

## LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD

March 8, 2022 at 6:00 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, Heather Drolet, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Hinds, and Business Administrator Blouin.

Nick Grenon arrived at 6:30 P.M. and Dawn Johnson arrived at 6:38 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chairperson Hayward called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The agenda was posted on Friday, March 4, 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**

Motion made by Board Member Anderson to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the amended minutes on page 2 paragraph 3 to reflect that Superintendent Tucker presented the Board with three options for mask wearing in the District and to include that in the Action, Board Member Grenon made the motion to approve option three, seconded by Board Member Drolet. The vote was 5-0.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Dunn reported that this committee met on February 24<sup>th</sup> to go over the FY'23 Budget.

**Facilities:** Board Member Grenon reported that this committee has not met.

**Policy:** Board Member Drolet reported that this committee met today and have one 2<sup>nd</sup> reading tonight and will have a few 1<sup>st</sup> readings meeting in April. The next Policy Committee meeting is April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M.

**Strategic Planning:** Board Member Ulrich reported that this Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and discussed the district goals, current Strategic Plan and will meet again on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5P.M.

**Board Member Input:** There was no Board Member input.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Board Chairperson Hayward reported that the Laconia High School Senior Top Ten Dinner will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6P.M. and handed out invitations. He asked Board Members to RSVP by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Tucker reported on the Belknap Subaru donation to the Huot Technical Center. He discussed the September 1, 2020 Trust Fund allocations that were already approved by the Budget and Personnel Committee. The Board was informed of the allocations but will need to take a vote on that under Action tonight. He continued to talk about Laconia Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and referred the District's website. The Winter Carnival volleyball tournament over February Break was successful and proceeds will be donated to the Dana Farber Institute. Lastly, he talked about the COVID cases on the decline in the community noting that the District only has two active cases currently.

**DISCUSSION**

- Second Read Policy BCA Board Member Ethics: There was no discussion on this policy.

- Trust Fund Allocations: CIP = \$4000,000, Special Education Trust = \$100,00 and the Education Stabilization Trust = \$500,000. There was no further Board discussion.
- Donation to the Huot Technical Center: Automotive equipment from Belknap Subaru totaling \$600.00. There was no further Board discussion.

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

There was no General Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items.

### **ACTION**

- **Second Read Policy BCA Board Member Ethics:** Motion made by Drolet to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was 5-0.
- **Approval of the Trust Fund Allocations:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the Trust Fund allocations: CIP = \$4000,000, Special Education Trust = \$100,00 and the Education Stabilization Trust = \$500,000, seconded by Board Member Drolet. The vote was 5-0.
- **Approval of the Donation to the Huot Technical Center:** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to accept the donation of equipment valued at \$600 from Belknap Subaru, seconded by Board Member Anderson. The vote was 5-0.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no general public comment.

**Budget Work Session-SAU/Elementary:** Superintendent Tucker thanked the Board and Administration for the work on the budget. He talked about the District goals, Portrait of a Graduate and Instruction. He said the proposed FY '23 budget will be tax cap compliant and will be brought to the full Board on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and then to City Council on May 9<sup>th</sup>. He talked about the need to support the whole child and the need to continue with the District goals and engage students in community with future learning pathways. He also talked about the District's work on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS).

Elm Street School Principal, Tara Beauchemin, Academic Coordinator for Teaching Learning (ACTL) Gail Bourn, Afterschool Program Director Christine Gingerella, Office of School Wellness Director McKenzie Harrington-Bacote, Pleasant Street School Principal Dave Levesque, Woodland Heights School Principal Dale Chenette, Student Services Administrators, Lisa Holiday and Andrea Faller, presented on supports and structure of their elementary schools. Principal Beauchemin talked about the work of our Social Workers in the district, weekly meetings with the Tier II Team, Interventionists work for grades 3-5, and Title I supports for students PK-Grade 2. Superintendent Tucker added that the ESSER positions are not funded by the general budget. Principal Beauchemin continued to report on interventions and their success at the elementary level, enrichment, the Academic Exhibition in April, PLC's and embedded PD, and Library commons. Principal Levesque added that enrichment is carried over into the afterschool program that offers meals within a smooth transition for students.

Director Gingerella talked about how the afterschool program reinforces what the district is doing during school day hours. She talked about social and emotional supports, academic tutoring, grants and how new grant funding could potentially bring \$825,000 for the next five years to support students in nontraditional school hours, and the Out of School Time Pathway Grant.

Director Harrington-Bacote talked about the layered continuum of social/emotional, physical, mental health through the Office of School Wellness. She talked about the work of the Social Workers and through grants, the District is able to support a Social Worker in each building. The Social Workers offer supports with behaviors, family engagement, homelessness, and is a resource for families. The Office of School Wellness grants also support afterschool programs at Laconia High School, Professional Development for all staff members of the District, and wellness opportunities for all staff.

Student Services Administrator Holiday talked about lofty Special Education numbers and how the District is lacking in Para educators currently, the Intervention groups have been a support for student growth.

Student Services Administrator Faller talked about targeted instruction, ICORE, diagnostic testing and Professional Development in Math via Karolyn Wurster. Superintendent Tucker added that Fastbridge scores reflect 76% in growth and that the Body of Work is connected to the Portrait of a Graduate (POG) skills. ACTL Bourn talked about grades PK-12 Body of Work academic and POG competencies, student self-direction/problem solving skills prior to a task and throughout the task itself.

Principal Beauchemin talked about Project Based Learning (PBA) and how it is embedded in the Portrait of a Graduate Skills.

ACTL Bourn added in response to Board Member Drolet's question on Coaching and Mentoring, currently the District has New Teacher Induction that meets 4 times per year for the first year to go over District Initiatives. They would like to have a mentor for new teachers at Elm Street and Pleasant Street School and two mentors at Woodland Heights School. The dream is to train teachers to be mentors, meet weekly, and be the "go to" person for new teachers to the District.

Superintendent Tucker talked about the proposed budget being tax cap compliant, the CPI-U at 4.7% and projected city permits of 44.1 million dollars, and the 1.7-million-dollar allowable increase, the shortfall in Adequacy Aid of \$600,000, the continued work of the LEA contract, and expense comparisons by category.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on court involved students and the increase in the last few years, the 402 cap. Next year, we have 22 students budgeted for placements, three are District placements. Placements range from \$79,000 to over \$200,00. Comparing to a few year ago, the District had 14 students budgeted with an increase of 19 additional students, totally to 33 students in placement. With the pandemic, there was a decrease, this year there has been an increase. Right now we have an increase of \$255,000 from last year's budget.

Superintendent Tucker reported on Facilities projects unspent revenues, projects from Stabilization Aid and COVID Funds.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on IT project and equipment, the replacement cycle, E-Rate, and the need to increase days for our IT staff: Network Specialist \$10,875, and IT Technician \$6,177 which is a level 1 proposal.

Superintendent reported on the level 2 proposal of Full-Time Art Teacher \$83,027 at ESS or PSS and Full-Time Music Teacher \$83,027 at ESS or PSS. The elementary school principals gave supporting comments on the level 2 positions.

#### **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion made by Board Member Drolet to enter into nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c), seconded by Board Member Ulrich. Roll Call vote was unanimous. The Board entered into nonpublic session at 7:53 PM

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened public session at 8:50 PM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Board Member Johnson to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Drolet. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds, Clerk