

## LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD

February 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
 SAU #30 39 Harvard Street  
 Laconia, NH 03246

The Laconia School Board held a regular Board meeting at Superintendent's Office located at 39 Harvard Street, Laconia, NH.

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Anderson, Jennifer Ulrich, Laura Dunn, Aaron Hayward, Dawn Johnson, Nick Grenon, Heather Drolet, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Hinds, and Business Administrator Blouin.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chairperson Hayward called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Friday, February 11, 2022 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 Dunn made a motion to amend the agenda to include Food Service Positions under discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Anderson. the vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the amended minutes to reflect that the Budget and Personnel Committee will meet on February 2, 2022 at 3:30 P.M., the duplication of the name listed in the Superintendent's report, and to include Board Member Johnson's concern about the principal at Laconia High School. The motion was seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION**

**Adult Education:** Adult Education Director, Kaitlyn Salome presented on certificate programs, funding, enrichment programs, and enrollment.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Dunn reported this committee met on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and discussed format for the meeting agenda and minutes, the FY '23 Budget, the Trust Funds (4), and food services recommendations. The committee met again on February 14<sup>th</sup> where committee members received an update on the FY '23 Budget, they discussed the Woodland Heights Principal position, looked at the Administrator's contract, and discussed the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant that is due on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M.

**Facilities:** Board Member Grenon reported that this committee has not met.

**Policy:** Board Member Drolet reported that this committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and went over policies to rescind. She said there are policies up for a first reading tonight.

**Strategic Planning:** Board Member Ulrich said this committee will meet on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 P.M.

**Board Member Input:** Board Member Johnson expressed her opposition of the Laconia High School Principal hired for the 2022/2023 school year.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Board Chairperson Hayward reported on the March School Board meeting dates:

- March 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM
- March 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported that our District K-5 teachers participated in embedded professional development that focused on literacy led by our elementary Academic Coordinator Gail Bourn. She reported on the ESSER III survey, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant that is due March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Kiwanis Reads at Elm Street and Woodland Heights Schools, the Key Club Sneaker Drive, the Portrait of a Graduate digital poster with the logo that was designed by Caitlin Dunleavy, a Senior at LHS. The District is working on getting laminated posters to distribute to teachers across the district. Principal Dale

Chenette will not be seeking a new contract at the end of the year. The District will be posting for School Counselor at Pleasant Street School, an English Teacher at Laconia High School, a Culinary Arts Teacher at the Huot Technical Center, and a Special Education Teacher at the Elementary School level.

Superintendent Tucker shared the resignation letter from Principal Chenette and talked about the Food Service salaries and hourly rate. He said that with the surplus reimbursement from the State and excess revenue from not filling a position at Woodland Heights School, the District is able to support our Food Service workers. He included that the Budget and Personnel Committee along with its Chair, Board Member Dunn, support the proposed increase in order to be competitive with other District's. He referred to the COVID update and talked about the data and its downward trend in the county and city. He presented three options for the Board to vote on for mask wearing with the District having the latitude to go back to masks if the community transmission cases increase.

### **DISCUSSION**

**Approval of the Stay in School Protocols:** The Board discussed masks, home tests, and the decline of COVID hospitalizations in the State, the community transmission defined as county, and the option of pivoting back to universal masks in the event of another spike in cases or a new variant. Superintendent Tucker said if the Board feels that it is important to place that item on the agenda to address the situation we can do that.

**First Read Policy BCA Board Member Ethics:** Board Member Drolet said this policy has a language change. Board Member Johnson noted a typographical error.

**First Read BEDG Meeting Minutes:** Board Member Drolet said this policy was revised due to legislative changes. Board Member Hayward said the form we use for minutes does not need a School Board vote. They discussed the revisions of adding specific issues to the template. Board Member Dunn noted the page numbering needed to be updated.

**Rescind Policy JBAA – Sexual Harassment and Violence – Students:** Board Member Hayward said this policy should have been rescinded when Policy ACAC was approved.

**Rescind Policy JBAA-P Sexual Harassment and Violence – Students Procedure:** Board Member Hayward said this policy should have been rescinded when Policy ACAC was approved.

**Rescind Policy GBAA – Sexual Harassment and Violence – Employees:** Board Member Hayward said this policy should have been rescinded when Policy ACAC was approved.

**Rescind Policy GBAA-P Sexual Harassment and Violence – Employees Procedure:** Board Member Hayward said this policy should have been rescinded when Policy ACAC was approved.

**Food Service Positions:** Superintendent Tucker referred to the handout and said this increase does not impact the General Budget and is off set from the Seamless Summer funding.

### **General Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items**

- Abby Dea, of Ward 4, talked about having mask wearing required until after February break into the spring season.
- Nicole Rivets, of 49 Cottonwood Ave., talked about mask optional and going back to normal as soon as possible.
- Amy Davis, of 25 Wildwood Ave., shared an anecdote about former Superintendent Champlin and how she opposed mask wearing and would like to get back to being more personable.

- Meghan Myer, of Hillcrest Drive, said it is time for students and parents to have a choice about masks immediately.
- Liana Crowell, of 94 Sarah Circle, read a statement opposing mask wearing in schools.
- Candice Knowlton, of 184 Morningside Drive, talked about her opposition to universal masks and the Envo masks for students who are medically fragile.
- Lindsey Packer, of 202 Pine Street, questioned that at the elementary level, at 3 feet apart, how that would look with the mask mandate lifted or going to optional?

**Approval of the Stay in School Protocols:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to go with option #3 to transition to masks optional immediately. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

**Rescind Policy JBAA – Sexual Harassment and Violence – Students:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Anderson. The vote was unanimous.

**Rescind Policy JBAA-P Sexual Harassment and Violence – Students Procedure:** Motion made Board Member Johnson to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous,

**Rescind Policy GBAA – Sexual Harassment and Violence – Employees:** Motion made Board Member Anderson to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous,

**Rescind Policy GBAA-P Sexual Harassment and Violence – Employees Procedure:** Motion made Board Member Johnson to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Anderson. The vote was unanimous.

**Food Service Positions:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the proposed increase as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no general public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Board Member Drolet to enter into nonpublic per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) seconded by Board Member Johnson. Roll call vote was unanimous.

The Laconia School Board entered into nonpublic at 7:46 P.M.

Motion to leave nonpublic session by Board Member Johnson, seconded by Board Member Anderson. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board left nonpublic session at 8:50 P.M.

The Board entered into public session at 8:50 P.M.

Motion made by Board Member Johnson to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The Laconia School Board adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds, Clerk