

Approved + released
3/31/16 BH

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:07 P M.

Present: Dawn Harris, Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Larry Murphy

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: none

4. Correspondence and Announcements: D. Harris announced and congratulated Danielle (Hart) LaPointe on her recent marriage. S. Haddad read a letter from the Governor announcing that an \$86,166 technology grant from the Math Skills Capital Grant Program was awarded to the district. He commended Mr. Fontaine and Mr. Romano, noting the funds will enable the district to build a strong technology program centered on robotics from middle through the high school. The program will help market WPS, and is part of a work for skills development program.

5. Student Representative -Chris Provost reported; Aidan Provost is attending an Authors presentation for Black History Month. Tomorrow is the Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball game. There is a Stop Hunger Now event on Saturday at MHS. Students will be packing meals and are accepting donations for the event. The Owl Book Drive is accepting book donations as part of The Outreach for Winchendon Libraries Book Project. The Tournament of Plays practices start next week. Spring sport sign-up has begun; games and events start Monday, March 21st.

6. Student Recognition: Memorial-Harmony LaPointe, Kindergarten; Toy Town Elementary-Candace Haley, 3rd grade; Murdock Middle School-Allison Miller, 8th grade; Murdock Academy-Michael Calabrese, 8th grade;

J. Corbosiero moved to take Agenda item 9a out of order. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

New Business: 9.a.

Graduation of two Students-Murdock High School Principal Joshua Romano presented Emily Amenta, Class of 2013, and Anne Labarge, Class of 2015. He explained how they have worked to pass the MCAS tests and meet all local and state graduation requirements for a High School diploma. S. Haddad and the School Committee presented them with congratulations and balloons. The assembly gave them a standing ovation.

Teacher of the Month-Alyson Galipeau, Choral Instructor for the middle and high school, and Director of musicals, among other responsibilities. He stressed her caring of school, students and community, noting she is an inspirational and positive role model. A video of middle and high school students singing the Murdock Spirit Song was shown; S. Haddad wants to use it to increase school spirit. S. Haddad noted how the music program and Ms. Galipeau will be a big part of marketing the school district.

6:46 PM D. LaPointe moved to have a 10-minute recess. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 4-0-0.

6:57 PM Reconvened.

J. Corbosiero moved to move Agenda Item 9. b-Chartwells Financial Report-to now. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

b. Chartwells Financial Report-Kate Levenworth of Chartwells Dining Services and Marilyn Murphy, WPS Food Services, presented a well rounded review. A current year to date comparison of the fiscal year January, 2016 compared to January, 2015, showed the Food Service Program has a profit of nearly \$4,600 compared to an almost \$10,000 deficit last year. The increased number of free/reduced meals is making the program more financially sound. She explained changes in individual line items, noting that

overall the program is doing wonderfully year to date. She reviewed the highlights and achievements. The program received an equipment grant of \$6,600 to buy double deck ovens at MHS. Costs will be incurred to install the necessary gas line. The K-2 Universal Free breakfast program at Memorial now includes the Pre-School. She is looking for grants to expanding the recycling program to Memorial School. She is working to build participation and uses student surveys to better serve the needs of the students. New events and programs will be rolled out starting in March. The program was in the red for \$62,000 and is now \$4,600 in the black. The stricter Mass. Regulations has dictated some of the food selection offered, although more health food choices are offered. M. Chapulis explained how the money is WPS revenue. Ms. Levenworth stated that Marilyn Murphy is an integral part of the program.

7. Superintendent Report: S. Haddad - He recapped the Mass. Skills Capital Grant. J. Romano explained in detail what the funds will be used for. He noted it allows the district to bring some fairly unique opportunities to the students to prepare them for careers in technology. He hopes to encourage students to stay in district as opposed to choicing out. The committee congratulated him and thanked him. The administrative team is working to write additional grant applications.

Matt Londo, Guidance Counselor at TTE, reviewed the success of the TTE Spelling Bee, noting the winner was Drew Lawrence, a 3rd grades student. The Take a Loved One to Lunch on February 10th had over 150 parents in attendance. He commented that it helped build relationships and encouraged volunteering.

S. Haddad is working on his new Superintendent Entry Plan, which will stress retaining and bringing students back by creating a marketing plan. L. Murphy stated the programs must be what students and their parents want and a rigorous 21st century curriculum. The right school climate, collaboration and more student centered and hands on learning would make students competitive in the academic and job market.

S. Haddad urged committee members to attend the Day on the Hill on April 26th.

Business Office Report:

a. Budget Development Update-M. Chapulis gave a budget development update, reviewing the process taken. He stated there is a gulf between the districts needs and a level service budget; the Town has not committed to the 2 ½ % override. He noted the figures are very likely to change. The committee will thoroughly review the budget at its March 3rd meeting. The Budget Public Hearing is on March 10th. The Joint tri-board meeting to hear the FY15 audit results is scheduled for February 29th. The Student Activity Audit is completed; recommended action measures will be shared with the individuals who are responsible for managing it. The report will then be presented it to the committee on March 17th.

8. Old Business:

a. Field Trip Policy-D. Hart read the new fees/rates for First Student Transportation and the Note. J. Corbosiero moved to approve the form as submitted. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 4-0-0.

9. New Business:

c. School Calendar 2016/2017-A revised draft calendar was distributed. Individual dates were discussed and corrections were made. November 8th is a Professional Development day. L. Murphy moved to table to the next meeting. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0. It will be on the March 3rd agenda.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments-Scott Rogers, Middle school social Studies teacher, announced a bottle drive on March 12th to fund student scholarships for the 7th grade field trip to Camp Takoda. There are currently 50 students signed up. He is finalizing plans for the May 20th field trip for 8th graders.

S. Haddad noted there was a water drainage problem at Memorial due to the torrential rains last night.

11. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released:

a. December 3, 2015-Joint SC and BOS meeting-J. Corbosiero moved to approve as written. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

b. December 17, 2015-Regular SC meeting- J. Corbosiero moved to approve as written. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

c. January 7, 2016-Regular Meeting-J. Corbosiero moved to approve as written. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 4-0-0.

12. Questions and Comments by Members-none

13. Other: none

14. Future Agenda Items:

A) Monty Tech Representative - FY16 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

B) Out of State Field Trip-Pre-K at The Inn at East Hill, Troy, NH

C) Presentation and Out of State Field Trip-Camp Takoda-Scott Rogers

D) 2016-2017 School Calendar (3/3/16)

15. Executive Session: 8:11 PM J. Corbosiero moved for the committee to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, for Collective Bargaining Strategy and to return to open session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Second by L. Murphy. J. Corbosiero-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye; L. Murphy,-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye. Approved 4-0-0.

16. Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted: _____
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary