



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Working Together"

SCHOOL COMMITTEE



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Karen Kast-McBride
Winchendon School Committee, Chair

July 28, 2023

At noon on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, I, as Chair of the Winchendon School Committee (WSC), received an email informing me that a payout to Mr. Thaddeus King in the amount of \$180,795.14 had already been disbursed by the Town of Winchendon. This disbursement occurred subsequent to the WSC's action taken at the July 25th School Committee meeting which effectively voided the Separation Agreement (SA) entered into between Mr. King and WPS on July 14, 2023 which should have saved the District, and taxpayers' that money.

All members were not provided a copy of the signed Separation Agreement by former Chair, Ryan Forsythe, before July 25th even though it had been executed on July 14th, despite various requests. Upon receipt of that signed Agreement, it was noted the actual agreement was not materially the same with what was approved by the full board during Executive Session on July 13th, 2023. The Separation Agreement was supposed to be discussed in an open meeting to identify which budget line item would carry the payout to Mr. King. It was stated in the Executive Session that the Separation Agreement would not be executed until that open discussion had happened.

Before the matter of the Separation Agreement could be brought to the full WSC at the meeting both Mr. Forsythe and Mr. Vine resigned from the Winchendon School Committee and did not stay to participate in their final meeting. Motions were made and passed by votes of the remaining three WSC Members to reconsider the Separation Agreement, as well as place Mr. King on Administrative leave pending a third party investigation of the actions taken by Mr. King.

Wednesday, July 26th, I, as Chair of Winchendon School Committee, was informed that the payout to Mr. King was processed via the normal payroll run pursuant to the directive of Mr. Forsythe. I was also informed that the monies were taken directly from the Superintendent's salary line of our budget.

We have contacted legal counsel of the Winchendon School Committee and legal counsel for the Town of Winchendon. All possible and appropriate action will be taken in the coming days. It is not feasible to retract the payment made, but as appropriate legal action is needed, we as the Winchendon School Committee are prepared to take that action.

As promised by me, when I accepted the position of WPS Chair, I will continue to show transparency on the actions of the Winchendon School Committee as deemed acceptable by law.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at kkast-mcbride@winchendonk12.org.