



Winthrop School Committee  
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, April 6, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present: Ms. Barry, Mr. Boncore, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Martucci, Ms. Swope, Ms. Powell, Mr. Perrin**

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Susan Eccles, Office Manager

Mr. Martucci led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**DELEGATES & VISITORS**

None

**MINUTES**

**Mr. Boncore made a Motion to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2020. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. The Motion passes with one abstention.**

**FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES**

**Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW20-16 in the amount of \$195,843.10. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. A unanimous vote.**

**Ms. Swope made a Motion approve Payroll Warrant SPW20-16 in the amount of \$715,808.21. Mr. Capobianco seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-abstain, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-abstain. The Motion passes with three abstentions**

**Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW20-17 in the amount of \$720,652.64. Mr. Capobianco seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-abstain, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-abstain. The Motion passes with three abstentions.**

**Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the budget transfer request in the amount of \$14,983.00, as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. A unanimous vote.**

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

None

**GENERAL REPORTS**

Sub-committee Report

### Budget Sub-committee

A Budget Sub-committee was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 in Harvey Hearing Room. Members present were Gus Martucci and Jennifer Powell. Lisa Howard and Susan Eccles were also present. The committee voted unanimously to present the Needs Service Budget in the amount of \$23,989,083.00 to the full committee.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to recommend to the Town Council the Needs Service Budget in the amount of \$23,989,083.00. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-abstain, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. The Motion passes with one abstention.**

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lisa Howard provided the committee with an update on remote learning plans. Due to Governor Baker's extension of school closures, an updated remote learning plan is rolling out this week. The health, safety and well-being of students is the priority. If a parent/guardian is experiencing any technology issues or concerns, please contact the school principal. Every situation remains confidential. The Superintendent is also working very closely with the Winthrop Teacher's Association and it is anticipated that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed this week.

School lunches continue to be served and the Superintendent plans on serving lunch for students during the April Vacation Week. The State and Federal government is helping with funding.

Thank you to the Town Council who has committed to sanitizing the school buildings. The schools will be sanitized at the end of April in anticipation of returning to school on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Steve Calla, Rich Cifuni and Mikal Filipko for their efforts to get this done.

The Superintendent stated that she and the leadership team are very mindful of the impact this has had on all students, specifically the Senior Class. She has been in close communication with the Senior Class Officers and Principal Crombie. They are discussing traditions and celebrations and working on pushing dates, hoping events can still take place.

Discussion took place regarding April vacation week. Mr. Capobianco stated he was in favor of cancelling April vacation. The Superintendent's recommendation is to keep the calendar as is. The Commissioner of Education has lifted the ban on the total number of days. There are several districts who are keeping April vacation in place, as they are optimistic that we will be back in school on May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a fiscal restraint to fund teachers who work beyond June 17<sup>th</sup>. Where will the funding source come from to pay them longer?

After discussion there was no Motion made and April vacation will remain on the school calendar.

### **PERSONNEL**

Kathy Costonis, Grade 3 Teacher, has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the end of the school year and is requesting her sick leave buy back.

**Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the sick leave buy back for Kathy Costonis. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. A unanimous vote.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Hourly Employees Payment During School Closure

The Superintendent referred the committee to a letter from DESE Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley dated March 3, 2020, where he strongly recommends districts to continue to pay hourly employees. These costs are already in the school budget.

**Ms. Powell made a Motion to continue to pay hourly employees during the school closure. Mr. Boncore seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-abstain. The Motion passes with one abstention.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Textbook/Material Discard Request

This will remain under Unfinished Business.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- The Superintendent received public comment from a parent of two students in the district, regarding the school website. She finds the website confusing regarding the students' work (2 different schools) and was hoping a change could be made to perhaps put the letters in bold to make it easier to navigate. The Superintendent will forward this suggestion to all four principals.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:01pm, Mr. Perrin made a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and will adjourn after Executive Session.. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. A unanimous vote.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:26pm, Ms. Powell made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.**

**Ms. Barry-yes, Mr. Boncore-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes. A unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hames  
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of March 19, 2020
- Warrant SVW20-16 in the amount of \$195,843.10
- Payroll Warrant SPW20-16 in the amount of \$715,808.21
- Payroll Warrant SPW20-17 in the amount of \$720,652.64
- Budget Transfers
- Departmental Expenditure Report
- Retirement Letter
- Letter from DESE Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley dated 03/03/20
- Notice from DESE Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley dated 03/03/20
- FY2021 Level Service Budget
- FY2021 Needs Budget

*The above non-confidential documents can be found in the Superintendent's office, upon request.*