

# WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Type of Meeting: Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall, Probate Meeting Room

## INSTRUCTION

BELIEF STATEMENT: We believe quality instruction results in high academic performance for all students.

### FOCUS AREAS:

- A. Update curricular scope and sequence, instruction, and assessment to reflect Common Core State Standards and expectations.
- B. Increase student performance on various forms of assessments
- C. Provide professional development for all faculty and staff to meet the needs of all students

### ASSESSMENT OF FOCUS AREAS:

- A. Three times per year, BOE will receive a report on student progress on standardized and local assessments.
- B. BOE will receive an initial analysis of curriculum, instruction, and professional development by October 2017 followed by two additional updates throughout the school year.

### I. Roll Call:

- A. Present: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent, Nora Mocariski, Liz O'Dowd, Alexandria Propfe, Douglas Pfenninger
- B. Absent: Michelle Hintz, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Christine Royer, Theresa Starzyk, Rob Vogt

### II. Agenda Review:

- A. Motion: Liz O'Dowd: Motion to add discussion of MOU to agenda, Second: Alexandria Propfe  
→ Unanimous

### III. Review of the Commissioner's Network Grants for both schools.

- A. Pearson - \$666,000 for Pearson personnel - Pays for: VP, the 50/50 instructional specialist, .27 Community partnership 2, reading interventionist, extra pay for teachers for PD (hourly rates) Building substitute for PD in building, stipend 1200 Stud Counsel, tech. Liaison.; FT Science inquiry specialist (B/P) so we don't pay the science center (expensive). = 229,000 for this.
  1. Haven't received these funds from state yet for Pearson. Application is on Desi's desk at the SDE.
- B. Batcheller going to the SDE tomorrow.
  1. We anticipate receiving these monies.
  2. Given to Winchester via Governor's executive orders as a Priority Fund
- C. Fringe benefits - \$56,000
- D. Personnel / professional training \$34,000: For EdAdv. Curriculum consult, Bridges on-site teacher coaching, Teacher's college, "iReady" PD materials = intervention model at home follow up online. Breakthrough coach training (principal training); Field experiences for students, BCBA, Inquiry-based field experiences, NWEA 3 year sub (we pay for the assessment - \$11,000

for three years, 3x a year). Foundations on-site coaching. Financing for STEAM units/activities. Others: transportation, quarterly parent engagement (mailers), climate survey (Panorama).

- E. Supplies \$87,000 - Math & ELA. PBIS, LMS, Literacy and STEAM supplies.
  - 1. Consumables = Bridges, manipulative texts, family engagement events, STEAM supplies (Ex: Popsicle sticks, clay, experiment materials for science...)
- F. Property: Subscriptions (iReady, tableau, Finalsite website, smartboard suite, language line interpreter on phone as necessary, rosetta stone for some spanish speaking students, 20 chromebooks, student resource center equipment, walkie-talkie. tech supplies...)
- G. GOAL: As PD increases and staff gets trained, then the need for interventionists (Reading & Math - T2 & T3) should be less.
- H. Batcheller - \$585,000. Items are almost same as Pearson.
  - 1. Personnel - Dean of Students in this grant, IS in personnel, 2.7 community partnership 1.0 science and inquiry specialists, 3 interventionists (one each grade for early intervention). Building sub (as needed) to cover PD, tech. liaison, extra pay for science center training.

#### IV. Professional Development (PD) -

- A. Report on PD progress from October 6, 2017.
  - 1. UA - STEAM Unit Development
    - a) Parent engagement - Gymnastics, art show, caroling on Main in December.
    - b) Teacher's written feedback shared.
  - 2. Literacy - Guided/Leveled Reading Groups and Literacy Block Structure
  - 3. Special Education - Progress Monitoring and Crafting Measurable Objectives
    - a) PPT presented to teachers - Smart goals, etc.
    - b) Teacher's written feedback shared.
  - 4. CT Science Center - Classroom Applications
    - a) To be presented at BOE in November. Inquiry.
- B. Superintendent will provide Curriculum Team with the Professional Development Binder to review professional development agendas, resources, presentation materials and evaluation sheets. - BINDER in Melony's office for further review.
  - 1. Packet shared. Agenda, resources, PD evaluation tool shall be the same. Teachers starting to see connectedness in the district - District Coherence Plan Teachers see connection from District Goals that are tied to PD, tied to work in the classroom...etc.
    - a) PD is a combination of continued and new training.
      - (1) Continued: Tier I intervention - Guided Reading - Needed PD on what good Guided Reading looks like.
      - (2) New: Science standards & Inquiry
- C. Presentation of District Professional Development Evaluation Form
  - 1. Universal form that will be used for evaluation of PD across all content/presentations. This will enable us to compare impact using the same expectations.

#### V. What do you need from the BOE to continue making progress?

- A. What would you suggest should be some of the main topics communicated in our first quarterly progress report to parents?
  - 1. Communication to all taxpayers - To send out report in November.

VI. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Discussion.

A. Rationale for MOU as recommended by the Superintendent and the WEA:

1. To offer a hiring bonus to attract applicants to the difficult-to-fill positions in the Winchester Public Schools. This includes shortage areas, as well as historically difficult-to-fill positions in the Winchester School District.
2. We are spending more money on consultant fees because there is no internal employee to fulfill this role. The argument is that we are spending more on consultant fees than what we would be paying to hire full-time staff with benefits.

B. Some BOE member concerns: Wish to tighten the scope of the language of the MOU to:

1. The list of shortage areas on the MOU per the State Dept. SOURCE: Section 10.8b, March 10, 2017. This list would evolve as determined by the State of Connecticut.
  - a) This includes: Bilingual Education, Special Education, Math, Occupational & Vocational Education, Library Media Specialist, Speech and Language Specialist, Technical Education, TESOL, World Language.
2. List of the historically difficult positions to fill unique to the district: i.e. Library Media Specialist - We haven't been able to hire a LMS in the last three years.

C. AGREEMENT: To be included in the MOU -

1. Identify the shortage areas as defined by the State of Connecticut durational shortage list, and
2. as recommended by superintendent for these shortage areas as well as historically difficult to fill positions in district, and
3. approved by the Winchester BOE, and
4. not to exceed a payment of \$2,500, and
5. Requiring a two-year commitment from said employee, and
6. “If the employee elects to end employment, is non-renewed, terminated, the \$2,500 will be returned to the district either through payroll deduction or payment to the Winchester Schools.”
7. To be edited into the final version and voted on at next BOE meeting.

VII. Additional FYI -

- A. Veteran's Day - Stop and Shop. Students will draw on these bags regarding their understanding of Veteran's Day and Stop and Shop will use these very bags during the day for customers.
- B. Darlene - Will be absent from November 15th until after Thanksgiving . Packets ready on November 10, 2017.

VIII. Motion to adjourn:

- A. Motion: Douglas Pfenninger, Second: Liz O'Dowd. → Unanimous. 6:31 *adjourned*.