

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
26 DEWEY STREET

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting at the Huot Technical Center in the Meredith Village Savings Bank Dining Room.

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. The agenda was posted on Friday, February 12, 2021 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 Murray to approve the agenda as amended to include special projects and plan for additional student support under both, discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve minutes of February 2, 2021 as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION: The School Board was presented with a video from Elm Street School teacher, Tara John that highlighted student choice, inquiry and research. Barbara Fisher talked about student feedback and questions. Grace Fortier talked about the book Learning to Choose, choosing to Learn. The team talked about voice and choice and how students came up with the topic and how they were able to build upon the unit in science.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lee Phillips of 52 winter Street talked about Board Member Johnson's previous social media post and requested she resign from the School Board.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier said this committee has been working on an agreement for the Educational Assistants of Laconia and talked about the revisions that were made to specific articles. He referred to special projects handout that will be under discussion and action and added that on March 2nd the full Board will meet with the SAU and elementary leaders on the school year 21/22 budget. March 16th the full Board will meet with the Laconia Middle School leaders, Laconia High School leaders and Huot technical Center leaders on the school year 21/22 budget. Both, budget work sessions will take place after the regular School Board meetings.

Facilities/CIP: Board Member Murray said this committee has not met but he will be requesting a committee meeting in the near future.

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that the Policy Committee will meet on March 3rd at 4:45 pm to finalize policies the committee has been working on.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Dunn reported that this committee met on February 9th and talked about chapters 4 and 5 of the book, On Your Mark, they discussed where each level is within the Portrait of a Graduate and talked assessment tools being used by level. This committee will meet again on March 9th.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on February 15th and went over the teacher PD day, future PD opportunities and discussed the District's Anti-Discrimination Plan.

Board Member Input

Board Member Johnson asked if the January 22nd presentation on the teacher PD day will be presented at School Board meeting so parents can see what is being presented to teachers. Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the presentation materials were presented to the Board via email and can be shared with constituents if requested and that she welcomes the public questions or concerns regarding the district's professional development or anti-discrimination plan as there will be an opportunity to do so during general public comment.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported that the budget work sessions will take place on March 2nd and March 16th after the School Board meetings.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

School Board Meeting
SAU/Elementary Budget Work Session
School Board Meeting
Middle/High Budget Work Session

6:00 PM at HTC
Following SB Meeting
6:00 PM at HTC
Following SB Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker reported on student support and opportunities for staff, revamping summer learning, and professional development at each level. He highlighted the Summer Learning Lab, levels of intervention, and tiered criteria. Principal Beauchemin talked about students who fell in the tier III range and supports that are being planned for that cohort. Students receive interventions during the day but these particular students need additional interventions. Superintendent Tucker inquired about planning to get ready to transition from hybrid to full, Principal Beauchemin said because they have already done that earlier this school year, they are prepared to transition to full and she hopes to avoid phasing in. Principal Levesque informed the Board that Pleasant Street School plans to stay within the threshold of 10 students per classroom and cycle students in throughout the week. They have identified 99 students that meet the criteria for interventions. Principal Johnson said Woodland Heights has the space but do not have staffing for full face to face instruction due to the remote learning division. He reported that they have identified 25-30 students that need interventions. Academic Coordinator Gail Bourn talked about setting up criteria to look at students in all aspects as critical. Principal Bryant talked about students supports at Laconia Middle School and the February break interventions. Laconia High School Assistant Principal Bartlett talked about Sachem Support Block and targeted students, and said there are 58 students at Laconia High School who have been identified needing intervention and that 38 have confirmed to partake in credit recovery during February break with four teachers. He added that the credit recovery week will be offered again over April vacation. He also talked about after school support, summer learning lab, the fifth block with the plan to run the courses during the day versus in the evening and project based experiences.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the Title I Onsite Review. She said there were 18-20 components to review to be fiscally responsible and to show appropriate programmatic evidence. Academic Coordinator, Gail Bourn with Title I teachers help to provide the evidence for each component. On February 1st the Department of Education reported to the District that there were no findings.

Superintendent Tucker reported on the school year 21/22 district calendar saying the Department of Education recommended a revision to the February calendar so it would just move February break of 2022 ahead one week to not align with Massachusetts calendar break

Office of School Wellness, McKenzie Harrington Bacote reported on the Anti-Discrimination Plan that the Diversity Task Force has been working on. She said the plan has pulled in the AC policies the Board has previously approved and put it all in one document. She noted that the plan is a living document and needs Board approval this time but also every other year.

Superintendent Tucker reported on House Bill 20, and the Education Freedom Account and House Bill 607, Local Education Savings Accounts. He said going into the budget season the bills could have an impact on the budget. The amount that is available for HB 20 is based on State Adequacy and how each student may be eligible for additional funds beyond what the based adequacy amount is. The calculation is revenue taxation divided by 85 percent and taking the average daily membership. He talked about what the funds could be used for and details of both bills.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on enrollment trends in Laconia over the past ten years and said currently there are 97 students in private school that we know of and 62 students being home schooled and we currently have 313 students in the remote learning division.

Business Administrator Blouin talked about the potential financial impact for the District if HB 20 is passed. There is a based adequacy of \$3,787 for each student. and the potential for all other adequacies based on students' needs and could qualify for up to \$8,458 per student. She took an average of what Laconia is currently getting per student and came up with an amount of \$4,978. For HB 607, it would be about \$7,341 per student. After discussing the bills, Board Chairperson Lounsbury stated the majority of the Board is not in favor of them.

DISCUSSION:

- **2021-2022 Calendar Revision:** Board Member Dunn noted that with the revision we would have 19 days in February and 19 days in March which even outs those months as March tends to be a longer month.
- **Anti-Discrimination Plan:** Board Member Hayward said the plan presents all the safeguards and procedures and District requirements.
- **Educational Assistants of Laconia Agreement:** there was no discussion on this item.
- **Instructional Mode:** Assistant Superintendent Hinds talked about current cases in Belknap county as of February 16th, the number of active COVID cases in Laconia had dropped from 40 to 25, and from 212 to 84 in Belknap County. She talked about the decision making guidance,

school impact, attendance, students in remote, red and white day, and the number of students not engaged. Board Member Johnson inquired about the number of students not engaged. Superintendent Tucker said it is mostly students in the hybrid model. Assistant Superintendent Hinds continued with the decision making matrix. Superintendent Tucker said his recommendation is to continue to monitor the data with March 16th as a reconsider date with a target date of April 5th to transition from hybrid to full. After discussion, Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the Board could consider transitioning from hybrid to full sometime in March.

- **Special Projects:** Board Member Cormier discussed the cost of the special projects listed on the handout and its funding source.
- **Additional Support for Students:** Superintendent Tucker referred to a handout regarding student supports and where that funding would come from; Title I, IDEA, CARES, the General Fund and 21st CCLC. The total cost \$212,776.00.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Shawn LeClair Ward 4 of 44 Fair Street talked about Board Member Johnson's previous social media post and requested that she resign from the Laconia School Board
- Edward Miller of 130 Endicott requested Board Member Johnson to resign.
- Terri Donovan Ward 1 of Sweet Briar Way said House Bill 20 is flawed and it's a sham and it will defund education, increase property taxes and stated that State Representative Johnson is ill informed and cited NH RSA 189 1 (a).

ACTION

- **2021-2022 Calendar Revision:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the revision of the school year 21/22 calendar as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Anti-Discrimination Plan:** Motion made Board Member Grenon to approve the Anti-Discrimination Plan as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.
- **Education Assistants of Laconia Agreement:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve the Educational Assistants of Laconia Agreement as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.
- **Instructional Mode:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to remain in a hybrid model and look at the data at the March 16th meeting to consider full face to face return for March 22nd, seconded by Board member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.
- **Special Projects:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve the funding for special projects as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- **Additional Support for Students:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve additional supports for students as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk