

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Joe Cormier, Beth Arsenault, Marge Kerns, Superintendent Bob Champlin, Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten, and Business Administrator Ed Emond. Not in attendance: Chairperson Scott Vachon and Chuck Tucker.

CALL TO ORDER

Marge Kerns called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on July 31, 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

Motion made by Beth Arsenault, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirios, to approve the minutes of July 14 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION – Full Day Kindergarten/Title I

Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten offered a presentation on Full Day Kindergarten to the Board. Currently we have ten half-day sessions with four extended day sessions for Title I eligible students. Terri explained that children benefit academically, developmentally and socially by receiving full-day programming. Parents and teachers prefer a full-day program. Terri shared that we can look at full-day kindergarten now as our three elementary schools are all Title I and our enrollment supports 9 full-day programs. We currently have 7 kindergarten teachers so we will need to hire 2 additional teachers. Class sizes will remain within the 16 – 22 student guidelines. The next steps for this to happen will be to hire these teachers, develop class lists, inform parents, adjust the schedule and prep our Food Service program to accommodate this. The full-day program will give these students increased instructional time from 2 ½ hours to 6 ¼. The Board unanimously endorsed this program and is excited for this learning opportunity early on.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Facilities:

Update: Superintendent Bob Champlin shared a visual tour of the facilities. He shared that all of the schools were looking outstanding thanks to the hard work of the facilities staff and also additional help from JAG students at LHS as part of a federal grant that pays students to work. LHS has had a remodel of the Library/Media Center, as well as new tile floors in the main entrance, remodeled bathrooms and a more visible main office. Friends of Football have funded a new snack shack at the football field. LMS is almost complete with new paving, parking and new electronic sign as well as energy efficient outdoor lighting. Laconia Food Service was able to purchase a new van thanks to a grant from Federal stimulus funds. The ESS roof is the only outstanding project that needs to be addressed. Joe Cormier feels that our facilities are in great shape and the staff has done an excellent job and should be commended. Marge Kerns added that LHS has done an outstanding job reallocating funds to get these special projects completed.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Marge Kerns stated that the committee met tonight and will be presenting the 2009-2010 Budget later in this meeting. The next scheduled meeting is September 1 at 6:00.

Facilities/CIP: Beth Arsenault reported that the committee has not met but will meet August 12 at 6:30.

Policy: Chris Guilmett said the committee has not met.

Board Member Input:

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Policy Committee	August 11	8:00
Joint Building Committee	August 12	6:30 @ LMS
Facilities/CIP	August 19	6:00 @ LHS
Budget and Personnel	September 1	6:00
School Board Meeting	September 1	7:00

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

E Rate: Bob shared that the District has saved \$51,000 in discounts as a result of e-rate.

JAG: Bob informed the Board that Governor Lynch visited the JAG program at LMS last week. This is an outstanding program that will be looking at working on producing audio visual programs for students.

Administrative Decision Making: Bob explained to the Board that in the event of his absence that Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten would be next in line followed by Business Administrator Ed Emond in her absence.

New Hires: Bob shared a list of staff members that have been hired to date, stating that we have filled all of our vacant positions with the exception of the two new Kindergarten teachers for the 2009-2010 school year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2009-2010 School Budget: Marge Kerns presented the budget to the Board. In a video presentation she shared that \$500,000 had to be reduced from the original budget. This was done by reconciling all new hires with savings in salary and benefits, cuts and freezing of supplies and equipment, freezing two requested positions, and savings in the Special Education program which she stated was a "moment in time". There have been no cuts in building maintenance and work continues as budgeted. She proposed that we would transfer \$50,000 into the Contingency Account Fund in addition to the \$25,000 that is currently in there which would total \$75,000 that is our half of the ESS roof repair. The city would fund the additional \$75,000. We would continue to work toward our strategic plan and support the educational needs of the children of Laconia. Building and Personnel would monitor the budget on a monthly basis and unfreeze positions/supplies as appropriate.

Joe Cormier stated that the IT Technician position that is frozen is an essential position for the District as the number of equipment we have grows. He asked what it would take to reinstate this position. Marge Kerns also felt that this was important and Budget and Personnel are hoping to receive some grant money that would free up other monies that could fund this. She reminded the Board that this position is "frozen" not cut.

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be taking any action when they come out of non-public session. Marge answered that they would not. Dick then asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting. Marge answered no. Dick thanked Fran Prentice, Administrative Assistant; for all that she has done for the Laconia School District. She will be greatly missed. The Board also shared that they appreciated all the hard work that she has done and wished her well.

Malcolm Murray, volunteer at Pleasant Street School, asked the Board to make sure that any extra funds that may be available should be directed to the elementary schools. He also asked if there had been an evaluation of how block scheduling had gone last year. Bob Champlin stated that teacher leaders had given a presentation to the board and that we will bring them back to present this again in the future.

Dawn Johnson, parent of a new Kindergarten student, shared that she is very pleased that we are offering full-day Kindergarten. She was one of the parents who volunteered to have her child attend Elm Street School. A meeting was held for Pleasant Street School parents of Kindergarten students asking if anyone would be willing to have their child attend Elm Street School as there was only room for two full day programs there. Thirteen families were willing to participate and they will have the option of having their children attend Pleasant Street School after the completion of Kindergarten.

ACTION ITEMS

2009-2010 School Budget: Motion made by Beth Arsenault, seconded by Joe Cormier to accept the 2009 – 2010 School Budget as presented. The vote was unanimous.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3II

None

PUBLIC SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Beth Arsenault, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri L. Forsten
Clerk