

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

**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. The agenda was posted on Friday, January 29, 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 Cormier to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve minutes of January 19, 2021 as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION:** Principal Beauchemin of Elm Street School, Principal Johnson of Woodland Heights School, and Principal Leavesque of Pleasant Street School, and Academic Coordinator for Teaching and Learning, Ms. Bourn, Elm Street Preschool Teacher, Ms. Lahey and Woodland Heights Teacher, Mrs. Black presented on Teaching and Learning during a Pandemic. They highlighted hybrid and remote enrollment numbers, Portrait of a Graduate and Work Study Practices, Instructional Practices and Math and Literacy, and creative and enriching ways remote and hybrid teachers are engaging students during instruction and on their off days.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dana Hackett Ward 2 of 12 Sanborn Street talked about Board Member Johnson's recent social media post and requested that she resign from the Laconia School Board.
- Shawn Sinclair Ward 4 of 44 Fair Street talked about Board Member Johnson's recent social media post and requested that she resign from the Laconia School Board.
- Ashley Black of 15 Natures View Drive said the District is doing a phenomenal job with in person and remote instruction.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Cormier this committee held a non-meeting to discuss negotiations and will update the Board after tonight's meeting.

**Facilities/CIP:** Board Member Murray talked about the Facilities tour that was held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Superintendent Tucker and Facilities Director, Bill Caruso, for a fantastic three-hour, five-building tour looking at the facility work and speaking with principals.

**Policy:** Board Member Hayward reported that the Policy Committee planned to meet on February 2<sup>nd</sup> but had to cancel. There will be three policies up for a second read tonight and two policies to rescind.

**Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate:** Board Member Dunn reported that this committee will meet on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 pm.

**Diversity and Inclusion Task Force:** Board Member Hayward reported that this committee will meet on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Member Input**

Board Member Dunn said she had a great facilities tour with Board Member Murray and Board Member Grenon. She talked about Elm Street School's Maker Space, the newly painted floor at Elm Street School and said each school had their own individual showcases to share.

Board Member Johnson inquired about information she requested from Superintendent Tucker from the District Policy, and said he had emailed that information to her this morning.

Board Member Grenon said he also enjoyed the facilities tour and that the spaces at said the spaces for teachers at Woodland Height School is working well.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR**

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported on the Delegate Assembly, stating Board Member Cormier attended. Board Member Cormier said the Delegate Assembly was January 23<sup>rd</sup> and was held via Zoom. He went on to report that officers for the coming year were sworn in and the NHSBA may move the Delegate Assembly to the Fall season next year and that school staff and currently teachers are not on the priority list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Board Member Lounsbury went on to report on the Budget timeline, the March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> budget work session and presenting the budget to the Laconia City Council in May. She talked about whether the Board should hold its meetings in person or via Zoom, the consensus was to hold them in person at the Huot Technical Center with a Zoom option. The expectation will be to be seated socially distanced and adhere to the mask mandate.

**Tuesday, February 19, 2021**

**School Board Meeting**

**6:30 PM via Zoom**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Business Administrator Blouin reported on the budget timeline and said there will be a meeting with District Administrators on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> regarding the baseline 2021-2022 budget, and other meetings as follows:

- February 16<sup>th</sup> Budget and Personnel
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>: SAU and Elementary will present to the School Board
- March 16<sup>th</sup> Middle School, High School and Huot Technical Center will present to the School Board
- May 4<sup>th</sup> present the budget to the full Board
- May 10<sup>th</sup> present the budget to City Council

Assistant Superintendent Hinds presented on the updated COVID-19 data in towns in cities from February 2, 2021, staff and students in quarantine. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on Laconia High School Alumnus, Jared Guilmett being highlighted in 40 under 40 in the Union Leader.

Superintendent Tucker referred to an article in the Journal of American Medical Association regarding COVID-19 transmissions and noted page 2 stating that there has been little evidence of schools contributing to the spread of the virus. He talked about CARES funding, The NHLI grant, and House Bill 20 and added that he thinks it would be powerful for the Board to take a position on this bill as there are 17,000 students attending nonpublic schools. and there could be challenges to school budgets moving forward. Board member Johnson said she has more information coming this week and would like to bring it down to talk about it. Board member Murray asked for a copy of HB20 via email and Superintendent Tucker said yes. Grenon said he shares concerns of funding being drawn from public schools. Assistant Superintendent Hinds added, regarding Special Education, that there would be logistical concerns if HB 20 passes regarding equitable services as there is already an allocation for private schools. Students could enroll in school part time and we would not receive funding but would still have to offer special education services. We would be paying private school and paying for those individual services. Board Member Hayward suggested we have a discussion at the next meeting and take a vote to whether to support the bill or not so we have a public stance. Superintendent Tucker said he will provide more information to consider. Board Member Cormier said it is a good idea to have this discussion on the next agenda and draft a letter that the Board can send collectively to the house.

**DISCUSSION:**

- **Second Read Policy BDE Committees and Delegates:** Board Member Hayward said this policy clarifies our four standing committees, the nature of special committees, and delegation and the responsibility to appoint members by the Board Chairperson.
- **Second Read Policy JFAB Admission and Tuition of Non-Resident Students:** Board Member Hayward said this policy is regarding nonresident students to the attend district with Board approval.
- **Second Read Policy GADA Employment References and Verification (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse)** Board Member Hayward said this policy states that we can't provide references to anyone we know who did anything illegal and this policy will make us compliant with laws and regulations.
- **Rescind Policy JEC Manifest Educational Hardship:** Board Member Hayward said this is two policies combined into one (Best interest).
- **Rescind JEC-P Consideration of a Manifest Educational Hardship Request Procedure:** Board Chairperson Lounsbury said this is the second piece of JEC.
- **Quarantine Guidelines:** Assistant Superintended Hinds reported on the school nurse's recommendation of close contact and travel stay with a 14-day quarantine. Superintendent Tucker talked about the new guidance of DHHS and bureau of infectious disease, 10-day quarantine for close contact versus 14 days, test out provision for traveling outside of New England and the exceptions if a person has been vaccinated or if a person tested positive can travel outside New England within a 90-day period without quarantining.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Meaghan Daigneau Ward 1 of 44 Fair Street, talked about Board Member Johnson’s recent social media post and requested that she resign from the Laconia School Board.
- Carlos Cardona Ward 1 of 1487 Old North Main Street said students need to be in school and complimented Pleasant Street School’s support. He talked about HB 20 and the funding that would be taken away from public schools, his appreciation for mask wearing in the district and commended Superintendent Tucker’s leadership during troubled times.

**ACTION**

- **Second Read Policy BDE Committees and Delegates:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Second Read Policy JFAB Admission and Tuition of Non-Resident Students:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Second Read Policy GADA Employment References and Verification (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse)** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Rescind Policy JEC Manifest Educational Hardship:** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to rescind this policy, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Rescind JEC-P Consideration of a Manifest Educational Hardship Request Procedure:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to rescind this policy, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Quarantine Guidelines:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the new DHHS guidelines of 10-day quarantine for travel and close contact as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds  
Clerk