

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD  
 February 1, 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, January 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Johnson inquired about a nonpublic meeting to discuss the LHS principal recommendation and Board Member Hayward said if necessary, the Board can make a motion to move into nonpublic during the discussion part of the agenda. Motion made by Board Member Grenon to amend the agenda to correct the date of the next meeting to reflect Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> instead of 16<sup>th</sup> and to add that the Board will have a non-meeting after the regular Board meeting tonight, seconded by Board Member Ulrich. The vote was unanimous.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Anderson to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2022 School Board meeting as presented, seconded by Board Member Ulrich. The vote was unanimous.

### PRESENTATION

Pleasant Street School Principle Levesque, Student Services Administrator Lisa Holiday, Academic Coordinator Gail Bourn, Grade three Teacher, Sara Stewart with students Nathan Greeley and Emmalynn Varney presented on Embedded Professional Development in Literacy and Mathematics. They started the presentation with a hands-on, Board engaged activity. They highlighted work with math coach, Karolyn Wurster, building collective knowledge and the "why". They talked about the January 21<sup>st</sup> Professional Development Day, examples of skip counting, and how students use concepts immediately after learning.

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Dunn reported that this committee will meet on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 P.M.
- **Facilities:** Board Member Grenon said this committee has not met since last month.
- **Policy:** Board Member Drolet said this committee met on January 4<sup>th</sup> and will meet on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Strategic Planning:** Board Member Ulrich said this committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup> and reviewed current plan and district goals. Plans to continue to work on goals that are still relevant and will update as needed.
- **Board Member Input:** There was no Board Member input.

### 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 on Laconia High School credit recovery week during February vacation for students that require a short-term intervention, District Data Team that met on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Laconia High School continue to work on their vertical plans for the Portrait of a Graduate performance assessment, report cards for Quarter 2 will be issued on February 7<sup>th</sup>, Ella Muller, a Senior at LHS, completed a voter registration

extended learning opportunity (ELO) last week. Over 15 LHS seniors registered to vote at her capstone event and several more started the process. Superintendent Tucker and the Mayor were able to attend that event. She noted the chart of the number of COVID 19 students in the packet and the high percentage of cases in this past month. She continued to report on the new Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation's Assistant Director highlighted at the top of the newsletter is Chris Guilmett, who is a former Laconia School District Board Member. The New Hampshire Food Bank is holding a mobile food pantry at Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) on Friday, February 18th. The January 21<sup>st</sup> Professional Development Day included ALICE training, some staff participated in more specialized training. This in-service day was the 5th of 6 days for staff in the Laconia Education Association (LEA) and the 4th of 4 days for the Educational Assistants of Laconia (EAL).

Superintendent Tucker reported that the Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Board met on Tuesday and will meet with various employers on for an event on February 22nd. The Strategic Planning met and discussed the current two (2) district goals and the five (5) areas of the Strategic Plan with corresponding goals. He reported that winter sports participation has increased this year, and Alan Wool a member of the Laconia High School Class of 1967 and a 2014 inductee of the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame has done hours of research on the indoor and outdoor track programs at LHS. He has identified track record holders over the course of the school's history. Lastly, he reported that the COVID presentation was in the Board packet and that COVID cases in the county/city are still at a substantial level.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Approval of the Stay in School Protocols:** Board Member Johnson said she would like to see masks off students and to have parents makes the option and choice. Board Member Dunn referenced the December School Board meeting and the discussion on giving parents time to get their children vaccinated and how the Board would relook at our guidelines during the second meeting in January. She added that vaccination clinics have no wait times and families have had ample time to get their children vaccinated. Board Member Grenon said he is not quite at that point to make mask optional as there is a 3-week time period between the first and second vaccines and ten-day waiting period to be considered fully vaccinated. Board member Johnson talked about her opposition of the mask protocols in schools.

## **LHS Principal Recommendation**

Superintendent Tucker said he recommends Interim Principal Jim McCollum for another year as LHS principal. He talked about Mr. McCollum's work unifying the staff at Laconia High School this year his experience and longevity in Laconia. When Principal McCollum was principal at Laconia Middle School and also Laconia High School, those schools were performing their best academically. For a school to have five principals in seven years it is important to have stability at LHS for the students. He strongly recommends Jim McCollum to be the Principal at LHS for one more year.

Budget and Personnel Chairperson Dunn expressed her frustration with the hiring process and that the recommendation did not go through the Budget and Personnel Committee as that has been past practice.

Board Member Anderson said that she has worked on community committees with Principal McCollum and has been impressed with him. She added that consistency is important and there is value in a known entity that people trust in the school.

Board Member Johnson inquired about the Administration renewal contract date, Superintendent Tucker said April 15<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Johnson inquired about the salary in terms of the contract. Superintendent Tucker said there is a three-year contract and the salary is about \$120,00 a year. Principal McCollum started as Interim Principal in October 2021 so his contract was prorated.

Board Member Ulrich inquired about the contact term and asked if the District would be recruiting for a principal this time next year. Superintendent Tucker said that would be his recommendation. He talked about the Administration structure being based on the position versus individual and that the structure was put together by the Administration and the Board. Business Administrator Blouin talked about the group terms of the contract.

Board Member Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II(c), Board Member Dunn seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the best time for nonpublic in the agenda with adding a nonpublic session, public comment section, to recess, or having the discussion tabled.

The Board went into a vote for nonpublic session. Roll Call vote:

Board Member Johnson yes, Board Member Dunn yes,

Board Member Anderson no, Board Member Drolet no, Board Chairperson Hayward no, Board Member Grenon no, and Board Member Ulrich no. The vote was 2-5.

Board Member Johnson stated her concerns with having a principal for just 1 year. She protested the recommendation of the Laconia High School principal due to what she believes is collusion between the Superintendent and Board Chairperson Hayward.

Board Member Ulrich mentioned that Laconia High School has had 5 principals in 7 years and talked about Mr. McCollum good history and reputation in the community.

Board Member Dunn reiterated her concerns over the hiring process and suggested to see if there are other candidates. Board Member Anderson said that doing that would communicate low confidence in Mr. McCollum.

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

- Aiden Sliker of 223 Highland Street inquired about the process for recommending a principal.

#### **ACTION**

- **Approval of the Stay in School Protocols:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve the Stay in School Protocols as presented, seconded by Board Member Drolet. Board Members Dunn and Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-2
- **Approval of the LHS Principal Recommendation:** Motion made by Board Member Drolet to approve the Laconia High School Principal recommendation of Jim McCollum for one more year, seconded by Board Member Ulrich. Board Members Dunn and Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-2.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Abigail Dea of Ward 4 talked about her hopes to have an Art and Music Teacher year round versus shared between the two elementary schools (Elm Street and Pleasant) School.
- Jameson Martin talked about his wish to have an Art and Music Teacher year round at his school.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Board Member Johnson to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The School Board meeting adjourned 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Hinds  
Clerk