

**LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
HTC MVSDB DINING ROOM**

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting, at the Huot Career and Technical Center on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

PRESENT: AARON HAYWARD, Dawn Johnson, Heather Lounsbury, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, Malcolm Murray, Nick Grenon, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Amy Hinds, and 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 Wednesday, July 29, 2020 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

Motion made by Dawn Johnson to amend the agenda to include Board member input under item#6, seconded by Laura Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Laura Dunn to amend the minutes from July 14, 2020 to change the location of the August 4, 2020 Board meeting location under Board Chair Report/Calendar to reflect the correct venue of the Huot Technical Center, seconded by Dawn Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

OATH OF OFFICE

Board Chair person, Heather Lounsbury reported that Bob Champlin resigned from Ward - at - Large. The Board was accepting letter of interest to fill the vacant seat. Joe Cormier submitted a letter to fill the vacant seat for the 2020-2021 term. A motion made by Malcolm Murray to approve Joe Cormier to represent Ward –at-Large, seconded by Dawn Johnson. The vote was unanimous. Cheryl Hebert, Laconia City Clerk, administered the oath of office to elected School Board Member.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS WORK GROUP REPORTS

Governance: Board Chair person, Heather Lounsbury informed the Board of the members of this task force and said the focus was on articulating a vision.

Facilities: Principal Eric Johnson reported that this work group focused on acquiring PPE, entry plans, transportation, and air handling ventilation.

Instruction: Board member Aaron Hayward reported that this work group focused on instruction in a meaningful way, flexibility in different scenarios during the pandemic, and engaging students. Principal Tara Beauchemin added preschool- grade 12 have literacy and math benchmarks and tiered level support.

Post – Secondary: Board member Dawn Johnson reported that this work group focused on academic requirements for seniors, individual student progress, and student work load for graduation.

School Operations: Principal Dave Leveque reported that this work group focused on attendance, food service, and extracurricular. Dave noted that during last year's remote learning, food service delivered 80,000 meals to students.

Technology: Board member Nick Grenon reported that this work group focused on 1:1 devices, applications and the vetting process for computer applications, and parents and student access to educational platforms.

Wellness: Board member Laura Dunn reported that this work group focused on safety, health, screening protocols, exposure protocols, and when to keep students home.

Board Member Input

Board Chair person Heather Lounsbury commended the work staff, parents, Board members, Craig Kozens, Bob Champlin, administrators and the IT team have done to develop a reopening plan for students.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Boar Chairperson Lounsbury reported on the Oversight Committee for the reopening of schools highlighting the recommendations, future plans. Superintendent Tucker added that he appreciates the time and effort put into the committee.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

School Board Work Session

6:00 PM at HTC MVSDB Dining Room

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker welcomed Joe Cormier and noted that Board member Cormier is a parent in the district, alumna, parent of a teacher, has been a coach and an invested community member. Joe has previously served on the Board for 13 years.

Superintendent Tucker presented on the reopening of schools' plan stating that we are still learning about what is happening and talked about the importance of a collective effort. Superintendent Tucker talked about the data, phasing in, calendar changes, outdoor learning opportunities, recommendations from the reopening work groups, and the timeline. Assistant Superintendent Amy Hinds reported on the survey results, the return to school readiness, preferred mode of learning for school reopening, and transportation with the social distancing guidelines. Assistant Superintendent Hinds continued to report on the COVID 19 data as of August 2nd in Belknap County. Superintendent Tucker informed the Board of the hybrid concept. Principal Tara Beauchemin added that the district's priority is safety of students and staff and noted that the administration looked at a number of reopening models and tonight's presentation is the best model. Principal Rob Bennett said he is part of a cohort of principals that meet weekly and the top three areas for reopening are safety, equity, and meaningful instruction. Principal Alison Bryant added the focus is on safety and a consistent plan for families and this model work at all levels. Superintendent Tucker continued to present on the A/B hybrid model calendar. Students with the last names A-K will be in school on the red days and students with last names L-Z will be in school on white days. Superintendent Tucker added that school work will be engaging and there will be no dual planning for teachers. Board member Dawn Johnson asked about students within the same family that have a different last name. Principal Eric Johnsons said they will use the oldest sibling and align the other siblings to that schedule. Superintendent Tucker said the district will work with families. Board member Dunn inquired about the process to keep students engaged besides using worksheets. Principal Tara Beauchemin replied that students Preschool-grade 5 will all have devices. Board Member Dunn said she was referring more to the summer STEM bags. Superintendent Tucker said there is an importance of choice and balance and that the district is phasing in more considerations. Principal Alison Bryant reported on the Laconia Middle School summer series outdoor classroom. Principal Rob Bennet reported on the college process webinar, band camp and meeting with smaller groups. Principal Rob Bennett continued to report on Laconia High School's successful summer school. Superintendent Tucker added that the summer athletics program was successful with under 100 student participants. He included that fall sports have been pushed back to September 8, 2020. Superintendent Tucker proposed that the 20/21 school year calendar be amended to reflect the first day of school for students to be from August 31st to September 9th. He said September 28th would be a planning day for teachers. Board member Laura Dunn inquired about the 4-day gap for red family day. Principal Dave Levesque said the district looked at equity and family challenges and that the first three weeks of school is about routine. Board member Aaron Hayward inquired about the September 30th full face to face return and what will drive the decision to go ahead with that plan? Superintendent Tucker said that the district will have to look at data, staffing, and remote learning numbers. He continued stating that the district is asking families to commit to an educational plan for the first quarter which ends November 13th. Families have the option to choose the A/B hybrid model or remote learning. Superintendent Tucker talked about the outdoor classrooms with tents and included that Taylor Rental has been working well with the district. Board member Laura Dunn inquired about the plan for an open house. Principal Tara Beauchemin said there needs to be a conversation of how that would look virtually. Board Chair Person Heather Lounsbury added that a visual aspect of the school is important for families. Board member Aaron Hayward inquired about the possibility of students returning face to face and the challenges it could bring for social distancing and if the district would be violating any guidelines. Superintendent Tucker replied stating that the district may face challenges with that but will not violate State guidelines. Assistant Superintendent Hinds talked about the district's vision and Superintendent Tucker informed the Board of the evaluation dates of the school reopening task force. Board member Laura Dunn inquired about an isolation space for nurses and Superintendent Tucker said that is already taken care of. Board member Joe Cormier inquired about support staff for nurses and Superintendent Tucker said they are exploring the concept of a floating nurse. Board member Nick Grennon inquired about the plan for full quarantine and continued education in the event. Superintendent Tucker said that teachers will be trained on Google Classroom and that most are already using that platform. Superintendent Tucker talked about traffic patterns at schools, cloth and disposable masks for students. Business Administrator Blouin reported on district protocols; daily attendance, funding options, indoor/outdoor classrooms, traffic patterns, and survey to parents on transportation. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on remote IEP and 504 meetings. Superintendent Tucker continues to report on self-screenings for COVID, District Protocols for facilities; cleaning plan, supply chain of masks and PPE, UV lights, sanitizers, the air handling system, and noted that the facilities team is doing a great job. Business administrator Blouin added that additional staff may be necessary to fine tune the safety standards and disinfecting. Superintendent Tucker continued to present on Technology, and the reopening timeline. Board member Joe Cormier inquired about preschool, Huot Technical Center and Project EXTRA. Assistant Superintendent Hinds said that preschool student who are identified, Life Skills programs have to happen and will work with families. Superintendent Tucker said Project EXTRA has done a great job walking alongside the district. Principal Alison Bryant added that Project EXTRA has been very supportive and flexible.

DISCUSSION

2nd Read Policy GBEBB Employee Student Relations: The board discussed the additional language to this policy in section #10.

School year 20/21 Calendar: Superintendent Tucker talked about the amendments to the calendar with the first day of school changing from August 31st to September 9th, the September 28th in-service day for teachers, and the last day of school.

School Year 20-21 Reopening of Schools Proposal: Board member Laura Dunn thanked Superintendent Tucker for the presentation and Board Member Dawn Johnson said she was pleasantly surprised by the plan. Board Member Joe Cormier said there was a tremendous amount of work that went into this proposal.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Anna Tower asked about temperature checks for staff and students. Sara Dea asked who will be teaching remote learners.

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ACTION

2nd Read Policy GBEBB Employee – Student Relations: Motion made by Dawn Johnson to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Laura Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

School Year 20/21 Calendar: Motion made by Dawn Johnson to approve the amended calendar as presented, seconded by Laura Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

School Year 20/21 Reopening of Schools Proposal: Motion made by Malcolm Murray to approve the reopening proposal as presented, seconded by Laura Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Malcolm Murray to adjourn, seconded by Dawn Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous. The School Board meeting adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Tucker
Clerk