

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
Weathersfield School
October 16, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Sean Whalen, at 6:17PM. Those present were: Sean Whalen, Jacqui Antonivich, Susan Hindinger, Kristen Bruso, Annemarie Redmond, David Baker, JeanMarie Oakman, Lora Powers, Craig Locarno, Kelly O'Brien, Julia Lloyd Wright, Green Lantern (Steve Meima), Norwich Solar (Steve Snyder and Joel Stettenheim) Zach Shambo and Becky Chrisinger. The flag was pledged.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A. September 16, 2019

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the minutes of 09/16/19. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to approve the minutes of 09/16/19 with changes made by Jacqui. Annemarie Redmond second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

III. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Under Items for Discussion - Items B/Financials and D/Solar were switched.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Hicks Nichols Grant

The Hicks Nichols Grants approved by the Hicks Nichols Committee were presented to the Board. Kelly O'Brien said the committee had seven applications and they approved the five grant applications listed below. Sean Whalen gave a short explanation about the Hicks Nichols Grant fund.

Pavilion - Leanna Robinson and Lora Powers	\$5,000
Circus Arts - Kaitlynn Knapp	\$4,500
MakerSpace - Jess Wilmot	\$1,500
Indigo dyed t-shirts using tye-dye technique Shelly Jarvis and Laura Montano	\$450
More Playaways Please! - Tara Smith	\$1,899.66 plus shipping

(See Items for Approval A)

B. Solar

The Board received and reviewed updates to the proposals from Green Lantern and Norwich Solar. Sean Whalen asked for opinions from other Board members on what the Board members felt the Board should do. There was a lot of discussion on what needs to be done if the decision is made to have solar arrays on the roof of the school building. David Baker has emailed the State Board of Education to see if they need to approve the arrays being on the roof

since they contributed funds towards the cost of the building improvements. Susan Hindinger asked about solar storage if the arrays are on the roof. Joel Stettenheim from Norwich Solar said that there could be a small amount of storage and Weathersfield could be a pilot program for this.

Julia Lloyd Wright wanted to know if the Board had consulted with a separate entity from the companies making the proposals and David Baker said he had consulted with Vermont Law School. Various Board members asked questions that were answered by Steve Snyder and Joel Stettenheim from Norwich Solar about the arrays. Ralph Meima explained why Green Lantern doesn't recommend a roof array. Joel Stettenheim said that Norwich Solar is fine doing the array offsite or on the roof. David Baker told both companies that he appreciated their integrity and honesty throughout this process. Kristen Brusio said that both companies come highly recommended. Sean Whalen and Annemarie Redmond both believe it would be beneficial and educational to have the arrays on the roof of the school. Susan Hindinger says she has a few lingering concerns about the arrays being on the roof due to our ongoing heat issues on the second floor of the building but does like the idea of arrays on the roof. Kristen Brusio said she is in favor of having the arrays on the roof. Jacqui Antonivich said she is not in favor of having arrays on the roof without tax payer's approval.

Sean Whalen said the Board is deciding whether they want to enter into a net metering agreement with Green Lantern or Norwich Solar. (See Items for Action B.)

C. Food Service - Craig Locarno

JeanMarie Oakman reported that the food has never been more delicious. JeanMarie and the faculty have been delighted and the program gets accolades. Craig Locarno said he is here to provide a great product for the students and faculty and to educate the students about good food choices. Steve gave a detailed overview of the program. Since they are serving fresh food, the preparation takes longer. Sean Whalen asked if community members or students could volunteer to help with this preparation work. This is a possibility. They would like to go into the classrooms and provide food education beginning with the kindergarten classes. It was agreed that this would be beneficial. Steve reports that his biggest hurdle is acceptance of something new from students and staff. There was discussion around 07/20/20 and no food scraps. The Board thanked Craig for coming in.

X. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA Title 1 Section 313 - Personnel

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Susan Hindinger made a motion to go into Executive Session and this motion was second by Annemarie Redmond. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved and the Board went into Executive Session at 7:50PM. Sean Whalen asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Kristen Brusio second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:55PM. No action was taken.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - CONTINUED

D. Budget Process

There was discussion about the Budget Process and that special education costs are up again. The SU is looking at how to allocate funds. There was a lot of discussion about special education and the great need and cost in this area. David Baker asked if the Board wants to form a Budget Committee and there was discussion on how the committee should be formed. Sean Whalen asked when it would be good to have a community forum and it was decided that a potluck for a community forum was a good idea.

E. SBAC Results - JeanMarie Oakman

JeanMarie Oakman went over the SBAC results and gave out a detailed hand out with the results. JeanMarie said they are having robust conversations as staff about the results.

F. Update - Portrait of a Graduate

They had the first meeting and there were 65 people in attendance. The next meeting will be held October 30, 2019 at Weathersfield. Craig Locarno supplied the meal at the last meeting and will supply the meal for the upcoming meeting.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - NONE

VII. PRINCIPAL REPORT - JeanMarie Oakman

JeanMarie Oakman wanted to thank the Gilbert Davis Trust for paying for a new audiometry machine for the school. JeanMarie wrote a letter for thanks to the pastor in charge of the money in the trust.

JeanMarie reported on what several of the teachers will be teaching for Indigenous People's Day. (See Items for Action C.)

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Hicks Nichols Grants

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the Hicks Nichols Grants approved by the committee. AnneMarie Redmond made a motion to approve all of the Hicks Nichols Grants recommended by the committee as listed in A above. Sean Whalen second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

B. Solar

Sean Whaln asked for a motion concerning the solar company to use for the net metering agreement. AnneMarie Redmond made a motion that Weathersfield School enter into a net metering agreement with Norwich Solar according to the proposal that Norwich Solar presented to the Board. Sean Whalen second this motion. There was no further discussion. There were four ayes and one nay. This motion was approved.

C. Gilbert Davis Trust Donation

Sean Whalen made a motion that the Board accept with gratitude the donation from the Gilbert Davis Trust given to the school to purchase an audiometry machine. Annemarie Redmond second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

IX. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA

- A. Athletic Director
- B. Budget
- C. Update: Portrait of a Graduate
- D. Solar Contract
- E. Update About Wood Chips

X. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA Title 1 Section 313 - Personnel - Done above

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Antonivch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Brusco second the motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Chrisinger