

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chairperson Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Marge Kerns, Joe Cormier, Superintendent Bob Champlin, Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten, and Business Administrator Ed Emond. Absent were Chuck Tucker and Beth Arsenault,

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Scott Vachon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on October 16, 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 Chris Guilmett, seconded by Joe Cormier, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Marge Kerns, to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009. The vote was unanimous.

### **PRESENTATION – LEEF Grants**

LEEF Vice Chairman Mitch Hamel presented checks to LEEF Grant recipients. These recipients included the team of Bernie Campbell, Rick Crockford, Steve Tucker and Laurel Hubbard from Laconia High School, Ray Sleeper and Marin Federspiel from Laconia High School, the team of Bob Clay, Rebecca Sims, Jane Connelly and Sarah Roberts from Laconia Middle School, Sonya Roberts and Darlene Page from Pleasant Street School and Mitzi Tucker and Gina McGuire from Woodland Heights. All had been selected as recipients of grants from the Laconia Endowment Educational Foundation (LEEF), which twice annually distributes funds to support quality education in Laconia.

"We're thrilled to have been able to fulfill these grant requests," said Hamel. The twice annual grant awards, along with the pre-kindergarten LEEFlets program, reflect the commitment to quality education of area residents and businesses who contribute so generously to their mission.

### **PRESENTATION – Full Day Kindergarten**

Kindergarten teachers Sandy Jackson from ESS, Carmelle Gagne and Karen Bassett from PSS and Tricia Reynolds from WHS spoke about how the implementation of full day kindergarten has been beneficial in our district. Several students from Elm and Pleasant Street Schools were in attendance. A group of students performed a song with sign language as well as a read aloud poem. Sullivan Mousseau, Kindergarten student from Pleasant Street School read the poem "Just Playing" and did an outstanding job. Tricia presented a power point sharing the different activities that students are able to participate in with the full day option. They are now able to see specialists (PE, Music, Art, Library and Computers) once a week. The team will return later in the year to share data that will reflect how this initiative impacts learning.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Administrative Team presented the Administrative Recommendations for the 2010-2011 Budget. Superintendent Champlin shared the factors to consider are the present economy (including the CPIU), our upcoming collective bargaining agreements, maintaining our Strategic Planning Goals and being competitive outside of Laconia. Ed Emond explained how the tax cap calculations work when establishing the allowable increase. Last year we had our increase reduced by the City Council in the amount of \$500,000. The CPIU last year was 3.8% and is expected to be at 0% or a negative this year. That would mean that our total allowable increase of \$142,500 would be contingent on building permits which is estimated at \$15,000,000. Administrative recommendations are for zero growth in our budget at the local level and continued application for competitive funding at the state and local levels. Our biggest

challenge this coming budget is the guaranteed maximum increase in health insurance expected to be 26.2% which is equal to \$1,064,000. We have serious work to do in this area.

Assistant Superintendent Terri Forsten explained examples of competitive funding, one of which is the "Race to the Top" grants which will be awarded based on four focus areas which New Hampshire has implemented or plans to implement in the areas of effective teachers and leaders, data systems, standards and assessments and struggling schools. Twenty states will receive this money and New Hampshire has applied.

In closing the three year look ahead will include a "Super Saturday" model that has been used in the past to organize early how to address the budget. This is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup> at the SAU. There will continue to be ongoing Budget and Personnel discussion and recommendations as well as Board feedback on the concept of zero growth at the local level and continued research into alternative funding.

Joe Cormier commended the school district for seeking alternative and supplemental funding. We are always looking for how to get more for our students without being a burden on the taxpayer. Board members agreed that the idea of "Super Saturday" is a great concept to see where we are early on in the budget process knowing the economic conditions we will be working with.

**Public/Administrative Input:**

None

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** The committee has not met.

**Facilities/CIP:** The committee will meet soon at Elm Street School.

**Policy:** Chris Guilmett said the committee met on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will bring forward an update on cell phones and texting.

**Board Member Input:**

Marge Kerns took this opportunity to speak to the board as this is her last meeting. She has served on the board for 11 years and she said that this was a very professional group and wanted to thank them for their hard work and camaraderie. She knows that this board will not give up on providing a quality education to the students of our district.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR**

LEEF Walkathon	November 8
Final Joint Building Committee	November 18 @ 6:30 @ LMS
Super Saturday Budget Planning	November 21 TBA
School Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 4 @ 7:00 ( <i>changed due to City elections</i> )

In his Board Chair Report, Scott Vachon shared his thoughts on the presentation that was made to the Laconia City Council last week. He was disappointed that the City Council questioned why we would offer full day kindergarten if funds might not be there in the future. He feels that this fits into the Strategic Plan and the three year outlook. He feels that students that are participating currently are richer for the experience. Scott also shared that the School Board serves in a leadership role both in their professional lives as well as the community. Board members are committed to advancing educational outcomes for all in the community. Our administrators are always looking for funding sources outside of local taxes. The Board is out in the front and understands the challenge we are facing at this time with the budget. We are planning early and would challenge the City Council to prepare as well. We believe in "can" not "cannot" and "will" not "will not". The best days are ahead of our schools and we will work toward that success. He also thanked all the present Board Members for serving.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**NEAS&C Visit:** Bob thanked the Board members for attending the Sunday panel. The next step will be a report with commendations and recommendations. It was noted that there was a fantastic effort by Laconia High School staff and that their relation with the School Board was very impressive.

**NECAP Testing:** Bob reported that the testing is complete for the most part. There are still a few students who have recently moved into the district and staff is trying to find out if they had completed the test at their previous school. He also shared that No Child Left Behind will be revisited and reissued possibly as Race to the Top.

**Empty Bowls Banquet:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Empty Bowls Project Banquet will be held at Laconia Middle School on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is a project that Alexis Eynon, Integrated Arts Teacher, is spearheading that includes clay bowls made by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are filled with soup and bread donated by Cactus Jacks & T-Bones and the donation (\$10 - \$15 suggested) will be given to a local food shelf program.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

**GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Coggon asked if the Board went into non-public session if they would be taking any action when they come out. Scott Vachon answered that there would not be a non-public session. Dick then asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting. Scott answered no.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3II**

None

**PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirios, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri L. Forsten  
Clerk