



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, October 15, 2018 in the Neil Shapiro Center for Performing Arts, Winthrop High School, 400 Main Street, Winthrop, MA. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Fabiano, Mr. Martucci, Ms. Powell, Ms. Swope, Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Perrin, Mr. Capobianco

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Susan Eccles, Office Manager

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Delegates & Visitors

None

MINUTES

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2018. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia- yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW19-6 in the amount of \$228,116.17. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Fabiano made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW19-3 in the amount of \$198,275.88 and Payroll Warrant SPW19-4 in the amount of \$187,128.80. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Perrin-abstain, Mr. Capobianco-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The following requests were before the committee for approval: WMS PTO, Meeting Dates & Trick or Trot; Beverly Richards Dance Center, Dance Recital.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Fabiano seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia -yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

GENERAL REPORTS

Policy Sub-committee

A Policy Sub-committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. School Committee members present were Gus Martucci, Brian Perrin and Jennifer Powell. Superintendent Lisa Howard was also present. Topics discussed:

Updates to the Internet Use Policy and the Email Use policy to enable the high school to implement the use of an external emails system for students. This would be limited to matters related to school such as college applications or academic research.

Adopting a technology fee for high school students using Chrome Books. The discussion included investigating the possibility of allowing students to purchase Chromebooks. There is concern about not having school control over the content on Chromebooks and the testing programs currently used. The subcommittee is seeking additional information.

Further defining the composition of the School Site Councils and how members are chosen to make the process uniform throughout the district. Currently each school has its own way of setting up a site council. Further information has been requested to understand current practices and the potential benefits of changes.

The committee voted unanimously to adopt an Internet and email use policy that would enable high school students to use external email for academic and school related purposes.

Buildings & Grounds Sub-committee

A Buildings & Grounds Sub-committee meeting was held on Monday, October 15, 2018. School committee members present were Valentino Capobianco, James Fabiano, Gus Martucci, Jennifer Powell, and Suzanne Swope. Superintendent Lisa Howard was present. Peter Caggiano and Mark D'Ambrosio from Winthrop Youth Football were also in attendance. Topics discussed:

Making the P.A., scoreboard, and press box available to youth organizations during their rental period at Miller Field.

The committee voted 3-0 to allow Winthrop Youth Football to use the P.A., scoreboard and press box for a fee of \$35.00 per hour, for the remainder of their home games this year.

Mr. Fabiano made a Motion to allow Winthrop Youth Football to use the P.A., scoreboard and press box for a fee of \$35.00 per hour for the remainder of their home games this year. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia -yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided the committee with a copy of lease for a Special Education vehicle. Transportation in Special Education is a non-reimbursable cost for the school district. We have four drivers who do daily runs for WPS students who are in out of district schools. One of the items we looked at was the cost associated with driving the students ourselves. In this case we have three students going to Shore Collaborative and one student going further. It currently costs the district \$8,000.00 per month to transport these students. A five -year lease through Ford was the best option. It is a general line item. The PPS Director will approve and oversee all use of the vehicle. Anything beyond a 3- year lease must go before the Town Council for approval. The amount of savings per year is \$62,000.00 per year. This makes good financial sense.

The Northeast Metro Vocational School students are working on the field house. After the Thanksgiving Game in November we will be returning the toilets. If the students do not finish the project in the Spring, the Miller Field Committee will discuss having a contractor finish up the project.

Regarding buildings and maintenance - the school bobcat has been ordered. Chrome books have been distributed. We have ordered several walkie talkies and upgraded the raptor systems. We have removed snow blowers from the ATC School. Mr. Cifuni is working with the town and Mr. Filipko to build a new outdoor shed by the EB Newton. It will be shared with the town to store the bobcat and other equipment.

The Viking Pride Foundation is working with the band to assist with funding for things like sheet music and after-school band practice. The Superintendent is meeting this Friday with the president of the Winthrop Band Parents Association.

Mrs. Howard thanked the Town Council for appropriating money for the cost of a kindergarten teacher, aide and supplies for the additional kindergarten classroom.

MCAs results have been released. The Superintendent conducted a working meeting with some school committee members. Lori Gallivan also attended. The State is saying that these scores cannot be compared to scores from the past. We assess our students in many areas. It's not just MCAS. We had some very nice progress. This will only enhance our thoughts to push forward. The principals will be attending the next school committee meeting in October to present MCAS.

STEM students from the Arthur T. Cummings School are participating in the first Robotics competition. They build a robot who participates in athletic events. Regional Director Steve Kramer is going to give us \$4000.00 in grants. ATC teacher Rosemary McCarthy will fundraise for the additional \$2000.00.

PERSONNEL

Meredith Hurley, High School Nurse, has submitted her letter of resignation. Meredith has accepted the position of Director of Public Health & Services in Winthrop. Meredith has agreed to assist with the hiring process and transition.

The following vacancies have been posted: HS Nurse, WHS; Saturday Morning Detention Monitors & STEM Club Advisor, WMS; Literacy Lead Teacher, ATC

NEW BUSINESS

New Kindergarten Classroom Student Selection Process

Superintendent Howard provided the committee with the student selection process:

- 10/17 notify the parents/guardians of current Kindergarten students of the opportunity to have their child considered as a student who would voluntarily move into the new Kindergarten classroom. All responses due to the Principal by 10/24
- 10/24 Principal Team (Principal/ELL staff/K Teachers/Education Team Leader) will identify the volunteer and other students who are eligible to be considered for the new classroom placement and conduct the random selection process by 10/30. Only students with specific educational needs/histories will be considered ineligible for the new classroom.
- Between 10/30 and 11/5 the Principal Team will reconvene to review the class placement and finalize the placements.
- 11/9 the Principal will notify the parents/guardians of the students selected for the new classroom and reveal the transition schedule (potentially 11/26)
- The new Kindergarten Teacher and ESP will have time to meet the students and teachers and parents prior to 11/26.

New Classroom Configuration:

- 18 students, 1 teacher and 1 ESP
- Location will be in the current Kindergarten wing of the GFB
- The class composition will be reflective of the other 6 existing classrooms in terms of ratios of student (ELL/General Education/ Students with Disabilities)
- There will be 3 students chosen from each of the existing 6 classrooms to create 6 classrooms of 23 students and 1 classroom of 18 students.

- The selection process will be conducted by an identified Team. There will be controls in the selection process that allow for equity of classroom composition, teacher input, special education and ELL placement consideration and Principal discretionary practice. This is similar to the process of traditional yearly student class placement.
- New students entering Kindergarten after 11/26 will first be considered for the new classroom given the smaller class size.

Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve the process that Ms. Howard has outlined. Mr. Capobianco seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote

Resolution Reaffirming Winthrop Public Schools and Massachusetts Non-Discrimination Laws

Mr. Capobianco presented the committee with the following resolution:

“A Resolution Reaffirming Winthrop Public Schools and Massachusetts Non-Discrimination Laws Prohibiting Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation on the Basis of Gender Identity and Gender Expression”

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Fabiano seconded the Motion.

Discussion took place regarding the Motion. Mr. Vecchia was concerned about parental feedback. Mr. Martucci did not feel this resolution is something the School Committee should adopt. Mr. Perrin stated he would like the matter tabled.

Mr. Martucci invoked his personal privilege to table the matter for the next school committee meeting.

The Resolution will be tabled and put on the agenda for the next school committee meeting.

NEAS&C

We have submitted an application for NEAS&C to visit in 2020. Mr. Crombie is the contact person. This is for accreditation for WHS. The first meeting is at the end of this month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chromebook Policy

The Chromebook Policy is tabled and remains under Unfinished Business.

Solect Energy Development LLC Power Purchase Agreement

This Agreement is still under review with the town’s legal department. We are awaiting information and recommendation from the Town Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Mr. Fabiano thanked Lisa Howard and Chief Delehanty for the ALICE training informational meeting for parents. The turnout was low and that was disappointing.
- Mr. Fabiano commented that the Vikings play football this Friday at 7:00pm on Miller Field and Girls’ Soccer plays this Saturday at 1:00pm. Come out and cheer on our Vikings!
- Ms. Powell announced Bike Winthrop is hosting a Halloween Fun Ride on October 27th at Ingleside Park beginning at 3:00pm with a Halloween Run Ride and a 4:00pm Kid’s Costume Parade!

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:0pm, Mr. Martucci made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion. Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Perrin-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hames
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of September 24, 2018
- Warrant SVW19-6 in the amount of \$228,116.17
- Payroll Warrant SPW19-3 in the amount of \$198,275.88
- Payroll Warrant SPW19-4 in the amount of \$187,128.80
- Expenditure Report
- Use of Building Requests
- Memo to Town Council from Elizabeth Zaleski dated October 9, 2018 regarding a 5-year lease for a van to transport Special Education students
- WHS Robotics Club
- Stop Block & Talk – Technology & Social Media
- Resignation Letter
- Job Postings
- Resolution Reaffirming Winthrop Public Schools and Massachusetts Non-Discrimination Laws
- New Kindergarten Classroom Student Selection Process
- October Calendar of Events
- Flyers

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