

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

September 16, 2019

Weathersfield School

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Sean Whalen, at 5:37PM. Those present were: Sean Whalen, Jacqui Antonivich, Kristen Brusco, Susan Hindinger, Annemarie Redmond, JeanMarie Oakman, David Baker, Ed Connors, Nathalie Whitney, Gloria Ballantine, Lora Powers, Laura Berry, Kirsten McNamara, Jessica Kischko, Amanda French, Leanna Robinson, Michelle Smith, Green Lantern Solar (Ralph Meima), Norwich Solar (Steve Snyder and Joel Stettenheim), Sean Roberts, SAPA, Logan Perreault and Becky Chrisinger

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A. 08/02/19

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the minutes of 08/02/19. Kristen Brusco made a motion to approve the minutes of 08/02/19. Jacqui Antonivich second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

B. 07/01/19 - Table until the next meeting.

III. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Move financials till Ed Connors arrives.

Lora Powers and some other teachers would like to speak about financials.

Add F. Athletics - Jessica Kischko

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Financials - Year End Financial Projections - Ed Connors

Ed Connors used a powerpoint presentation and handouts to go over the financials for this budget year. One of the big topics of conversation was that the assessments were over budget by quite a lot. JeanMarie mentioned that even with that large overage in assessments, many students IEPs were not served because of lack of staff. There were questions about the cost of oil and the use of wood chips. Ed suggested that Jim Taft be consulted about the wood chips usage to offset the oil costs. Ed also said that part of the overage in oil was due to higher oil prices than what was budgeted. The electric bill was over also which could be due to the use of air conditioners. There was a large overage on substitutes. JeanMarie said that substitutes are needed for a variety of reasons such as: illness, trainings and events. There were questions about overages in maintenance and repair and some of this was Control Technologies so Sean Whalen said that the Board would want to revisit that cost. Amanda French read a letter on behalf of the teachers about how hard it is to teach all of the students when they are

understaffed and unable to give sufficient help to students with behavioral issues. The behavioral issues can take up a lot of time and take away from teaching time. The teachers need more help to properly be able to teach their students well. Amanda agreed to write up the letter and give copies to the Board members. The total budget for FY19 is \$5,630,601 and \$5,608,649.32 is the projected spending leaving a fund balance of \$21,951.68 so we are right on budget.

B. Hicks Nichols Grant

The Hicks Nichols Committee gave out a letter with the Hicks Nichols Committee recommendation for a grant for Motivational Speaker and Singer, Ben Fuller. This is for a one time assembly presentation to the students. Ben is a former Weathersfield student and would sing and talk to the students about making good life choices. There were some questions about the presentation. JeanMarie Oakman and staff members believe this will be inspiring for the students. Ben will perform on September 24, 2019. (See Items for Action)

C. Solar Power Presentation

The SU proposed entering a net metering system and Sean Whalen wanted to see if it would be better for Weathersfield to be served on their own before deciding on an agreement. Sean believes the educational aspect is very important and it would be powerful if we could generate power on site so students could see renewable energy in action. Jim Taft is finding out if the roof of the school could support solar panels.

Norwich Solar and Green Lantern Solar both presented more information since the last meeting when they both gave presentations. Both companies talked about the options of having panels on the roof or using an array offsite. Both companies talked about what they could provide educationally to the students. Both gave figures for what the school would save in energy costs.

Board members asked questions of both companies.

The Board will go over the new proposals more and make a decision in the near future. Both companies said the sooner the better for a decision due to changing tax benefits for investors in the coming year.

D. Update

1. Portrait of a Graduate

Weathersfield has a lot of volunteers on the committee. The first meeting will be on September 25, 2019.

2. We R Hope

We need to come up with \$9,000 to help fund this program. The total cost is \$27,000 but \$18,000 is covered with other funding. Communication with the staff, students and families has improved since last year. They can serve six students per day but some students graduate

from the program and this allows new students to enter. The staff believe this program is very beneficial in helping students with high needs that aren't on IEPs.

### 3. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

JeanMarie said we didn't get the grant money for this so we are unable to have this program this year.

### E. Start of School Year

There was a great turn out for the assembly for parents on the first day of school. We have eighteen new students and may have six more coming.

### VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - David Baker

The budget process has started for the SU and towns. There is an SU Board Meeting on 09/23/19 and Portrait of a Graduate on 09/25/19.

### VII. PRINCIPAL REPORT - JeanMarie Oakman

Sean Roberts came to talk about the Drama Club proposal for this year. Sean Roberts would like to have a fall and spring production this year with the fall production being for older students only. Sean Roberts also would like to have a writer's workshop and the talent show. Sean proposed that both plays be non musicals and several Board members felt it was important to have a musical. Sean Roberts believes some students won't try out for a musical that will try out for a non musical play. There was a lot of discussion around the cost, whether enough students would be interested in a fall production due to other obligations and other questions by Board Members. It was decided to support both productions if there are at least 10 interested students for each production and Sean Roberts agreed to have the spring production be a musical. (See Items for Action below)

See Attachment A for a List of fall coaches.

### VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### A. Hicks Nichols Grant - \$1,000 for Motivational Speaker and Singer - Ben Fuller

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the Hicks Nichols Committee recommendation for the Ben Fuller concert and motivational speaker. Annemarie Redmond made a motion to approve this grant in the amount of \$1,000. Sean Whalen second this motion. There was no further discussion. There were four ayes and one abstention. This motion was approved.

#### B. Drama Club Advisor - Sean Roberts

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the Drama Club proposal given by Sean Roberts. Annemarie Redmond made a motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$4,000 if 10 students show up for the fall production. If there are not enough participants for the fall production, the spring production cost is still approved. There was no further discussion. There were four ayes and one abstention. This motion was approved.

IX. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA

- A. Budget Process
- B. Food Service
- C. Athletic
- D. Solar Power

X. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA Title 1 Section 313 - None needed

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Hindinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Antonivich second this motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Chrisinger