

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairperson, Heather Lounsbury, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M and read the checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with The Right-to Know Law During the State of Emergency. Board Chairperson, Lounsbury made a statement regarding the recent post made by a School Board member and her stance to side with the community of Laconia for the aforementioned to resign. The agenda was posted on Friday, December 11, 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 Board Member Cormier to amend the agenda to exclude item # 4 and to add committee for negotiations and committee assignments under both discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Murray. The roll call vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carlos Cardona, Ward 1 of Old North Main Street expressed concerns about a social media post from a Laconia School Board Member Johnson and requested that Board Member Johnson resign.
- Ira Keltz, Ward 3 of Temple B'nai Israel expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that Board Member resign.
- Dan Danson, Rabi of Temple B'nai Israel, expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Renee Bossert-Mitchell, Ward 3 of Oak Street expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Dana Hackett, Ward 2 of Rights in Democracy, expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Peter Brunette, Ward 6 Chair of the Laconia Planning Board expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Hedi Bright, Ward 3 of Pleasant Street expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Erika Allen, of Provencal Street expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Mandi Youssef, Ward 1 of North Main Street expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Claudia Cass, Ward 4 expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Jessica Alward, Ward 4 of Landing Lane expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.
- Christine LePage of Pitman Ct. expressed concerns about a social media post from Board Member Johnson and requested that she resign.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier reported that this committee met on December 7th and discussed COVID related funds, the Fiscal Year 20/21 Budget schedule, staffing updates, two additional retirees, EAL negotiations, and possible committee members for the EAL negotiations.

Facilities/CIP: Board Member Murray reported that this committee has not met.

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that there are polices up for discussion and action tonight and the Policy Committee will meet on December 16th at 4:45 PM.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Johnson reported that this committee met and discussed how to grade assignments and Portrait of a Graduate.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee will meet on December 21 at 3:15 PM.

Board Member Input

Board Member Cormier said he supports Board Chairperson Lounsbury's statement and that we have to be responsible for our actions and be made accountable. We have a seven-member Board to ensure the best education we can. Board Member Murray said he supports the Board Chairperson's statement and apologized to the community of Laconia. Board Member Dunn said she supports the Board Chairperson's statement and apologized to students and families. Board Member Grenon echoed with the statements of Board Members. Board Member Hayward talked about the public losing faith in school leadership and asked for the Board Member to resign.

Board Member Johnson said she issued an apology and will not resign and will continue her work on the School Board.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported on the NHSBA Delegate Assembly on January 23rd at 10AM via Zoom and asked for a Board Member to attend. Board Member Cormier volunteered.

Tuesday, January 5, 2020

School Board Meeting 6:30 PM via Zoom

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Business Administrator Blouin reported on the COVID Funds and CARES Act Funds.

Superintendent Tucker reported on the 31 X-Box Kinects monitors, COVID data, Staff supporting students during the holidays, the December 29th mobile food drive, facilities, Laconia High School basketball, hockey, and ski teams, and new staff and recruitment.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on New Teacher Induction and current COVID-19 data which included the breakdown of positive cases, staff impact of quarantining, student impact of quarantining, and the decision making matrix.

DISCUSSION:

Second Read: Policy AC Equal Rights: Board Member Hayward reported that there is a minor amendment to this policy.

Second Read: AC-E Non Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and Anti-Discrimination Plan: Board Member Hayward noted that there is an amendment to this procedure.

Second Read and Acceptance: Policy ACAC Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process: Board Member Hayward reported that this policy replaces two policies that includes students and staff.

Second Read: Procedure ACAC-P Title IX Sexual Harassment Investigation: Board Member Hayward said this is a reporting form.

Rescind Policy ACG: Resolution of Title IX Discrimination Complaints: Board Member Hayward said this policy is outdated and has been rolled into policy ACAC.

Rescind Policy ACG-E Job Description of Title IX Officer: Board Member Hayward said this policy is outdated

Rescind Policy ACG-P Title IX Grievance Procedure: Board Member Hayward said this policy is outdated

Instructional Model: Board Chairperson Lounsbury talked about the community COVID-19 data and its impact on our schools. Board Member Dunn talked about mindful behavior in school and in the community to ensure students get face to face educational time. Board Chairperson Lounsbury talked about the COVID-19 cases accelerating and that families have reached out to her to express concerns for holiday travel and the idea of pivoting to remote instruction. Board Member Murray said he too has received concerns and supports the pivot to remote instruction.

2021-22 Calendar: Superintendent Tucker said the proposed calendar has had input from Administrators, the EAL and the LEA. To begin the school year after Labor Day is favorable for local businesses and to have December 23rd off was important to Administrators. Board Member Dunn noted a discrepancy with the calendar dates and end dates for teachers and students in the descriptions below.

X Box Kinects Donation at LHS: Superintendent Tucker informed the Board of the donation from the Bow School District and the need for Board approval as it exceeds \$500.

Committees: Negotiations- Board Member Cormier said in the past negotiations has fallen to the Budget and Personnel Committee. Board Member Hayward said negotiations is not a standing committee and that a special committee is designated by Board action and not just assumed by Budget and Personnel.

Board Committees-Board Member Hayward referenced Policy BBAA, “There is an expectation that Board members serve on standing committees. Board member’s may also occasionally serve on committees or organizations for the purpose of reciprocal communication and reporting back to the Board. Committee assignments will be made by the Chairperson with Board approval”. Board Member Hayward stated that the public has lost confidence in Board Member Johnson and the Board’s leadership and proposed that she not be on committees and take any action that is not visible to the public. Board Member Hayward recommended that Budget & Personnel Committee be two people and Strategic Planning Committee have two people pending resignation of School Board Member Johnson.

Board Chairperson Lounsbury addressed the Board asking their thoughts on negotiations staying with the Budget and Personnel Committee or if it needs to be a special committee? Board Member Cormier recommended it stay with B&P.

Board Member Dunn said she agrees with Board Member Hayward and suggested that the Board keep three people on the Budget and Personnel Committee and volunteered to fill the vacant third seat.

Board Member Cormier spoke about Board Member Johnson and how he was disappointed that she did not take the opportunity to explain or address the community tonight.

Board Member Johnson stated she will not resign.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jazmin Jackson of Brook Street expressed her opinion and concerns with Board Member Johnson.
- Stacy Genest of Ward 4 of Court Street expressed her disappointment with Board Member Johnson and her representation of the Laconia School Board and her thoughts on the remote instruction model.
- Heather Drolet of North Street expressed her opinion and concerns with Board Member Johnson.
- Catherine Tokarz, Ward 1 talked about her love for Laconia and its diversity and her concerns and opinion of Board Member Johnson.
- Latoya Beck of Fair Street asked for Board Member Johnson’s resignation and her thoughts on the remote instruction model.
- Renee Boisvert-Mitchell, Ward 3 of Oak Street expressed he gratitude toward Board Chairperson Lounsbury and her concerns and opinion of Board Member Johnson.
- Hedi Bright, Ward 3 of Pleasant Street expressed her concerns and opinion of Board Member Johnson.
- Catherine Tokarz, Ward 1 expressed her concerns with COVID-19 cases in the community and her thoughts on the remote instruction model.
- Erika Allen expressed her concerns and opinion of Board Member Johnson.
- Natalie, Ward 4 expressed her concerns with people attacking Board Member Johnson and lack of compassion toward her.
- Shawn Sinclair, Ward 4 of Fair Street stated that he will attend every Board meeting until Board Member Johnson resigns.
- Carlos Cardona, Ward 1 of Old North Main Street talked about a planned Rally on Saturday, December 19th.

ACTION

Second Read: Policy AC Equal Rights: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve Policy AC as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Second Read: AC-E Non Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and Anti-Discrimination Plan: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve policy AC-E as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Second Read and Acceptance: Policy ACAC Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve policy ACAC as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Second Read: Procedure ACAC-P Title IX Sexual Harassment Investigation: Motion Made by Board Member Murray to approve policy ACAC-P as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Rescind Policy ACG: Resolution of Title IX Discrimination Complaints: Motion made by Board Member Murray to rescind policy ACG as requested, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Rescind Policy ACG-E Job Description of Title IX Officer: Motion made by Board Member Murray to rescind policy ACG-E as requested, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Rescind Policy ACG-P Title IX Grievance Procedure: Motion made by Board Member Murray to rescind policy ACG-P as requested, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Instructional Model: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to stay with the hybrid instructional model, seconded by Board Member Johnson. Board Chairperson Lounsbury and Board Member Murray opposed. The vote was 5-2 in favor of staying on course in the hybrid instructional model.

2021-22 Calendar: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve the proposed 2021-22 School Year Calendar with changes to discrepancies in dates, seconded by Board Member Murray. The roll call vote was unanimous.

X Box Kinects Donation at LHS: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to accept the donation of X Box Kinects as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Committees: Motion made Board Member Hayward to have Board Members Grenon and Dunn, on the Strategic Planning Committee, and Board Members Cormier, Hayward, and Dunn on the Budget and Personnel Committee as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 6-1 in favor of the committee assignments.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk