

Winchester Public Schools
Winchester, MA 01890
April 26, 2005

Roll Call

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:16 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Ms. Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Mr. Schindelman, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble, and Superintendent Marini. Mr. O'Connor and Dr. Kounaves were absent.

Public Comment

None

Ms. Bodie introduced Ms. Jessica Harding, the new reporter for the Daily Times Chronicle.

Student Representative

Meg MacCaughey introduced Brett Howley, who will be the new student representative for the high school at future school committee meetings.

Ms. MacCaughey reported that the seniors are receiving college acceptance letters and now have the task of deciding upon the college of choice. Next Thursday the senior's sports night will take place at the Crowne Plaza with new inductees to the Hall of Fame.

Awards night will take place this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The Curtain and Cue spring performance will take place on May 6, 7, and 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Winchester High School auditorium.

A new event will be taking place - the first annual "Get Your Hands Dirty" service day sponsored by the Winchester Youth Center and Connect and Commit. This is a community-building event that will allow students an opportunity to partake in many different organized volunteer activities. On Thursday, April 28th, there will be a meeting in Boston including senators and state representatives, along with the MADD organization, to support a primary seat belt law.

On May 14th there will be a Youth Center auction at the Town Hall to raise money for a new youth center.

Walking Routes to School

Sgt. Brud Houllihan, Winchester's safety officer, joined the committee. Sgt. Houllihan stated that there are currently 28 crossing guards assigned to posts around walking routes

to the schools. This school year the guards will be reduced by 8. In light of the lesser amount of crossing guards Sgt. Houllihan has been evaluating the volume of walkers and the distance students would walk to and from schools to determine which areas will be affected.

Sgt. Houllihan outlined the areas where guards will be eliminated and the reasons for the decision. Parents will be notified of these changes via the school newsletters.

The Promise Fund

Susan Swartz, c-president of WFEE, joined the committee.

The current amount collected for The Promise Fund as of Monday, April 25th is \$272,678. The WFEE is actively preparing for events that will continue until the closing deadline for contributions. Donations may be mailed to:

**Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence
P.O. Box 1005
Winchester, MA 01890**

You may visit the WFEE website at www.WFEE.org for updates, and learn about volunteer opportunities.

The school committee thanked the many volunteers for their efforts in this endeavor, with a special thanks going out to Caron Connolly and Michele Norman for their huge volunteer commitment.

Ms. Bodie suggested informing the teachers of the tremendous support taking place with The Promise Fund. At a school committee in May, Ms. Bodie would like a discussion around the issue if more than \$660,000 is collected from The Promise Fund.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini provided the committee with a brief report on his recent trip to China. There will be a more detailed report at a future meeting and Principals Gwin and French will be invited as well.

There will be a parent forum for elementary progress reports taking place May 9th organized by Marc Kerble. The information will be provided to parents via the school newsletters and through the local papers.

Second Reading of the School Calendar for 2005-2006

Dr. Kerble reviewed the change of a professional development day in the 2005-2006 calendar. Dr. Kerble also reviewed the teacher conference dates and will be recommending a school-wide pilot program of the elementary report cards for next year.

Ms. Bodie requested deferring a vote of the 2005-2006 school calendar until all the members of the committee are present.

Building Rental Fees

Mr. Rippin requested tabling the building rental fees discussion to a future meeting date.

FY05 Budget Update

Mr. Rippin provided the committee with a detailed projection of the school department FY05 operating budget. Although the FY05 budget is projected to finish in a balanced position, there are a number of budget variances that Mr. Rippin described. They include:

- School lunch is projected to finish \$75,0090 in deficit-absorbed in above budget
- School transportation is projected to finish \$31,469 in deficit-again absorbed
- Out-of-district tuitions projected to finish \$230,414 over budget

These negative variances were offset by additional monies received under Circuit Breaker. Mr. Rippin has suggested to increase the school lunch from its current \$2.25 per day price to \$2.50 per day during the 2005-2006 school year to help minimize potential deficits in the program.

Ms. Swiger requested having Mr. Belmont come to a future meeting to discuss out-of-district placements and ways we might keep students in district.

Approval of Trip

The art department will be traveling to New York City to view artwork studied throughout the curriculum at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the International Center for Photography and the Museum of Modern Art.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Schindelman, the committee unanimously

VOTED to approve the New York City Humanities field trip taking place on April 29, 2005.

Acceptance of Tuition

School Committee Policy 4061, Tuition for Nonresident Students, states that “Children accepted for admittance to the Winchester Public Schools by vote of the School Committee whose parents or legal guardians do not reside in the town of Winchester or who resides temporarily in Town with persons other than their parents or legal guardians for the purpose of attending the Winchester Public Schools shall be charged tuition in whole or in part, based upon the cost of educating that pupil, unless tuition is waived by

vote of the School Committee.” Dr. Marini challenged this policy earlier in the year due to School Choice, and had labor counsel research it. It was determined that it does not violate the School Choice decision of the School Committee.

Ms. Swiger asked that a vote be postponed until ground rules are set in place, i.e., space availability, special education students, and commitment. Ms. Swiger suggested researching other districts that may have the same situation. Ms. Swiger suggested contacting EDCO to gather future information.

Ms. Swiger also recommended contacting Attorney Fraser to help create the motion.

Acceptance of Gifts

A check in the amount of \$1,500 from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation has been received for the benefit of the “Energy in the 21st Century” program at the Winchester High School.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Schindelman, the committee unanimously

VOTED to accept with gratitude the \$1,500 from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation for the benefit of the “Energy in the 21st Century” program at Winchester High School.

A check in the amount of \$2,900 from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation has been received to assist a fourth grade student at the Muraco Elementary School to continue learning with technology from home and stay in contact with his teacher and classmates during a serious illness.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Schindelman, the committee unanimously

VOTED to accept with gratitude the \$2,900 from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation for the benefit of technology at the Muraco Elementary School that will assist a homebound student.

School Committee Reports

Ms. Bodie reported that Maureen McWilliams has resigned from her term on the EFPBC as the school committee representative. The committee would like her to join them at a future meeting so that they can thank her for all her efforts on behalf of the school system. At the next meeting the committee will review the job description and draft an invitation for people to apply for the position.

Ms. Swiger reported that the Sanborne House Working Committee is drafting a lease in preparation of Article 19 at Town Meeting.

The Hall of Fame dinner will take place on May 5, 2005.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Shindelman, the committee unanimously

Voted to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2005 school committee meeting.

The minutes of the April 5, 2005 executive session, as amended, and to be placed in the private file.

The minutes of the April 9, 2005 executive session will be reviewed at the next school committee meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting dates are: May 3, May 10

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

V. James Marini