

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chairperson Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Chuck Tucker, Marge Kerns, Beth Arsenault, Joe Cormier, Superintendent Bob Champlin, Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten, and Business Administrator Ed Emond.

CALL TO ORDER

Scott Vachon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on October 2, 2009, at the SAU office and on the district's website, along with being sent to each of our schools, "The Citizen", 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 Chuck Tucker, to approve the minutes of September 15, 2009. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION – NEAS&C Preview

LHS Principal Steve Beals shared with the Board the upcoming visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C). The team will arrive on Sunday, October 18 and stay through Wednesday October 20. Rick Crockford and Ellen St. James shared the schedule of events with the Board. Rick stated that this is an enormous look at ourselves and instead of evaluating the school, students and teachers they are actually evaluating our evaluation of ourselves. Steve said the team of visiting evaluators, which is made up of education professionals from New England, will meet with the LHS community of staff, students and parents. They will shadow students during their school day as well as interviewing administrators and School Board members. Preparation for this visit has been ongoing for the past 2 ½ years. Ellen presented the self evaluation list which included a list of strengths and needs.

Jackie Creed and David Levesque, Guidance Counselors from Laconia High School presented a power point on an Update on Initiatives and Progress of the Guidance Department. They are planning for the future with classroom guidance meetings, new course-collaboration, interviews with students, upcoming parent nights, NH Scholars, a goal for every Senior, college fairs and college visits. They also shared a new program, GED Options – used to reengage students who have struggled with school. This has been very successful since the start of school.

Lauren Streifer, Science Department Head, shared the new Classroom Contributions Expectations rubric that has been developed and is currently being used by the teaching staff to evaluate student participation. This is used to stimulate conversations with students/teachers and develop a plan of action to move towards growth.

Department Heads shared their experiences with Block Scheduling as we enter our second year of implementation. Several felt that the 90 minute blocks allow for engagement with students with more topics discussed in-depth and more time to help students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Students are less stressed with only 4 classes each semester. The challenges continue to be how to keep some students engaged for the time period as well as budget constraints to allow for supplies as new classes have been added. Staff continues to be creative and flexible in this area.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Public/Administrative Input:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Beth Arsenault, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri L. Forsten
Clerk