

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, May 28th 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 Lounsbury to amend the agenda to include Health Protocols under discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to amend the minutes with the following changes; Board Member Dunn stated under the discussion of health protocols that she would like to see that item on the agenda moving forward, and that the votes for health protocols and ESSER III Funds in action were off by 1 vote as Board Chairperson Lounsbury was not in attendance. The date for the RSVP to the Ribbon Cutting at Laconia High School should be May 28th and to fix the typo in the Budget and Personnel Committee reports, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Chairperson Lounsbury abstained. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent Tucker said the District has 9 retiring teachers with a total of 279 years of experience which averages to 31 years teaching. He said this year's retirees are parents, coaches, mentors, leaders, advisors, and curriculum coordinators.

Principal Bryant, Principal Beauchemin, and Principal Johnson recognized retiring teachers along with Laconia Middle School students Luke Stafford

Celia Ephrem, Myrabella Castagno, and Scarlet Fontanez who paid tribute to Laconia retiring teachers.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca Gardner of 38 Estates Circle talked about her opposition to the Critical Race Theory.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier said this committee has not met.

Facilities: Board Member Murray said this committee will meet on Monday, June 7th at 12PM.

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on May 26th and is bringing 3 polices forward for a second read tonight.

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

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on May 17th and that the committee is planning a meeting session to happen this summer.

Board Member Input

Board Member Hayward said the National Junior Honor Society Induction was a nice in person event.

Board Member Johnson reported that the Laconia High School Girls LAX won their game and will play Gilford Wednesday, and the Laconia High School Girls Softball won their game and will play Plymouth on Wednesday as well.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated auditorium and gym at Laconia High School will be Friday, June 4th at 5:45 PM and referenced a letter from the acting Laconia Education Association (LEA) intent to bargain. She said the Budget and Personnel Committee will be taking on negotiations and will update the Board as negotiations go on.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Business Administrator Blouin reported the final allocation of ESSER III allocation was received on May 23rd. the total allocation is \$8,822,961.15.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported that in order to receive ESSER III funds the District has been working on the Stay in School Plan. She reported that the School Reopening Task Force Committee met on May 19th, and that in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, teachers are continuing to prepare for professional development and Summer Learning Labs. The tent at Woodland Heights School is set up and the District is waiting for Dig Safe approval to put the tents up at Elm Street and Pleasant Street Schools. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported that for the first time since November, there are counties in NH with less than 100 cases per 1,000 people infected with COVID-19.

Superintendent Tucker reported out on the NHASCD panel that he facilitated on May 13th. The panel's focus was reopening schools. He talked about that advantages of students who participate in Career Technical Education, that they have a 10% higher graduation rate. He said 71% students at the Huot Technical Center come from Laconia and that 8-9 students of the Top Ten graduating students participated in CTE classes. He reported on the NHIAA new mask guidelines that recommend students engaged in competition have the choice to not wear their mask and that in Laconia there is not a mask mandate. Superintendent Tucker reported on this year's Skill's USA competition, noting that Jacob Cress, Zachary Whitney, and Oliver Mahoney earned medals from HTC HVAC Program. Lastly, Superintended Tucker reported on the Homecoming Parade that took place on May 28th.

DISCUSSION

Second Reading: Policy JKAA Use of Restraints and Seclusion: Board Member Hayward said this policy was updated with definitions and guidance.

Second Reading: Policy JLCC Pediculosis: Board Member Hayward said this policy was updated with feedback from the school nurses. Board Member Dunn inquired about notifying parents in the event of an outbreak of lice. Board Member Hayward said he took the feedback from the last School Board meeting to the committee but the committee did not feel it was in the best interest of the students.

Second Reading: Procedure Pediculosis: Board Member Hayward said this is the procedure of the policy. There was no other Board discussion.

First Reading: Policy DB Annual Budget: Board Member Hayward talked about language that was taken out of this policy and that the Board will take up action on the annual budget prior going to City Council. Board Member Dunn said the last paragraph should be clearer as members do not get the proposed budget at the meeting but the Friday before. It was agreed to revise the language in the last paragraph.

First Reading: Policy DBC Budget Planning, preparation and Schedules: Board Member Hayward said in this policy, the Superintendent is charged with working with the Budget and Personnel for creating a timeline. Board Member Dunn wanted clarity on if the full Board will receive the presentation from building administrators? Board Member Cormier said the Budget and Personnel Committee will work on the details of the budget and once the budget is final the Budget and Personnel Committee will bring it forward to the full Board. Board Member Dunn inquired if the building level budget work sessions will still take place. Board Member Hayward said yes.

First Reading: Policy DBI Budget Implementation: Board Member Hayward said this is an ongoing accountability with Budget and Personnel Committee. The Budget and Personnel Committee will report out quarterly with line item updates throughout the year.

ESSER III Grant: Superintendent Tucker said the District is looking for formal approval of the ESSER III funds.

Health Protocols: Board Chairperson Lounsbury said NHIAA guidance and recommendations for students playing sports competitions can choose to not wear a mask. Board Member Dunn asked why the change is happening now? Why are we picking and choosing sports and not recess and PE? Superintendent Tucker stated that the DHHS guidance on that had not changed and there are not enough kids have been vaccinated.

Board Member Dunn said it is difficult to say yes to sports but not to recess and physical education. Board Member Johnson talked about the guidance that says kids should not be wearing masks when they are physically active. Board Member Hayward added that if children are 6 feet apart students can remove their masks. Board Member Cormier said that in past meetings we agreed to follow DHHS guidelines and to look at data as it changes and the information from the State says kids are safe wearing masks. Board Chairperson Lounsbury said the item will be on the agenda as we move forward.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Thompson of Long Bay at South Down commented on the Critical Race Theory.

Jennifer Friel of Lyman Street expressed her concerns with masks and mental health.

Carrie McCarthy of Bellville Drive talked about mask mandates in the State of NH

Doug Teegarden of Ward 2, Gilford Ave expressed his concerns with the head lice policy and parental notification.

Cathy Murphy of Ward 3 Oak Street expressed concerns with removing the mask mandate and the Critical Race Theory being a body of thought and not curriculum being taught.

Sara Dea of Press Street expressed concerns with the mask mandate and the Critical Race Theory.

Candice Knowlton of Ward 1 Morningside Drive expressed concerns with her child wearing masks and having her child in quarantine and Critical Race Theory being derived from the Office of School Wellness website.

Elizabeth McLaughlin of Union Ave expressed concerns masks not eliminating the risk of disease of infections.

Trisha Posse of Endicott Street expressed concerns with mask wearing and children not wearing them out of school hours the lack of notification regarding the list that was written on the door in the boy's bathroom at Laconia High School and regarding the Critical Race Theory, she stated we are all one race, the human race.

Peggy Shaw of Valley Street had concerns with the Critical Race Theory and the Office of School Wellness web page.

ACTION

Second Reading: Policy JKAA Use of Restraints and Seclusion: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve policy JKAA as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

Second Reading: Policy JLCC Pediculosis: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approved policy JLCC as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board member Dunn and Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-2.

Second Reading: Procedure Pediculosis: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve the Procedure Pediculosis as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

ESSER III Grant: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve ESSER III Grant funds as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

Health Protocols: Motion made by Board Member Dunn to amend the guidelines for sports, recess, and physical education that our students do not need to wear a mask, seconded by Board Member Johnson. Board Members Cormier, Grenon, Lounsbury, Murray and Hayward opposed. The vote was 2-5.

Motion made by Board Member Hayward to continue with the NH Public Health protocols and make the adjustments to follow the NHIAA recommendation to make masks optional for sports, seconded by Board Member Cormier. Board Member Dunn and Board Member Johnson opposed. the vote was 5-2.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk