



TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

**Worthington Public School District
R.H. Conwell Building
School Committee Meeting
March 19, 2015
Minutes**

Members present: Chairman John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak and Alison Todd.

Guests: Superintendent Jurgenson, Tom Wisnauckas, Amanda Brooks – Clemeno, Layla Taylor Attn. and Sean Reagan.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was opened at 6:31 P.M.

2. Audience Participation- A Cummington School Teacher advised Maria about the importance of a good wrap around program and did not promote preschool.

3. Routine Matters

3.1 Approval of minutes: February 11 past minutes were reviewed with added edits that were not included in the approved minutes. New edits: Amanda made a motion to participate in school choice during the 2015-2016 school year in all grades on a space available basis with available seats to be determined after May 1. Debbie seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed. One or two words about the draft budget and Amanda's verbal resignation. Debbie made a motion to accept the amended minutes Alison Todd seconded. March 9 Public Hearing minutes were reviewed. Attendees were edited. Jan Robie and Bob Reilly's names will be added and Lee Kelley's will be omitted. Debbie made a motion to approve as amended. Maria seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

March 9 regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Maria made a motion to approve the minutes. Debbie seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

3.2 Correspondence:

March 10: letter written to Gateway School District weighing in on separation agreement that was signed by Selectboard Chairman Chris Powell.

March 9: Smith Vocational out of district tuition rate will be: \$17,556 and an addition of \$4,190 for SPED student.

March 10: Selectboard acknowledgement of Amanda Brooks - Clemeno's resignation.

March 19: Draft agreement for professional legal services from Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn attn.

Release of the budget passing will appear in the Gazette and the Country Journal.

3.3 Annual Report: Debbie has completed her draft, will forward it to the School Committee and carefully consider each comment. She will change the deadline from September to August 31 in her draft.

Mailings: Alison has created a data base of town school age children that she will update to assist with predicting Conwell enrollment and school choice expenses. It includes 155 students entering grades k-12. She is sending out two different letters. One is a request for families who have already pre-registered for Conwell or Hampshire Regional to fill out the form with demographic information and to confirm. The other is to people who haven't responded, requesting that they inform us of their plans, and informing them that they need to complete choice applications to attend other districts, including Gateway. The deadline listed is May 1st. Alison has placed the school choice ads.

3.4 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Craig Jurgenson received copies of IEPs from Alice Taverna. There are fifteen SPED students at high school level and eight at elementary. Craig may have found a Consulting Special ED Director.

3.4.1 Principal Hiring Process: Craig outlined the correct procedure for the Principal search for the Screening Committee. Schedule first interviews after talking about selections for candidates; Initial interviews will be private with no names released; Announce finalists; Public interview with questions coming primarily from the committee.

4. Budget: The Budget passed last week.

5. Policy

5.1 Hampshire Regional Contract Discussion: Memorandum of Understanding has been split out into *Tuitions* and *Services*. Hampshire Regional is trying to define services and what the rate would be. Craig has been working on the agreement.

Alex Lak emailed stated that at the joint session of the Finance Committee and the Selectboard, it was decided to handle the accounting items internally. Craig will give the boards a better definition of what services are available.

The Administrative contract duration is June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016 not to exceed three years.

The Tuition agreement would be a longer term stable agreement. Central Office support services, curriculum, SPED Director services and food services are included.

Layla Taylor made public record requests to small regional school districts to see how the districts handled their agreements. Responses have been submitted.

Layla cited other issues to think about such as responsibility over truancy issues and whether to have representation at Hampshire Regional School Committee meetings.

5.2 Transportation policies:

Maria and Debbie met yesterday to review the North Hampton Public School Policies.

The EEA Public School Transportation Policy was discussed:

The Northampton Public School Coordinator Joy Winnie has contracted with Hampshire Regional and has emailed a list of questions concerning transportation.

Some points discussed as follows:

Opposition to a transportation fee.

The 2.0 determination seems pretty tough on any state highway or lonely dirt road.

The School Principal will be in charge of questions and complaints concerning transportation.

School Bus routes.

Two elementary buses have been budgeted for Pre K K to 6 and one for grades seven to twelve.

The School Committee will meet with the public school coordinator to establish the routes and will ask her to discuss routes and travel distances with the Bus Contractor.

Alison made a motion to accept the differences on #4 for no more than a mile for secondary and no more than a ½ mile for elementary. Maria seconded the motion. It was suggested to invite the resident bus drivers to a meeting to discuss bus routes.

Alison withdrew her motion. Maria withdrew her second.

Preschool discussions: Liabilities and tuitions were discussed. Alison was advised to gather up the numbers and present them to the town for their support.

5.3 Elementary

5.3.2 Grades 7-12

Craig stated that these policies have been reviewed by the Personnel Attorney and approved by Hampshire Regional. Layla will take a look at these policies. Layla recommended a Personnel Policy Handbook.

Personnel Policies Goals

GBA: Layla recommended to add “or other legally protected status” after sexual orientation. Debbie recommended to add “Employees” after applicants and.

Maria made a motion to accept GBA with edits, Alison seconded. All were in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained.

GCBB: Debbie made a motion to accept GCBB as written. Alison seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained

GCE: Debbie made a motion to accept GCE as edited. Alex seconded the motion. Collective Bargaining Agreements was struck. All were in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstained.

GCF Alex made a motion to accept GCF with the following changes:

: Add “or legal protected status” after sexual orientation in sentence #1. Maria seconded the motion.

Alison made a friendly amendment to strike the word rich in sentence #2. Debbie made a friendly motion to strike sentence # 2. Alex and Maria had no objections. All were in favor of accepting GCF with amendments. 0 opposed. 0 abstained.

New Business:

Next meeting is April 6 at 7:00 P.M.

Executive Session: The School Committee will enter Executive Session to discuss preliminary list of candidates for the Principal position with Superintendent Craig Jurgenson. The open meeting will be adjourned and will not be reconvened. Roll Call vote: The School Committee voted to go into executive session: Maria Bebee Aye, Alison Todd Aye, Alex Lak Aye, Debbie Carnes Aye, and John McDonald.

6. Adjournment: Maria made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 P.M. Alex seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary