



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, December 18, 2017 in the Harvey Hearing Room, Town Hall, One Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Holden, Mr. Perrin, Ms. Sullivan

Mr. Sanford was not present.

Ms. Sullivan led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa A. Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Susan Eccles, Office Manager

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

DELEGATES & VISITORS

School Committee Citations

Mr. William Holden and Chair Dawn Sullivan were presented citations from the school committee for their years of service. Mr. Holden has served on the school committee for 12.5 years and Ms. Sullivan has served for 4 years.

Ms. Sullivan made a Motion to accept Mr. Holden's citation. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Vecchia made a Motion to accept Ms. Sullivan's citation. Mr. Holden seconded the Motion.

Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Former school committee members Gus Martucci, Mary Lou Osborne (Chair), Gary Skomro (Chair), Peter Gill (Town Council President), and John Macero were also present to acknowledge Mr. Holden and Ms. Sullivan's years of service. Mr. Macero stated that he served on the school committee with Mr. Holden and it was a great committee who made a difference. He stated both Mr. Holden and Ms. Sullivan did some great work while serving the town, always having the best interest of the students. Thank you for your service.

Ms. Sullivan called for a 5-minute recess at 6:09pm. The meeting resumed at 6:15pm.

MCAS Presentation

All four principals of each school were present and gave a presentation on the 2017 MCAS results. MCAS scores were very impressive this year. A copy of the presentation was provided to school committee members. The presentation will be uploaded to the district website and the presentation is available to anyone who would like to receive a copy.

In October, we released the first results of the Next-Generation MCAS in English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8. These results, from tests students took in spring 2017, are a new baseline for students, schools, and districts as we move to a test that measures student learning differently and focuses on students' readiness for the next grade level.

Several resources are available to help understand the assessment and the results, including the interactive [Parents' Guide to the MCAS](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

The Next-Generation MCAS will build upon the best aspects of the MCAS assessments that have served the Commonwealth well for the past two decades. The test will include innovative items developed by PARCC, along with additional items specifically created to assess the Massachusetts learning standards.

The new MCAS will be designed to be taken on a computer. The plan is to phase in computer-based testing so that computer-based tests are fully administered statewide in 2019, with many students participating as well in 2017 and 2018. Spring 2019 - Next-Generation MCAS administered exclusively on computer (with paper versions as accommodations)

The development of Next Generation MCAS will focus on:

- Combining PARCC, MCAS, and newly developed items into new ELA and math tests
- Creating stronger alignment to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks
- Introducing writing in response to text at all grades
- Developing and implementing new types of items that more deeply assess the standards
- Assessing Massachusetts-specific standards
- Developing a consistent set of performance standards across all grades
- Phasing in computer-based testing

Developing an appropriate sequence of tests for high school to gauge college and career readiness

Setting standards for the 10th grade Competency Determination (CD) tests in English language arts and math, beginning with the class of 2020, to provide reliable feedback on whether students are on track for success after high school. (The current MCAS remains a requirement through the class of 2019.)

Massachusetts will maintain control over assessment planning and decision-making related to test design and development, standard setting, policies for students with disabilities and English language learners, turnaround time for reporting test scores, and item release policies.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sullivan referred to the following correspondence, relative to the vacant school committee seat:

- Letter from Leah Hart Tennen dated December 8, 2017
- Email from Shannon Viera dated December 10, 2017
- Email & Resume from John Lyons dated December 11, 2017
- Email from Tatiana Mendieta dated December 11, 2017
- Letter from Dr. Suzanne Swope dated December 11, 2017
- Email from Maryalice Sharkey dated December 11, 2017

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karin Chavis – I'm very impressed with the WMS MCAS. The other presentations were excellent. Applaud the teachers and principals. Looks like we've reached goals – things are going in the right direction.

MINUTES

Mr. Vecchia made a Motion to approve the Minutes of November 27, 2017. Mr. Perrin seconded the Motion. Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Perrin made a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2017. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion. Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Holden-abstain, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Ms. Sullivan made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW18-10 in the amount of \$279,556.29 and Payroll Warrant SPW18-10 in the amount of \$666,668.00. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Holden-yes, Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Ms. Sullivan made a Motion to approve the budget transfers in the amount of \$41,013.71, \$101,735.00, and \$3,500.00. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

BULDINGS & GROUNDS

None

GENERAL REPORTS

Sub-committee Reports

Budget Sub-committee

The Budget Sub-committee met on December 11, 2017 at 7:00pm. Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Perrin, Ms. Howard and Ms. Eccles were present. The superintendent updated the sub-committee on bills that were encumbered in FY17 that had to be paid from FY18 budget. Some were expected, some were unanticipated and not accounted for until this was brought to the Superintendent's attention.

Utilities in July 2017 were in the \$35,000 range and have decreased to \$16,000 in October 2017- due to the work of Michal Filipko, Facilities Operation Manager, and his ability to improve the efficiency of the system and improve teacher compliance with things like keeping the windows closed. No votes were taken at the meeting.

There is a freeze on the budget. All purchase orders are going through the Superintendent's Office. A certified school business manager is needed.

Superintendent Contract Bargaining Committee

The Superintendent Contract Bargaining Committee met on December 11, 2017 at 6:00pm. The committee went into Executive Session. There is nothing to report at this time.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Howard reported on the WPG and ATC Playgrounds. She looked at the inspection report and went to the parks to figure out what has been done and what needs to be done. The report was difficult to understand, and some categories were death and critical injury, so Ms. Howard contacted the woman who did the inspection, to meet with her and explain the report. It's a state reporting system and they are potentials. We went through the park and looked at things that have been prepared. The surface at the ATC is the biggest cost item. The surface itself has seen it's day. Took the information and met with the Town Manager. After her walkthrough she saw work that has been done. She is going to give us a list of recommendations. In the meantime, we have found warranties on the slides. We've closed two slides until they are re-ordered and are getting a price list and waiting to hear back from the inspector. This is a serious issue. Our students need time to play. Taking the park down and pulling the equipment down will not benefit the students. The inspector said we do not need to shut the park down. I'm hopeful we can make repairs. The Town Manager is willing to help us out. Facilities has put together a weekly checklist for the park. Custodians will go around and inspect. The parks are community parks as children utilize the playgrounds after school and weekends.

Budget meetings with principals, directors and facility personnel are moving forward. 298 and 274 grants were eliminated so that is approximately a \$40,000 loss in our budget. The Superintendent re-negotiated the cost of natural gas with National Grid. We are waiting for cost allocations which will be a lot less. Ms. Howard has renegotiated with Retrofit for a 12% discount effective December 1, 2017 for a savings of \$841.00 per month or \$5,893.00 from now until June. Ms. Howard renegotiated a 3-year contract with IPass. They were going up 5% for one year, but will now be 3%, 2% and 1% over three years. IPass will also provide professional development for new staff.

Miller Field meetings will resume in January. Chief Delehanty will be involved and Vinny Crossman will come to a school committee meeting with a progress update.

School Fusion is retiring. We've been working on the new platform for the school website. Gio and Petro have worked closely with Patty and the Principals. Teachers have years of work that they've designed – links, homework, etc. We have cleaned up a lot. A community member is coming in to help design the district web page to make it appealing for the public. We will launch the new website in January, after the teachers have had a week working with it.

Ms. Howard was questioned about Facebook and sharing information on Facebook. Ms. Howard stated that she does not respond to Facebook or social media. The superintendent will respond to any parent that contacts her through telephone or email. The Winthrop Public Schools Facebook page is not interactive – it is informational only.

PERSONNEL

Lorraine DeFronzo, E.S.P., has submitted her retirement letter and is requesting her sick day buy back.

Mr. Perrin made a Motion to approve Lorraine DeFronzo's sick day buy back. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

The following vacancies have been posted: Crossing Guard; E.S.P., Winthrop Middle School

NEW BUSINESS

Chemical Health Violation

Mr. Serino provided the committee with a Chemical Health Violation Policy which is in accordance with the MIAA and the WHS Athletic Handbook.

Mr. Perrin made a Motion to send the Chemical Health Violation, Substance Abuse Prevention & Education Policy, and Smoking on School Premises to the Budget Sub-committee. Ms. Sullivan seconded the Motion. Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Perrin made a Motion. Ms. Sullivan seconded the Motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The School Committee vacancy remains under Unfinished Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karin Chavis – goodbye to Bill Holden!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Ms. Sullivan thanked Mr. Crombie for the Vaping Information meeting. Ms. Sullivan would like to see the presentation posted to the school website.
- Ms. Sullivan was asked to speak regarding the role of a school committee member at a recent SEPAC. The meeting was not well attended. There was great discussion at the meeting. Mr. Capobianco and Mrs. Powell were in attendance.
- Ms. Sullivan congratulated the WMS Drama Club on their recent performance of Bye Bye Birdie. Hats off to Mrs. Daley. So many talented children in our schools!

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58pm, Mr. Perrin made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion. Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes, Mr. Holden-yes, Mr. Perrin-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes. A unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hames
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Citations for Bill Holden and Dawn Sullivan
- MCAS Presentation
- Letter from Leah Hart Tennen dated December 8, 2017
- Email from Shannon Viera dated December 10, 2017
- Email & Resume from John Lyons dated December 11, 2017
- Email from Tatiana Mendieta dated December 11, 2017
- Letter from Suzanne Swope dated December 11, 2017
- Email from Maryalice Sharkey dated December 11, 2017
- Minutes of November 27, 2017
- Minutes of December 8, 2017
- Warrant SVW18-10 in the amount of \$279,556.29
- Payroll Warrant SPW18-10 in the amount of \$666,668.00
- Budget Transfers in the amount of \$41,013.71
- Budget Transfers in the amount of \$101,735.00
- Budget Transfers in the amount of \$3,500.00
- Expenditure Report
- Sick Time Buy Back Letter dated December 4, 2017
- Job Postings
- Chemical Health Violation Policies
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Education Policy #IHAMA
- Letter from WMS Principal Brian Curley regarding the Substance Abuse Policy
- Smoking on School Premises Policy #ADC
- December Calendar of Events
- Flyers/Notices

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