

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

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

ABSENT: Malcolm Murray

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 Thursday, December 31, 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 approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dawn Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Johnson to approve the amended minutes to reflect that Board Member Johnson made the motion in action and not Board Member Dunn and that the NHSBA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for January 23rd and not December 23rd. seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION: VOICES FROM OUR STUDENTS- STUDENTS AND TEACHERS:

The following teachers and students presented on highlights of the school year thus far and challenges.

- Elm Street School: Andrea Morin and Chloe Joseph
- Pleasant Street School: Courtney Leighton and Caitlin Rushton-Friend, and students Abigail Rushton and Ryder Woodall
- Woodland Heights School: Mary Anne Myers
- Laconia Middle School: Jim Carmody, Kevin Bisson and student Ryan Walsh
- Laconia High School: Bonnie Ashworth and Lisa Hinds and students Allyssa Stone and Kayla Woglom
- Huot Career and Technical: Center Bill Clary and student Faith Gosselin

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Erika Allen, Ward 5 of 97 Winter Street talked about Board Member Johnson's social media post and asked the Board to consider revising its policies to make it possible for them to remove a member for unacceptable behavior.
- Meghan Daigneau, Ward 3 of 44 Fair Street, asked that Board Member Johnson resign and asked why she has not reached out to the black and Jewish community in Laconia or NH.
- Dana Hacket, Ward 2 of 12 Sanborn Street asked for Board Member Johnson's resignation.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier reported that this committee will meet Friday, January 8th.

Facilities/CIP: Superintendent Tucker reported that there will be a facilities presentation later in the meeting.

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on Wednesday, December 16th and have two policies up for first read in discussion.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Dunn reported that this committee has not met and Superintendent Tucker reported that Portrait of a Graduate will meet next week.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on December 21st and discussed a survey tool.

Board Member Input

Board Member Johnson made a statement regarding her social media post. Board Member Cormier talked about the passing of Jack Irwin and all the work he has done in the community of Laconia.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury talked about meeting options, remote or in person. The Board's consensus was to stay in remote for the month of January and reevaluate for February. Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported on the School Reopening Task Force and the Pandemic Response Team merging and that the merged committee met on December 16th.

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

School Board Meeting

6:30 PM via Zoom

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker reported on intervention and remediation plans for students, the travel guidelines, homeschool counts, and the 2019 Stabilization funds that supported various facilities projects.

Business Administrator Blouin reported on the Stimulus COVID bill and that the Budget and Personnel Committee will meet Friday, January 8th.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on COVID data as of January 3rd and stated that cases in Laconia and Belknap County have gone down since December 15th. She reported on the new guidance from NH DHHS regarding travel and said the school nurses support keeping the quarantine for travel and exposure at 14 days versus the new guidelines of 10 days.

DISCUSSION:

- **First Read JCA Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship:** Board Member Hayward reported that this policy is in response to an updated RSA in terms of the process in which we go through.
- **First Read JFABE Education of Children in Foster Care:** Board Member Hayward reported that this policy is required and outlines the district's responsibilities for students in foster care placements.
- **Rescind Policy JEC Manifest Educational Hardship:** Board Member Hayward said he will make a motion in action to table this as the district would not have a policy in place for 2 weeks until the second read of policy JCA.
- **Rescind JEC-P Consideration of a Manifest Educational Hardship Request Procedure:** Board Member Hayward said he will make a motion in action to table this as the district would not have a policy in place for 2 weeks until the second read of policy JCA.
- **Quarantine Guidelines:** The Board discussed the guidelines and took into consideration the advice from nurses to stay with the 14-day quarantine for travel and exposure. Board Member Dunn said it would allow more students in school and Board Member Hayward said if nurses feel staying with the 14 days is safest option, we should listen to them and staff and families do not want to hear that we are relaxing standards.
- **Instructional Model:** Superintendent Tucker recommended that the district stay in the hybrid learning model.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Hillary Makely of 40 Crescent Street inquired about the remote learning option for the remainder of the year.

ACTION

- **Rescind Policy JEC Manifest Educational Hardship:** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to table this item, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Rescind JEC-P Consideration of a Manifest Educational Hardship Request Procedure:** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to table this item, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Quarantine Guidelines:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to keep the quarantine guidelines of 14 days, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The roll call vote was unanimous.
- **Instructional Model:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to stay with the hybrid learning model, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The roll call vote was unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk