

G. Vine moves to table reorganization as two committee members are not present, with the vote to be taken on June 16 as long as a quorum is present. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

5. Student Representative Report:

Student Representative presents information on special olympics, Mr. Grosse's sports management class' presentation to the Patriots' marketing department at Gillette Stadium, the senior class field trip, the mock crash and Murdock High School sports.

G. Vine thanks Maria for being the student rep for this year. She will be missed. R. Forsythe thanks Maria as well. L. Murphy wishes Maria luck at college and congratulates her on a great high school career.

6. Consent Agenda:

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

7. Superintendent's Report:

T. King presents COVID update for the district. The positive cases are decreasing town-wide, with only one positive case in the school district.

R. Mullin presents an update on ESSER funding within the district. Esser 1 is ready to be closed out, and approximately \$300,000 remains in ESSER II. L. Murphy questions why we are in a hole in ESSER 1 with -\$58,000. R. Mullin states that all we need to do is transfer funds from one line item to another. R. Forsythe asks if the additional amount in Contractual Services is already encumbered or otherwise planned for. R. Mullin states that the funds are not encumbered but that he and the superintendent will sit down next week and finalize the uses of the remaining \$300,000.

T. King explains that due to the flexibility of ESSER II in the way the funds can be spent, the district plans on utilizing those funds to complete a few projects like the chair lift at Toy Town, HVAC at the High School. He states that ESSER III has less flexibility for some of those types of capital expenditures. G. Vine asks for clarification on what will be used in Contractual Services. T. King explains the application process for these grants and how the district estimates what will be spent, then if plans change during the year, an amendment must be made to the grant budget to indicate the changes to the planned expenditures. G. Vine asks when the committee will hear about ESSER III. T. King outlines the planned usage of ESSER III funds and that the district leadership team will discuss the plans during its summer retreat.

T. King discusses the high school principal search. He states that after interviewing the qualified candidates, the search committee offered the position to Mary Jane Rickson, who is currently holding the position of Interim Superintendent in North Brookfield. She comes to the district with lots of experience. She will be introduced to the school committee as soon as she is available to attend a meeting. R. Forsythe asks if she will be able to attend the meeting on June 16. T. King responds that he will invite her. R. Forsythe states that he is glad the committee found her and she seems like a wonderfully qualified candidate. He asked how the students reacted to her. T. King responds that the students approved of her and felt that she was very student supportive, centered and friendly.

T. King gives an update to school safety, describing an incident at the high school in which a student made a threat against Winchendon Public Schools. The investigation is ongoing, but the student was removed from the schools to ensure that all students were safe. The district is reiterating to the faculty the importance of safety, working with the Winchendon Police as well as Officer Flagg, the district SRO. As the year ends, the district plans to use available funds to update security features in the buildings. Discussion is had between committee members regarding the district and the Winchendon Police Department's response to a safety situation. T. King describes ALICE training and the differences between the more updated safety training and the older, more outdated trainings. R. Forsythe asks if there is anyone who assesses the effectiveness of the safety training. T. King explains that it is difficult to to assess that, but that the district runs through drills and relies more on the adults for execution of the training in younger aged

school buildings. R. Forsythe asks that the Superintendent inquire with the police department and report to the committee regarding the incident command style trainings that the town has undergone relative to school buildings. T.King states that they have met regarding incident command from an administrative standpoint, and it is something that will be reviewed with Officer Flagg over the summer. The district will have a crisis plan manual that will be in each school that covers the basics.

8. New Business:

L. Murphy introduces Murdock Middle School principal, Jessica Vezina, who discusses the Middle School's Targeted Site Visit Preliminary Findings, which were overwhelmingly positive. The middle school remains at a level three accountability rating with the state. The school was noted to be on the right track from the site visit, was noted to have systems in place to shift student directed learning to make it coherent for students, students are setting SMART goals for themselves, and the school has done something that many other districts have yet to figure out.

G. Vine comments on the minor earthquake that was created when the district switched to Summit. He states that he always had faith in Mrs. Vezina and her staff that they'd be able to carry it off.

Mrs. Vezina outlines the details of the findings as presented. G. Vine compliments Mrs. Vezina, stating that he doesn't know how one could ask for a better report than what she has received. Mrs. Vezina states that they are going to apply to become Summit Learning Fellows. They were chosen to be trained as the fellows and then will in turn train staff members. R. Forsythe congratulates Mrs. Vezina on being selected and on a fantastic report. He asks how the results align with student outcomes; how have student outcomes changed, and what effects these changes will have on future student outcomes. Mrs. Vezina replies that a lot of it comes down to MCAS, as well as looking at how the high school students are doing and how successful they are. She has seen growth from 6th grade to 8th grade. She believes that Mr. King has done a fabulous job of getting the team of administrators, who in turn get their team of teachers together on the same page, offering a consistency across the district. R. Forsythe questions the change from AIR to SchoolWorks and asks if it was a unilateral decision to the the district to choose that. Mrs. Vezina replies that it was a decision that she and Mrs. Diaz made together, describing the details that prompted their decision. L. Murphy congratulates Mrs. Vezina as well and compliments her staff.

L. Murphy introduces the next agenda time, Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation FY23 Funds receipt. T. King explains the Chromebook plan that was applied for with the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation funding. The district applied for \$190,000 and was awarded \$180,000.

G. Vine moves to approve and accept the funds from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

9. Old Business:

L. Murphy introduces the Superintendent Evaluation discussion. L. Murphy makes

reference to the form included in tonight's packet to give the committee members an idea of the categories and the expectations for a Superintendent in Massachusetts. R. Forsythe asks if the Superintendent would be expected to do a progress report in preparation for a formative assessment. L. Murphy states that typically, the Superintendent would provide the committee with his/her goals and just a brief synopsis of those goals, what kind of progress is being made, evidence that things are moving forward, then the committee responds with the things they see and hear and observe and getting feedback from their constituents.

10. Future Agenda Items:

Future Agenda items are as follows:

- a. Murdock Trust Breakdown
- b. Data Presentations
- c. School Committee Reorganization

11. School Committee Closing Comments:

R. Forsythe congratulates the Murdock Middle School and the teachers and staff on an absolutely glowing DESE and SchoolWorks Report. He congratulates the MHS seniors and thanks Maria, the student representative for being with the committee this year.

G. Vine echoes Mr. Forsythe's congratulations to high school seniors and the middle school staff for a good report. He also thanks Maria.

L. Murphy commends Mr. King and Mrs. Vezina. He states that he is very proud of all the students who received scholarships today at class day and is happy to see how the students in Winchendon honor their teachers.

12. Adjournment:

G. Vine moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

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

Documents Attached: None