



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A public hearing of the 2019-2020 school budget was held on Monday, April 27, 2020 via Zoom Conference. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Swope was not present

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa A. Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Attorney Paul Hodnett

Ms. Powell led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Martucci 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. Mr. Boncore seconded the Motion.

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

Ms. Swope arrived at 6:13pm.

At 6:40pm, Ms. Powell made a Motion to end 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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Mr. Perrin opened the public hearing with public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Christine Van Wart: Thank you for considering my pre-k refund. While I really loved sending my son to the 3-day program and it was a tough financial decision to make, I decided to send him and work hard to make the payments necessary. He missed the kindergarten cutoff, so it was best to send him to your pre-k program even though it was hard on our budget. With that being said, we fell into a situation towards January and February, once holidays hit, that we owed your program over \$1000. End of February 2019 we received a letter indicating my son would be removed from the program on March 5th, if we did not pay the amount due. We thought this would be extreme were our 5 year old would have been removed if we couldn't pay and he would have been devastated, so we immediately gathered the money and paid 100%, now, we're in a tough situation with the current pandemic, and needing this money returned as our son is home as well my daughter and we're spending hundreds more a month on food and bills.
- Kristen Reynolds, President of the Winthrop teachers Association, Third Grade Teacher: I want to take a minute to publicly thank all of the staff of the Winthrop Public Schools for their continued hard work and dedication to the students and families of Winthrop during this difficult time, while also dealing with the effects that COVID-19 are having on our own families. The members of the Winthrop Teachers Association have been working closely with the Superintendent and other administrators to put together a

plan for Remote Learning that follows the guidelines that the Commissioner of Education has released. Over the next few days, we will continue to adapt our Remote Learning Plans to account for the updated guidelines that were released by DESE on Friday. We would like to thank to School Committee and families of Winthrop for their patience as we learn how to teach in a whole new way and adapt to these new ways to connect with and engage our students. The educators in Winthrop miss our school children tremendously. Although we expected and understand the need for the school shut down to continue through the end of the school year, we heartbroken that we will not be able to welcome our students back to our classrooms and enjoy the rites of spring that the end of the school year usually brings to students at our various grade levels.

- Julia Wallerice: How will the new budget, as proposed, impact class sizes and teacher ratios? Should we expect to see cut to "specials" like art, music, and science?

The Superintendent commented that there will be no cuts if the needs budget is approved, potential cuts with a level service budget and cuts and reductions in specials with a below level service budget.

BUDGET

Superintendent Lisa Howard presented the committee with a Budget Process Review slideshow, a copy of which is on the school website. The FY21 needs based budget is \$23,989,083.00.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:07pm, Mr. Martucci made a Motion to adjourn from the Public Hearing. 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.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, April 27, 2020 via Zoom Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 7:08pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa A. Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

DELEGATES & VISITORS

None

MINUTES

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Minutes of April 6, 2020. 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-yes. A unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Mr. Boncore made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW20-17 in the amount of \$224,453.41. 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.

Ms. Powell made a Motion approve Payroll Warrant SPW20-18 in the amount of \$697,492.22 and Payroll Warrant SPW20-19 in the amount of \$779,096.28. Ms. Swope 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.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

None

GENERAL REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Initial 2 Week Closure March 13th: This first week, "Phase I" we prioritized student and staff safety, nutrition, and other foundational needs. We posted learning opportunities for our students and began a self-assessment of our own district in terms of technology and access to support services and learning programs.

On March 26th, in parallel with the Governor's announcement that school closures were extended until at least May 4, we began "Phase II" with a review of the DESE initial guidance on remote learning. That initial guidance was utilized in the building of a more structured Remote Learning Plan that included a focus on deeper learning of previously learned standards in grades K-8 and a continuation of teaching new standards in grades 9-12. This plan also included scheduled opportunities for students to connect with adults and peers, and to practice, process, and reflect on lessons and activities that were provided PreK- 12.

On April 22nd, given the Governor's extension of school closures through the end of the school year, The DESE has published a second round of remote learning recommendations to help districts and schools begin "Phase III."

In Phase III, school districts are now asked to continue to enhance and refine their remote learning plans and expand the K-8 RL by incorporating specific power standards that will be necessary for students to successfully transition into the next grade in the Fall.

While DESE is not expecting teachers to cover all grade level standards this year, they are now asking you to go further than before. Our Teams are in the process of reviewing the guidance and building lessons and opportunities that will focus on the prerequisite standards most critical to student success in the next school year will best support our students' learning.

Collaboration: We have teams working within our school and across the district to develop a school and system wide approach. At the district level, we continue to collaborate with our neighboring districts, who have developed plans like our own. We will continue to do so in the coming days, as well as working to interpret guidance from the DESE.

Technology Deployment: As a public-school district, it is essential that we ensure that all our students have access to the learning that can occur. One aspect of this is access to a device. We are continuing to identify families who need a device and deliver it to them.

All of this will help us prepare for our final phase of this work – "Phase IV" – when students and staff will re-enter school. In that phase, we will also need to support students with unfinished learning and prioritize additional supports to help catch them up.

Superintendents and principals have had the challenge of responding to those who say there is not enough remote learning and others who say the volume of lessons and assignments is overwhelming. Educators, many of whom are also navigating personal challenges caring for their own children and other loved ones, are doing their best to move learning forward while supporting students' social emotional needs, often well into the evening hours. And parents and caregivers are navigating the instructional experience with teachers and students, all while balancing their own work and personal responsibilities. As this crisis continues, we must all pull together to reduce the pressure on each of us in our respective roles.

PERSONNEL

The following resignations were received, effective at the end of this current school year: Vasili Mallios, Grade 8 Math Teacher; Christy Pica, Special Ed Teacher; Megan Knoster, Adjustment Counselor.

The following vacancies have been posted: Adjustment Counselor, WMS.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorandum of Agreements – Winthrop Administrators & Custodians

There is no language change in the agreements. The salary increases are reflective of what was agreed upon with the three -year Agreement with the WTA.

Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Administrators Association and the Winthrop School Committee, as well as the Memorandum of Agreement between the Local 888 SEIU Custodians and the Winthrop School Committee. Mr. Capobianco seconded the Motion.

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

Refund Requests

This matter is referred to the Budget Sub-committee.

School Choice

Any questions or history regarding School Choice can be directed to the Superintendent. This will be voted on at a future meeting.

Spring Athletic Fee Refunds

This matter is referred to the Budget Sub-committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Textbook/Material Discard Request

This will remain under Unfinished Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Julia Wallerice: Will you consider starting the new school year in the same classes and classrooms that students left off in this spring to provide a 1-2-week transition?

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Ms. Powell announced that Senior Class Officers will be making some announcements this week.
- Ms. Barry appreciates the hard work with the Remote Learning. Facetime with students is invaluable.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35pm, Mr. Martucci made a Motion to adjourn. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hames
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- FY2021 Needs Budget
- WPS Budget Process Review
- Minutes of April 6, 2020
- Warrant SVW20-17 in the amount of \$224,453.41

- Payroll Warrant SPW20-18 in the amount of \$697,492.22
- Payroll Warrant SPW20-19 in the amount of \$779,096.28
- Departmental Expenditure Report
- Resignation Letters
- Job Posting
- Memorandum of Agreement between Winthrop Administrators & the Winthrop School Committee
- Memorandum of Agreement between Local 88 SEIU Custodians & the Winthrop School Committee
- Pre-K Reimbursements
- School Choice Policy

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