

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
26 DEWEY STREET

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, Malcolm Murray, Nick Grenon, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Hinds, and Business Administrator Christine Blouin.

Absent: Heather Lounsbury,

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Board Chairperson, Aaron Hayward, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 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 vote was unanimous.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup> as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. Board Member Johnson abstained. The vote was unanimous.

### **PRESENTATION**

Assistant Superintendent Hinds introduced Alex Kent, Christine Bassett, and Academic Coordinator, Gail Bourn. She went over the Federally funded Title I educational grant which helps support the elementary schools that includes family engagement activities, staffing, professional development, supplies, with some funding for mentoring and coaching. She handed out the Student-Parent compact that is signed each year. Christine Basset and Alex Kent talked about examples of Title I learning such as family Science night that happened via Zoom. She spoke about the literacy night last year, math night and examples how families can bring that learning into their everyday home, manipulatives, leveled books, and technology used to engage students in learning. Gail Bourn talked about professional development and Inquiry Illuminated and how the teachers did an inquiry process into their classrooms. She introduced, Keegan of Elm Street School and he gave a demonstration of his inquiry based knowledge of his visit to Happy Cow in Laconia.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Thompson voiced his concern with the current layout of the School Board meeting and asked the board to raise their voices when speaking so the audience could hear.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Cormier said this committee met on May 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed additional staff that will be under discussion and action tonight. He said the Administrative Team did a nice job presenting to City Council.

**Facilities:** Board Member Murray said this committee met on May 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed updates on projects.

**Policy:** Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on May 12<sup>th</sup> and worked on a budget timeline policies and discussed policy JLCC and JKAA that is under discussion and action on tonight's agenda Next Policy Committee meeting will be May 26<sup>th</sup> 4:30 PM.

**Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate:** Board Member Dunn reported this committee met May 11<sup>th</sup> in person and discussed the assessment of the Portrait of a Graduate whole and looked at the purpose of grading. Tomorrow, May 19<sup>th</sup> at

the Belknap Mill starting at noon, there will be a meeting with stakeholders on how we can engage our students connecting with job opportunities via attributes of the Portrait of a Graduate.

**Diversity and Inclusion Task Force:** Board Member Hayward reported that this committee met on May 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed concerns regarding all age groups within the school district and greater NH community with rising incidents of offensive and hateful language and imagery that is leading to verbal online and physical confrontation within schools. The committee talked about diversifying books and are planning to meet over the summer.

### **Board Member Input**

Board Member Johnson made a motion to end the mask mandate in schools and on the fields and said she does not see that item on the agenda. Board Member Hayward said it was under Health Protocols. Board Member Dunn said the Top Ten Dinner was on May 13<sup>th</sup> and commented that it was beautifully set up and it was wonderful to hear students talk about their guest teachers and how it was wonderful to celebrate our Top Ten students.

### **BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR**

Board Member Hayward reported that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the auditorium and gymnasium on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM. Superintendent Tucker said that city and state representatives will be invited as well. Please RSVP Laconia High School secretary Jen O'Reilly by May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Business Administrator Blouin reported that the District is waiting on legislative action for the Adequacy Aid shortfall. The final allocation of ESSER III funds should happen by the end of the month.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on COVID data from county, city and state and the impact on our schools.

Superintendent Tucker reported on student and staff quarantine data from March 15-May 14, contact tracing, school exposures, safety mitigations, mitigation strategies in the district that have supported students not getting the COVID virus in schools. He talked about the guidance the District follows from DHHS, and the new guidance around people who are vaccinated. People who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should wear face masks if unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing. He mentioned the budget presentation to the Laconia City Council, the extension of Seamless Summer until 2022. There will be a closed school site for vaccination site May 23-June 13<sup>th</sup> for students and their family. Board Member Johnson inquired why the District is trying to get students vaccinated that is not FDA approved.

Superintendent Tucker replied saying every family has the right to make the decision for themselves and he sent out information that was sent from Public Health. He went on to talk about the cancelled Laconia High School Europe trip last year, in-person events to celebrate students, Lakes Region Community College that will give a member of the class 2021 to take up to one-three credit class for free. Promotional ceremonies that will happen at the end of the year, Laconia High School graduation, Teacher Appreciation Week, National School Nurses Day, newly hired staff were also discussed.

### **DISCUSSION**

**First Reading: Policy JKAA Use of Restraints and Seclusion:** Board Member Hayward said this policy was revised to include the 2014 legal definitions of restraints including seclusions.

**First Reading: Policy JLCC Pediculosis:** Board Member Hayward said this policy was revised to include language from the district nurses. Board Member Dunn asked if there some kind of communication to families in the event of an outbreak so families can be proactive and avoid financial hardship of head lice. Board Member Hayward said he will bring that back to the committee for consideration.

**First Reading: Procedure Pediculosis:** Board Member Hayward said this procedure is the action steps to Policy JLCC.

**Second Reading: Policy EB Workplace Safety Program & Joint Loss Management Committee:** Board Member Hayward said this policy is a combination of Policy EB and JLI.

**Second Reading: Policy EBB School Safety:** Board Member Hayward said this policy is required by law.

**Second Reading: Policy EBBB Accident Reports:** Board Member Hayward said this policy was revised to include legal duties and work place injury and/or death.

**Second Reading: Policy EBCA Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans:** Board Member Hayward said policy was updated with the RSA changes.

**Second Reading: EBCB Policy Fire and All Hazard Drills:** Board Member Hayward said this policy was updated to include all types of drills and the RSA reference.

**LHS Band 2022 Field Trip (Hershey, PA):** Superintendent Tucker said this is a trip for LHS Band in 2022. This trip happens every other year. Students will travel in a bus and perform there. Board Member Dunn said it will give students time to fundraise. Board Member Hayward inquired about a timeline in the event of having to cancel the trip. Superintendent Tucker said he will get that information.

**Health Protocols:** Board Member Grenon inquired about masks on the field over the fall, Superintendent Tucker said NHIAA allowed schools to make that decision. Board Member Johnson voiced her concerns with students wearing masks on the field. Board Member Dunn inquired about the outside tents for learning spaces. Superintendent Tucker said yes, tents will be going up. Board Member Dunn inquired about if students know when and where they can have mask breaks? Superintendent Tucker said if students maintain 6-feet apart they can choose to take their mask off or keep it on. Board Member Johnson reference the Governor's executive order saying students, staff, and teachers do not have to wear a mask. Board Member Cormier said we have been taking direction from the state since last March and the State direction still is students should wear masks. He said his opinion is to maintain what we are doing with masks until the end of the school year and see what summer brings. Board Member Hayward said guidance from the CDC, NH DHHS, and the State epidemiologist recommends people under 6 feet to wear a masks and we could look at guidance again in 3 to 4 weeks. Board Member Dunn requested Health Protocols on the agenda moving forward.

**Additional Staffing (ESSER)** Superintendent Tucker referred to the handout of the proposed additional staffing and its purpose to support students. He said it would be 19 additional positions that will work directly with students. The contract for the proposed staff would be a 1-year contract and would not affect the general budget.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Doug Teegarden, Ward 6 of 256 Gilford Ave. offered information on mask efficacy.
- Joe McCarthy, Ward 3 expressed his thoughts on the vaccine.
- Kathy Brown, Ward 3 expressed her dismay for students wearing masks and the Critical Race Theory.
- Brad Brown, Ward 3 expressed his concerns with students wearing masks.

#### **ACTION**

**Second Reading: Policy EB Workplace Safety Program & Joint Loss Management Committee:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

**Second Reading: Policy EBB School Safety:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

**Second Reading: Policy EBBB Accident Reports:** Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

**Second Reading: Policy EBCA Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans:** Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

**Second Reading: EBCB Policy Fire and All Hazard Drills:** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

**LHS Band 2022 Field Trip (Hershey, PA)** Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the LHS Band trip to Hershey PA in 2022 as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

**Health Protocols:** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to change the mask mandate to voluntary. There was not a second to the motion.

Motion made by Board Cormier as proposed to continue with the current practice of wearing masks, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Member Dunn and Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 4-2.

**Additional Staffing (ESSER):** Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve the additional 19 staff as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-1.

**NONPUBLIC:** Motion made by Board Member Cormier to enter into nonpublic per NH RSA 91-A:3, II(C), seconded by Board Member Murray. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board entered into nonpublic at 8:05 PM

**PUBLIC SESSION:** Motion made by Board member Cormier to leave nonpublic session and enter into public session, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board entered into public session at 8:36 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds  
Clerk