

**Minutes**  
Winthrop Town Council & School Board  
Special Meeting  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 7 p.m.**

Winthrop Town Office

Attending: Councilors Cookson, Putman, Rheame, Despres, MacDonald, Caprara.  
Absent: Buck School Board members O'Brien, Mitchell, Doughty, Dyer and Giampetro.  
Student Rep Engdahl. Supt of Schools Terry Despres, Town Manager Cornell Knight,  
Police Chief Joe Young, KJ reporter Chris Churchill and 7 residents.  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Item #153 Consider the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Report entitled "Winthrop Community Study, A summary of findings November 7, 2005."

Ellen O'Brien said it was time for the council and school board to discuss and process the report and survey that the crisis team had asked from the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention program. The survey was done of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders statewide. Supt Despres recommended that both bodies vote to accept the report for policy review.

Motion by Rheame Seconded by Putman for the Town Council to accept the MYSP report. Vote 6-0.

Motion by Dyer Seconded by Mitchell for the School Board to accept the MYSP report. Vote 5-0.

Item #154 Next steps in the suicide prevention program.

Ellen O'Brien recommended that a sub committee be formed of 7 members, 2 councilors, 2 school board and 3 from the public to work on the recommendations. Councilor MacDonald recommended that Ian Engdahl be appointed to the sub committee as a student representative.

Ellen O'Brien asked that concerns and ideas about the report be listed on poster sheets for the sub-committee to consider.

Councilor Caprara said students should be required to meet with a guidance counselor each year.

Supt Despres said the schools can't do it all, this needs to be a community wide effort.

Sub committee size and membership was discussed.

Motion by Despres Seconded by Rheame to appoint Putman and Buck as the Council's committee members. Discussion.

Motion by Putman Seconded by Despres to amend the motion to include Councilor MacDonald. Vote 6-0. Vote on original motion 6-0.

Motion by Dyer Seconded by Mitchell to appoint O'Brien and Giampetro as the School Board's committee members. Vote 5-0.

Listed Items:

Mitchell – review policies and get feedback from former students.

Cookson- Exit interviews for graduating seniors.

O'Brien- expand Recreation programs

Putman- address the item in the survey on tolerance for alcohol and misbehavior.

MacDonald- community based mentoring program

Giampetro- follow up on the recommendation that school personnel stay connected with a small group of students.

Rob Michaud- graduating students need assistance with the transition from High school to college.

Caprara- the committee should have a name that is identifiable.

Dyer- look at policies as well as procedures, establish a advisor/advisee program, have resources in place before starting program, training for school personnel on recognizing suicidal students, a report mechanism on graduating students.

Despres- recent suicides were all male, gender differences should be considered.

MacDonald- both genders should be the focus because in the 90's it was girls attempting suicide. Referral systems to social service agencies should be improved.

Cathy Eldridge- 8 attempted suicides in 1996 by 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, don't forget them and use their parents as a resource.

Jim Norris- compassion for fellow students should start in the grade school.

Chief Young- council and school board should make a resolution that there is zero tolerance for substance abuse.

Healthy Futures Community meeting on the suicide report meets December 14.

Motion by Putman Seconded by O' Brien to appoint Rob Michaud to the committee.  
Vote All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.