

**WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**Approved Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / PLEDGE**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Annemarie Redmond, at 6:01 p.m. Those present were: Annemarie Redmond, Jacqui Antonivich, Kristen Brusco, JeanMarie Oakman, David Baker, Ed Connors, Angie Ledeau, BJ Esty, Jaime Richardson, Jaimie Turner, Meredith Kelly, Katie Ahern, Ryan Santangelo, Jessica Kischko, Kirsten McNamara, Ginger Wimberg, Tanya Graves, Kristen Huebner, Jennifer Durham, Lora Powers, Leanna Robinson, Carrie Jewel, SAPA and Becky Chrisinger. The flag was pledged.

**II. CHANGES / ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Add Appointing Jaimie Turner to the Weathersfield School Board  
Annemarie Redmond talked about appointing Jaimie Turner to the Board and if an Executive Session was needed to discuss this further. An Executive Session wasn't needed and David pointed out that the members who had been appointed would still need to run for the positions in March. David Baker also said that Jaimie Turner would be unable to vote during this meeting as she hasn't been sworn in yet.

Annemarie Redmond asked for a recommendation concerning appointing Jaimie Turner to the Board. Kristen Brusco made a motion to appoint Jaimie Turner to the Board. Jacqui Antonivich second this motion. NFD. All in favor. This appointment was approved. Jaimie Turner will go to the Town Hall to be sworn in.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a) January 21, 2021

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the minutes of 1/12/21. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/12/21 with changing Item C FYBudget by adding a dollar sign in front of the amount of 24,395 for the LNA. Kristen Brusco seconded this motion. NFD. All favor. This motion was approved.

**IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Ten students returned from remote home study to being at school. The 8th grade was moved to the PAWS room so can only be 5 feet apart but this has been approved.

The science students are working on making posters and Jay Villa thought of putting the art work on reusable bags. Mrs. Allen is working with Jay Villa on this project.

**V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

We will have an idea soon of how much money will be available from the state for FY21 and FY22. The state is looking into how equalized spending will be calculated. The state is considering support staff's pay in relation to their health care costs. There is work being done on the policy regarding internet usage/social media. We will be submitting a recovery plan to the state shortly.

Hats off to the entire staff and especially the nurse. JeanMarie Oakman mentioned how wonderful the students and parents have been. The students have to wear their masks

for quite a long day beginning when they ride the bus to school in the morning, and JeanMarie Oakman mentioned what a long day this is for five and six year olds.

## **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ginger Wimberg had a question from the Weathersfield Historical Society regarding if Civics is being taught in the upper grades. Ryan Santangelo explained how he teaches Civics and said that Ginger Wimberg could call and talk to him. Angie LeDeau also said that Ginger could talk to her.

## **VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### a) Budget

David Baker said we received good news from the state and the increase in taxes went down to 18.56 cents which is down by 10 cents. David talked about the power point presentation that has been used in the past. Jacqui Antoivich has done some work but is willing to pass this on to BJ Esty. It was decided to have Jacqui work on it some more and BJ will add details. Annemarie said she can present at the virtual event with support from others.

### b) Hot Water Heater Replacement

Ed Connors reported that the hot water tank needed to be replaced as it could have exploded. Jim Taft had to monitor the hot water heater over two weekends. The cost of replacing the hot water heater was \$26,000 and the Board can vote to use the Capital Reserve Fund for this cost if they choose to. See ITEMS FOR ACTION b).

### c) COVID-19 Updates

David Baker said that COVID restrictions will most likely be in place through the end of this school year.

### d) Athletic Update

VPA regulates 7-12 sports. The high school will follow the governor's order and continue with athletics and have games. JeanMarie Oakman, David and the Hartland principal will be meeting tomorrow to discuss possibly combining seventh and eighth grade students for some basketball clinics so they have the chance to play some in a possibly safer environment at one location. There was discussion that many students are playing sports in other towns. JeanMarie Oakman said that she asked and only three students said they were interested in playing. Other students reported that their parents don't want them to play at this time. JeanMarie and the staff don't feel good about opening up the school for practices or games.

### e) Update On COVID Stress

JeanMarie Oakman said they are protective and sensitive to how the staff is feeling. Angie LeDeau went over in detail a presentation on data collected regarding stress levels of the staff. JeanMarie reports that staff are scared to death of having athletics and other people in the building. Not one faculty member feels good about having other people in the building. JeanMarie said we won't die if we don't have various activities that she wishes we could have safely but we could die from COVID right now if we aren't protective.

- f) Town Meeting Date: Virtually on Saturday, February 27, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. The Town Meeting is online this year. Voting day is Tuesday, March 2, 2021, and voters can vote in person or by requesting a mail in ballot.

Annemarie Redmond said that evaluations for David will be coming to Board Members and JeanMarie Oakman to complete.

## VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

- a) Appointment of Jaimie Turner to the School Board  
See item II. Changes/Additions to the Agenda
- b) Motion to Use Capital Reserve Funds for the Cost of Replacing the Hot Water Tank  
Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning using the Capital Reserve Funds for replacing the Hot Water Tank. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to use the Capital Reserve Funds to cover the \$26,000 to replace the Hot Water Tank. Kristen Brusco seconded this motion. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.
- c) WalMart Community Grant for \$500  
JeanMarie Oakman said the guidance counselor needed some supplemental materials for programs that we are using. She wrote a WalMart Grant and received \$500. Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the approval of this grant. Jacqui Antonivich made a motion to approve the WalMart Grant for \$500 to be used for supplemental guidance program materials. Kristen Brusco second. NFD. All in favor. This motion was approved.

There was discussion about the three finalist interviews for the principal position that will be taking place next week. Meredith Kelly thanked all of the people who served on the committee as well as BJ Esty and David Baker. David Baker thanked BJ Esty and Meredith Kelly for all their help and commended them both for all they did. David said that Meredith Kelly did a wonderful job facilitating the meetings. Jacqui Antonivich was the Board Representative for the committee. The finalists will be interviewed by a variety of groups and the Board will interview them the evening of Wednesday, February 17. Jeanmarie Oakman will meet the candidates on Wednesday morning.

The three finalists are:

Heather Lawler - She is the principal in Reading.

Nate McNaughton - He is a Weathersfield resident and the Assistant Principal of Riverside Middle School.

Brian Martes - He is a principal of a K-8 school in California and wants to move to the East Coast.

## IX. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - VSA.T11 - Section 313 - Not Needed

## X. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA

- a) Reorganization of the Board  
b) Budget  
c) Principal's Update  
d) COVID-19 Updates  
e) Updates on COVID Stress

Jacqui Antonivich mentioned that we used to have students give presentations quite frequently at Board meetings. JeanMarie Oakman will announce this request and ask for student volunteers to do this.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kristen Brusio made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jacqui Antonivich second this motion.

NFD. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Chrisinger