

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chairperson Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Joe Cormier, Chuck Tucker, Marge Kerns, Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten, and Business Administrator Ed Emond. Not in attendance: Superintendent Bob Champlin and Beth Arsenault

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Scott Vachon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on July 9, 2009, at the SAU office and on the district's website, along with being sent to each of our schools, "The Citizen", the "Laconia Daily Sun", the Laconia Library, and City Hall, in accordance with RSA 91-A.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Scott Vachon requested removal of LMS Pictorial from agenda. Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Marge Kerns, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Marge Kerns, to approve the minutes of June 2 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

### **PRESENTATION/SPECIAL RECOGNITION – LHS Drama**

LHS Drama teacher, Joy Armstrong shared her memories of 15 years with the LHS Drama department. Several students, past and present, as well as staff members and parents who have been an integral part of the drama department at LHS since 1993 were in attendance. She has put on over 70 shows which included dramas that dealt with teenage issues such as Aids, suicide and bullying. She shared pictures of past cast members and highlighted several students who have gone on to make a living in this field. The Board recognized Joy for her years of service to the Laconia High School Drama Program.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Public Relations:** Fran Prentice presented the Laconia School District Scrapbook that she has been working on since December 2008. This digital scrapbook has over 180 pages and is a compilation of Laconia School District staff and students' involvement in the community. Marge Kerns stated that this is a fabulous example of how the schools and students give back to the community. Chris Guilmett felt that this would be good to share with the public and Scott Vachon suggested that this be available on the district website. The Board thanked Fran for all her efforts in putting this together.

**Grant Updates:** Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten presented an update and overview on grants that she is working on for the upcoming 2009 – 2010 school year. She shared that the average grant is 15 pages with the Title I grant being about 50 pages. There is significant "manpower" that goes into the grant writing process. There are around \$3 million available in grants in the state. She explained the process of entitlements and grant writing. Marge Kerns commended district staff for working on this process and reminded the audience that this is "not a blank check".

Public/Administrative Input:

None

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget & Personnel:** Marge Kerns stated that the committee has not met but will do so after the second reading of the budget, which is scheduled for July 20. Marge shared her ideas of ways the Board could look at the \$500K that needs to be cut such as looking at which pay steps new staff start at, holding of the two new staff positions that were requested, not contributing to the city maintenance fund, health insurance savings and cutting some of the supply lines. Marge said that these are her personal ideas, not those of the committee.

**Facilities/CIP:** Joe Cormier reported that the committee met on July 13. They have received three bids for the roof at Elm Street School. Joe said the amount that was set aside has gone back to the city budget so it is unlikely that this will happen in the near future. Joe also stated that scheduled maintenance is being addressed at the schools as well as paving of the Laconia Middle School parking lot.

**Policy:** Chris Guilmett said the committee has not met, but noted that two policies will come forward for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading tonight.

**Board Member Input:** Marge Kerns read a statement she had prepared regarding the budget (see attached).

## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

In his Board Chair Report, Scott Vachon commended the Board on their efforts and work on the budget. Scott stated that if you put a ripple in a student's education, that ripple effects their entire school career. He has had conversations with city residents about the budget and has assured them that the Board has worked hard to do the right thing. Scott said that the Board works by the guidelines of respect, trust and a vision for the future. He feels that the City of Laconia needs to look for better ways to increase revenue above and beyond property taxes. He would encourage the City to have a strategic plan similar to the Board that uses common sense, leadership and a sense of calm.

## CALENDAR

Budget and Personnel	TBA	
School Board Meeting	August 4	7:00
Policy Committee	August 11	8:00
Joint Building Committee	August 12	6:30 @ LMS

## ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**Opening Themes and Trends:** Terri Forsten reported that the District staff will return to work on August 25 and students will begin the school year on September 1.

**New Hires:** Terri shared a list of staff members that have been hired to date, stating that we are close to completing the hiring of teachers for the 2009-2010 school year.

**School Board Email Communication:** Scott Vachon explained that under the right to know laws it was suggested that Board members have and use a district email address.

**South Africa Trip:** Terri shared that there are eight Laconia High School students and four chaperones that are on their way to South Africa. They are expected to arrive in Zurich on July 15 to spend the day and then onto Johannesburg. They have set up a blog to chronicle the trip at [laconiakeyclub.blogspot.com](http://laconiakeyclub.blogspot.com).

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Reading: Policy JICK – Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention/Bullying; Policy KA – Community Resources:** Chris Guilmett shared the two policies. There was no further discussion.

**Resignation:Monyeen Scott :** Terri Forsten shared the letter of resignation for Monyeen Scott. There was no further discussion.

**2009-2010 School Budget:** This was previously discussed under committee reports and Board member input.

## GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be taking any action when they come out of non-public session. Scott Vachon answered that they would not. Dick then asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting. Scott answered no. Dick asked for the date that the administrator's contracts would be renegotiated and was told that it would be 2010. He also stated that he hopes that Board members are not using their personal email addresses to discuss board items. Marge Kerns reiterated that this is not happening and that communication is limited to setting up times and dates.

## ACTION ITEMS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Reading: Policy JICK – Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention/Bullying; Policy KA – Community Resources :** Motion made by Marge Kerns, seconded by Chuck Tucker, to approve the two policies as presented. The vote was unanimous.

**Resignation:Monyeen Scott :** Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Joe Cormier, to approve the resignation as presented. The vote was unanimous.

## NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3II

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Joe Cormier, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3II letter c to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:35 PM.

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Stacy Sirois, to come out of Non-Public Session. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 9:05 PM.

## PUBLIC SESSION

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Joe Cormier, seconded by Marge Kerns, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri L. Forsten  
Clerk