

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
October 13, 2020
Weathersfield School **APPROVED** Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Board Chair, Sean Whalen. Those present were: Sean Whalen, Kristen Brusco, Mark Yuengling, Annemarie Redmond, Robin Tindall, JeanMarie Oakman, David Baker, Ed Connors, Angie LaDeau, Lora Powers, BJ Esty, Wendy Allen, Candy Fuller, Jaime Richardson, BJ Esty, Jaime Richardson, Emily Stevens, Kristen McNamara, Kristen Huebner, Jessica Brown, SAPA and Becky Chrisinger. The flag was pledged.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the minutes of the previous meeting. Annemarie Redmond made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of 9/8/20. Sean Whalen seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

III. CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items for Discussion D put at the beginning of the meeting. Add BAC Under Financials

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS - None

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. FINANCIAL UPDATES - Ed Connors

We have a projected surplus for the present fiscal year of \$392,784.81. There have been extra costs for this year but here have also been savings. Under the Cares Act, schools did get some of this money. At first this money was to be used for unanticipated costs due to COVID-19 but now this has been changed to repurposed costs. Ed Connors has applied for \$93,379.43 of these funds. The AOE still isn't providing firm guidance about applying for these funds.

There was discussion about the Budget Process for FY22 and Ed shared a state document about the education funds and where they come from. This document has important information. This document will be put on the SU website for easy access. The projected surplus balance for FY20 is \$11,364.99.

JeanMarie Oakman, BJ Esty and Ed Connors will meet on 10/26/20 to go over the budget. JeanMarie Oakman believes we will be in good shape due to the retirement of several teachers. JeanMarie said that we have had quite a few new students so we need to purchase more chrome books as well as needing a few more special education paraprofessionals. Sean Whalen brought up that our funds could be down and our needs could be up. JeanMarie said that David Baker has suggested level funding. JeanMarie will put together a level funded budget and suggestions for cuts in the budget if this seems to be necessary. Sean Whalen suggested that we should also advocate at the state level for funding. Sean Whalen mentioned that federal funding will be unknown for quite some time after the November election.

There was discussion about reaching out to the community for the BAC. Board members believe this is important and JeanMarie will reach out to the public for committee members. Robin Tindall said that timing is important with the BAC and the budget timeline.

Sean Whalen asked if it would be the Board's pleasure to have Sean Whalen and Annemarie Redmond craft a letter to be sent out for community involvement in the BAC. All Board

members were in favor of this taking place. David Baker talked about the importance of the BAC and the Board working jointly. JeanMarie Oakman will discuss the budget with staff at an upcoming staff meeting and discuss budget priorities. Sean Whalen thanked Ed Connors.

B. PRINCIPAL'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

David presented the list of people that volunteered to be on this committee. There are twenty volunteers. The Board was impressed with the group of people who have volunteered and, after discussion, it was decided to leave all twenty volunteers on the committee.

There was discussion on how to proceed with this and Sean Whalen said it would be really nice if there could be a video option for candidates that features a student from the school. Sean said he would help with this project. There was discussion on how this video could be accessed. It was decided that the meetings will be virtual for this committee. The Board will see everything that the committee does. Sean Whalen offered to be on the committee as the Board member and the other members agreed this would be a good idea. BJ Esty agreed to keep everything going with the committee and Sean will communicate with members also.

People reviewed the ad that David had written and offered edits. JeanMarie thought it was a well-written ad. There was discussion on how to proceed with the ad. The Board authorized David Baker to place the ad.

The Principal Search Committee Members

Community: Jacqui Antonivich, Carol Orth, Susan Hindinger, David Fuller, Nicole Tufts (also parent)

Parents: Amy Beth Main, Paul MacDonald, Amy Hill, Meredith Kelley, Eric Nissenbaun, Jessica Brown

Staff: BJ Esty, Nathalie Kocurek, Lora Powers, Lori Small, Vanessa Perry, Melissa Cole
Barbara Martin, Jenn Rouse and parent

Board Member: Sean Whalen and parent

Superintendent: David Baker

C. PTA - Wendy Allen

Wendy said the PTA would like the Board's approval to use Amazon Smile as a fundraiser for the PTA. The PTA can't have most of their fundraisers at this time due to COVID so this would be a good way to fundraise during these times. The Board approved this fundraiser. See Items for Action A.

D. ATHLETIC UPDATE - JeanMarie Oakman

Athletics has begun.

The following is a list of parent coaches.

Kindergarten - Craig Christian, Kristin Grace, Ethan McNaughton, Jonathan Richardson

1 and 2 - Kirsten Bruso, Jesse Wescott

3 - Robert Lauro, Jaime Wyman

4 - Richard Craig, Brian Ellingwood, Amanda Tomberg

5 - Ashley Nichols, Ethan McNaughton

6 - Ira Bruso, Jason Larochelle

7 and 8 - Ryan Keefe

They aren't scheduling games in neighborhood towns. The decision about basketball hasn't been made at this time. More guidance is expected to be received this Friday from the state. Jessica Brown asked about exiting cars at games and JeanMarie said this was a decision made by the SU committee that made up a handbook related to athletics during COVID. Jessica said parents can watch from truck beds but others have to sit in their cars to watch. Jessica was approached because she got out to tell another parent a message at a game. JeanMarie said she'd received questions about why some parents can walk the fields but those two people are the AD and Assistant AD. The school has to take safety precautions in order to keep everyone safe at this time. Sean Whalen mentioned how hard it is when someone approaches you about a safety concern due to COVID so understands how Jessica feels.

Jessica Brown also brought up the Agenda's for the Board meetings being posted somewhere that people can access. Sean Whalen agreed that this is important. David Baker will work on this with Laurie Brown and IT. David mentioned that Sean can also remind IT to post the Agenda and that it is important that the changes for the agenda go through Sean to either Laurie Brown or Becky Chrisinger to avoid confusion.

VI. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - JeanMarie Oakman

JeanMarie said we have had a good start to the school year. She updated everyone on both remote and in person learning. The food is delicious and can now be delivered to students at home. The health checks are going well. The school is being kept cleaned and the pods are working well. The school is only using one to two substitutes for safety reasons and they have had 7-8 staff out each day due to the health check requirements. Staff have been great about jumping in where they are needed and providing what students need.

Mark Yuengling asked how it works with privacy and reporting COVID cases as well as contact tracing. David Baker is the only one that releases the information about a positive COVID case in the schools. There is an isolation room in the school and the parents all signed a contract that if their children become ill, they will pick them up within 45 minutes. JeanMarie went over the process. Emily Stevens said they follow the VT algorithm. The VT Department of Health contacts the people in contact with someone with a positive COVID test. David Baker said they have been announcing in each town but have decided to announce in the SU as a whole.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - David Baker

David confirmed that the state did give a waiver to Board Members subbing as they are already employees and have clearance. David commended the food program on the wonderful job they are doing. The SU Budget will drive the local budgets.

The SU has decided not to lengthen the school day at this time. David said staff, administration, students and parents have all done a great job with this new method of learning.

There was discussion about the meeting being changed to a start time of 6PM starting at the next meeting. All agreed this would be a good idea.

VIII. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

PTA Fundraiser

Sean Whalen asked for a motion concerning the PTA Fundraiser request for Amazon Smile. Robin Tindall made a motion to approve the PTA Amazon Smile fundraiser. Mark Yuengling seconded this motion. No further discussion. All in favor. This motion was approved.

IX. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA

Items for Discussion

Appoint BAC
Principal Search Committee Update
FY22 Budget
Winter Sports Update

Items for Action
Appoint BAC

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Sean Whalen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin Tindall seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting date 11/10/20 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Chrisinger