

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chairperson Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Joe Cormier, , Marge Kerns, Superintendent Bob Champlin, Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten, and Business Administrator Ed Emond. Not in attendance: Beth Arsenault and Chuck Tucker.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Scott Vachon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on August 28, 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**

Marge Kerns asked to have Specialists Contracts added to Discussion Items and Action Items. Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Marge Kerns made a correction to the minutes to change *City Maintenance Fund* to *Contingency Fund* under discussion items – 2009-2010 School Budget. Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to approve the minutes of August 4, 2009 as amended. The vote was unanimous.

### **PRESENTATION – Opening Day in Laconia School District**

Administrative Assistant Janet Brough presented a power point presentation of pictures taken on the first day of school in all of our district schools. Our schools looked incredible and all students were excited to be back. Laconia Middle School students were in awe of the beautiful new school as well as staff members who were anxious to get into their classrooms. A special thanks to the Laconia School Board for their continued support. Ed Emond said that the drop off and pick up of students at LMS had some challenges the first day but by the second day those were addressed and were no longer a problem. Chris Guilmett asked about the bus lanes and thought that they may need to be marked more clearly but after discussion the consensus was that people would get into the habit and the buses are only there for about 20 minutes a day.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

#### **Technology:**

**State of the Schools:** Superintendent Bob Champlin shared a portion of the piece that was shared to Laconia School District staff on August 26<sup>th</sup> on our technology. He shared an article from the Citizen from 25 years ago that stated that Laconia High School had eleven computers while Laconia Middle School had three computers for six hundred students. We currently have about 900 computers in the district. We have ceiling mounted projectors in grades 6 – 12, tech gadgets throughout the district as well as a new seminar room at LMS. We are hoping to get funding for a new technician to work with the two current technicians.

#### **Grant Update:**

**Title I Approval:** Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten shared that our Title I ARRA Grant has been approved. The total amount of this grant is \$462,627.16. Items included in this amount are literacy coaches for elementary schools, full day kindergarten teachers, summer curriculum work, teacher support to Holy Trinity School, summer school teachers and materials to support this program, twelve computers, literacy kits, as well as homeless set aside amounts to support students who are homeless and a mandatory 1% set aside for parent involvement. Marge Kerns said that with this money we may be able to free up our regular budget supply lines.

**IDEA:** We are still waiting for word on this money but it is looking favorable. Stay tuned.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget & Personnel:** Marge Kerns stated that the committee met and reviewed grant funding, specialists contracts and electrical rates. Ed Emond was very successful in locking in electrical rates at \$.08 per kilowatt-hour for a savings of \$20,000. This is locked in for 6 months and can then be reviewed. He was also able to lock in natural gas at \$.85 per thermal unit versus last year's rate of \$1.08 for a savings of \$36,000.

**Facilities/CIP:** The committee met last week. The Elm Street School roof is slated to be done on September 14. The citywide CIP is coming up at which time we will not request anything but we will update them with what we have done. Facilities will meet with facility managers on September 14 at noon to discuss reports that can be run from School Dude.

**Policy:** Chris Guilmett said the committee met on August 11 and is bringing two policies, GBGC and IMBD, forward for a first reading tonight.

**Board Member Input:** Marge Kerns commended Steve Beals, Laconia High School Principal, for a successful freshman night. She said it is a great connection for parents, students and staff. Joe Cormier agreed that it is a great ice breaker and establishes a nice atmosphere for entering freshmen.

## BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

In his Board Chair Report, Scott Vachon presented Superintendent Bob Champlin with a star pin to celebrate his twenty seven years with the Laconia School District. Thirty four Laconia staff celebrated twenty five years or more of service last week at a special recognition celebration.

Board Chair Vachon also stated that the Laconia School Board is not endorsing or supporting any candidates in the upcoming city elections. He stated that what we are doing is concentrating on the school year and taking care of students.

Policy Committee	September 15	8:00
Joint Building Committee	September 9	6:30 @ LMS
Facilities/CIP	September 14	12:00 noon
Budget and Personnel	September 15	6:00
School Board Meeting	September 15	7:00

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**NEAS&C:** Bob shared some information for the upcoming decennial evaluation visit from October 18 – October 21 at Laconia High School. The Board will be given a schedule and be invited to participate if interested. This is a fabulous opportunity to look at what we are doing and how we compare to other schools. Marge Kerns said that this is an honest evaluation of what is good and what needs work.

**LEEF Grants:** Terri Forsten shared that the grant application are available on our website and are due by September 20, 2009. The focus will be on early childhood and technology.

**Virtual Sub Line:** Bob explained to the Board the creation of a virtual substitute line that staff can access online to request a sub which will then be routed to the building secretary/principal with the name of the person who will be substituting. Peggy Morton, who has been coordinating this for many years, will be working with secretaries and building principals to provide access to this.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**1<sup>st</sup> Policy Reading: Policy GBGC – Family and Medical Leave Policy; Policy IMBD – High School Credit(s) for Middle School Advanced Coursework:** The Board discussed Policy IMBD and if more courses would be available to middle school students. This may be offered in the future but at this time Math and

Modern Language are only offered. These policies are being brought forward for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and will be posted for public review.

**Specialists Contract:** Marge Kerns shared with the Board that Specialists have not been given contracts. Budget and Personnel are recommending a 3% increase for these staff members, which is equal to what union employees were given. There are about 35 employees in this group and the cost is approximately \$32,000 to fund this.

#### GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be taking any action when they come out of non-public session. Scott Vachon noted that they would not be taking any action. Dick Coggon asked how many applicants were received requesting early retirement. Mr. Champlin stated that he would not offer this information as it is a personnel matter and not a matter of public record. Dick then asked if the Board would be taking any action when they come out of having a non-meeting. Scott answered no.

Gail Ober, Citizen reported, asked if the Laconia School District's attorney was present for the non-meeting. Scott Vachon stated that there was no attorney present. Gail also asked if there are any Kindergarten students who are only attending half days and if so, is the district providing transportation. Terri Forsten stated that she is not aware of any students who are and we do not provide transportation.

#### ACTION ITEMS

**Specialists Contract:** Joe Cormier made a motion to approve the 3% increase to Specialists, seconded by Chris Guilmettt. The vote was unanimous.

#### NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3II

Motion made by Chris Guilmettt, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3II letter c to discuss early retirement. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 7:47 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non-Public Session by Chris Guilmettt, seconded by Joe Cormier. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 7:59 PM.

#### PUBLIC SESSION

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chris Guilmettt, seconded by Marge Kerns, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The Board held a brief Non-Meeting to receive an update on negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri L. Forsten  
Clerk