

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, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, Heather Lounsbury, 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, June 11th 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 amend the agenda to include the rescinding of policies DBF and DBG, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Grenon to amend the minutes to include that Board Chairperson Lounsbury abstained from the June 1st approval of the minutes, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Gail Bourn, Beth Vachon, Jennifer Sottak, Christine Gingerella, Lisa Holiday and Lisa Hinds presented on summer programming at the elementary, middle and high school. The presentation included project based learning, professional development for teachers, summer learning labs, extended year programming and life skills for special education, grade 8 & 9 transition programs, course recovery-project based learning, and Laconia Adult Education offerings for this summer. Board Member Dunn inquired about the elementary schedule specifically with students who receive services and Ms. Vachon said teachers will coordinate with each other as to not interfere with programming. Board Member Dunn also inquired about class size and Ms. Vachon said the class sizes are 11-13 but will not exceed 16 for physical distancing guidelines. Board Member Hayward inquired about the option of earning multiple credits during the summer and Mrs. Hinds explained how that would work for targeted grades and classes.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chairperson Lounsbury addressed the public stating the agenda will have two opportunities for public comment. The first section, item #5 will pertain to general matters and the second section, #10 will be pertaining to the discussion items on the agenda. She reminded the public that this is not a time for Q&A and cited Laconia School District policy BEDH for General Public Comment.

Charles H. Bradley III, Ward 3 of Lafayette Street expressed his views on masking of children and the Critical Race Theory. He requested a review of the curriculum and of the January Diversity and Inclusion Training. Carrie McCarthy, Ward 3 of Bellville Street read policy regarding Board meetings as it pertains to the public.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier said this committee met on June 9th and discussed the stay in School Plan for 21/22, staffing, ESSER III guidelines and the LEA negotiation meeting scheduled for June 14th.

Facilities: Board Member Murray said this committee met on June 7th at noon time and discussed the Siemens updates, projects updates timeline for projects, and said the Huot Technical Center sign is ready to go.

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee will meet on June 16th at 4:15 PM.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Dunn reported this committee has not met.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward said this committee has not met and is currently on summer break.

Board Member Input

Board Member Dunn talked about the June 4th ribbon cutting ceremony at Laconia High School for the auditorium and gym, the June 10th Adult Education graduation that recognized 12 students receiving their diplomas, and the Laconia Senior class graduation. Board Member Hayward talked about the Adult Education graduation and how it was nice to see a former student receiving his diploma and how wonderful the 5th grade track meet was.

Board Member Johnson passed around a handout on vaccines and expressed her opposition to the COVID-19 vaccine for children. She requested the District take the Public Health flyer about the vaccine on the website. She made motion to remove the link on the website and Regina Theberge said it was already taken down when the dates expired.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported on the end of year events and ceremonies at each school level. She proposed summer Board meeting dates and it was agreed to have summer meetings on July 13th, August 3rd and a Board work session on August 17th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Business Administrator Blouin reported that the City Council will approve the FY 21/22 budget by July 26th.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the Stay in School Plan and that it is on the agenda under discussion and action and that it will be available on the District's website as a way to receive ESSER III Funds. She talked about the COVID-19 numbers going down across the state with only 1 county with substantial cases.

Superintendent Tucker reported on the Stay in School Plan for ESSER III Funds stating that it was completed with feedback from the LEA, EAL, and the District Administration. He talked about the NH State budget, House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 regarding the Education Freedom accounts and that it could have an impact on school districts. He talked about the Laconia High School Awards Night, and Senior Awards Night with 39 Scholars. He discussed the resignation of Principal Johnson of Woodland Heights School and an update on the new hires. Board Member Johnson inquired about the 19 hires with the ESSER Funds, she asked if they are aware that it is a 1-year position. Business Administrator Blouin said the District worked with the LEA to form a letter that states that it is a 1-year position. Superintendent Tucker continued to report on the most recent COVID-19 guidelines and that masks will be worn minimally during summer programming while maintaining physical distancing and that masks are no longer required outside.

DISCUSSION

- Rescinding DBF Budget Hearings and Reviews: Board Member Hayward said this policy is from 1980 and no longer applicable
- Rescinding DBG Budget Adoption: Board Member Hayward said this policy does not apply to our current practice.
- Second Reading: Policy DB Annual Budget: Board Member Hayward said there was a change reflected from the first reading.
- Second Reading: Policy DBC Budget Planning, Preparation and Schedules: Board Member Hayward said this directed to the Budget and Personnel Committee to create a timeline.
- Second Reading: Policy DBI Budget Implementation: Board Member Hayward said this is regarding budget oversight.
- Health Protocols: Superintendent Tucker talked about the current guidance from the state and that we could receive further guidance and updates.

- Resignation- WHS Principal: Superintendent Tucker handed out the resignation letter for Board Members to review. This item was discussed in the Superintendent's report. Board Members expressed their gratitude for Principal Johnson's years of service to the District.
- 2021/22 Stay in School Plan: Board Member Hayward said this is not a granular plan for fall but rather to receive ESSERIII Funds. Board Member Johnson said she did not have time to review the document and that there are a lot of links and language and that she would like to research before voting on the document. Superintendent Tucker said there are no links and the answers were formatted to stand out. Superintendent Tucker said the Stay in School Plan is straightforward and began to read the plan to the Board.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Teegarden of Gilford Ave. talked about the Critical Race Theory. Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the topics discussed during this session of General Public Comment need to pertain to discussion items only. He said his content pertains to CRT. Board Chairperson Lounsbury reminded him about the first opportunity pertaining to general matters and the second opportunity pertains to only matters under discussion. The Board went into recess at 8:02PM

The Board reconvened at 8:12 PM and continued with General Public Comment.

Carrie McCarthy expressed her concerns with the mask mandate.

ACTION

- Second Reading: Policy DB Annual Budget Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve policy DB as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.
- Second Reading: Policy DBC Budget Planning, Preparation and Schedules: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve policy DBC as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier.
- Second Reading: Policy DBI Budget Implementation: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- Health Protocols: Motion made by Board Member Hayward to stay the course and follow guidance from Dr. Chan through the summer as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 6-1.
- Resignation- WHS Principal: Motion made by board Member Murray to approve Principal Johnson's resignation as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.
- 2021/22 Stay in School Plan: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve the Stay in School Plan as presented, seconded by board Member Dunn. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 6-1.
- Rescinding DBF Budget Hearings and Reviews: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to rescind policy DBF as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- Rescinding DBG Budget Adoption: Motion made by Board Member Cormier to rescind policy DBG as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk