

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Laconia High School
345 Union Ave

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting at the Laconia High School Auditorium.

PRESENT: Aaron Hayward, Dawn Johnson, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, Heather Lounsbury, Malcolm Murray, Nick Grenon, Superintendent Steve Tucker, and Assistant Superintendent Hinds.

Absent: Business Administrator Christine Blouin.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairperson, Heather Lounsbury, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Friday, July 30th at the SAU office and on the District's website, along with being sent to each of our schools, the Laconia Daily Sun, Laconia Library, and City Hall, in accordance with RSA 91-A.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Board Member Murray made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Board Member Johnson inquired about the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force being taken off the agenda and item #14 Public Session on the agenda. Board Member Johnson said the Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the Public Session item is when the Board exits Nonpublic and enters back into Public Session. Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force will be updated in the Superintendent's Report and said Board Member Murray made a motion to approve tonight's agenda and that the Board needs a second motion. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grenon. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 6-1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Grenon to amend the minutes to reflect that Board Member Johnson made the motion at the July 20th meeting to approve the agenda and not Board Member Cormier, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Huot Technical Center Director, Dave Warrender presented on the Center's challenges, what worked, enrollment, accomplishments, highlighted successes and new programming. He talked about how the school "kept it together" with the use of virtual tours/open houses. He reported that Ray Sleeper, was honored with CTE Teacher of the Year, expansion of the Medical Assisting Program, the HBI Grant and the new outreach position that will focus on engaging middle school students and internships. Board Member Cormier inquired about how the Outreach Specialist will be supported and Mr. Warrender said it would be supported by the Perkins Grant and the as well as the EMS class. Superintendent Tucker asked about any impact on students with COVID and Mr. Warrender replied that students were pretty resilient and have persevered. Board Member Johnson added that she values programs at HTC and thanked Mr. Warrender.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Victoria Micheli said talked about her children's struggles in the school district during remote learning.
- Jim Thompson, Ward 1 of Long Bay Drive talked about the Critical Race Theory and Diversity and Inclusion.
- Doug Teegarden of Gilford Ave. talked about the July 20th meeting.
- Liana Crowell of Sarah Circle talked about children wearing masks.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier said this committee has not met.

Facilities: Board Member Murray said this committee met in July and were updated on summer projects.

Policy: Board Member Hayward said JICD, JG and JG-P are on the agenda tonight and that the committee is waiting on the Code of Conduct t of the MTSS template to revise policy JIC.

Board Member Input

Board Member Johnson said she would like an update on the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. Board Member Hayward said the superintendent put together a committee within the district and invited a board member to attend to be on the committee. In order to keep the Board informed he has been reporting the meeting minutes under Board Committee reports and apologized for the confusion. To avoid confusion in future the, Superintendent will report out on it in the Superintendent's report. Board Member Johnson reference a Senate Bill and said that it would make it a Board Committee. Superintended Tucker said the RSA does not establish it as a Board Committee and the District is in compliance with the law.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported that August 17th the Board will talk about upcoming school year. Board Member Hayward said we will have to approve handbooks as well. Superintendent Tucker talked about 3-6 feet distancing and Dr. Chan's guidance and wanted to remind the public that we have school opening plan on the District's website and there is an email link for public to offer input.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the District Opening Day schedules which will include building level classroom set up and professional development, summer institutes, and updated the Board on new hires. Superintendent Tucker reported that City Council approved the FY 21 Budget. He reported on the divisive concepts, the DHHS guidance and protocols, Public Health guidance, and said mask wearing will be a local decision. He talked about COVID data in Belknap County, and that at the August 17th School Board meeting he will have more information.

DISCUSSION

- First Read Policy JICD Student Discipline and Due Process: Board member Hayward said this policy was adopted in 2002 and revised in 2019 and revised again to align with new laws.
- Second Read Policy JG Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels: This combined former policy JG and IHM and streamlined into one policy. Board Member Dunn added that our handbooks need to reflect our policies.
- Second Read JG-P Pupil Class Placement (Procedure to Policy JG):
- Teacher Support: Superintendent proposed continuation of support for staff for an elementary mentor, a middle/high mentor to provide support to staff with the administrative team and a math coach for elementary and grade 6 math teachers.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**ACTION**

- Second Read Policy JG Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.
- Second Read JG-P Pupil Class Placement (Procedure to Policy JG): Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve this procedure as presents, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.
- Teacher Support: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve the proposed teacher support, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

NONPUBLIC: Board Member Johnson inquired about the July 20th non-meeting on the agenda, saying that she read it as a nonpublic She said that she looked for polices for a non-meeting and could not find anything and expressed concerns that

they may have done something illegal by having a non-meeting. Board Member Hayward said the Board is empowered to meet outside of public session to have a non-meeting for 4 different reasons and that it is in the open meeting law (RSA 91-A:2, I), collective bargaining is one of them. Motion made by Board Member Murray to enter into nonpublic, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The Board entered into nonpublic at 7:43 PM

Public Session: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to go into public session, seconded by Board Member Murray. The Board returned to public session at 9:14 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk