

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, Heather Lounsbury, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, 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 Monday, May 3rd 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 Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve minutes of April 20, 2021 as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenier. Board Member Johnson abstained. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Board Chairperson Lounsbury made a statement regarding the challenges of COVID-19. She said the 2021/22 school year's budget is tax cap compliant and that the proposed budget is to ensure success with every student, every day, in every way. The final budget presentation to City Council will take place on May 10th. Board Member Cormier stated that the budget was not under discussion and action for Board Member approval. The Board discussed when the budget process changed from a Super Saturday to budget work sessions. With the budget work sessions, the Board is now part of the process from start to end and that the 21/22 budget is tax cap compliant. The consensus was to continue with moving forward with the presentation. Board Member Cormier suggested that the Board consider the option of next year doing it differently.

Superintendent Tucker talked about the budget process and the focus on students, health and safety protocols, and the district's goals, Portrait of a Graduate and Quality Instruction. He talked about the unusual year for students and staff due to the impact of COVID-19, outdoor learning, physically distanced spaces, and district staff vaccination clinics.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported budget priorities, students in the remote/hybrid division, student learning labs, vacation and afterschool learning opportunities. She reported on progress monitoring and interventions as needed, wellness, professional development, and co-curricular. She reported on health and safety planning supplies and protocols, and if needed, will be purchased with COVID funds.

Superintendent Tucker reported on multiple pathways through the Portrait of a Graduate, professional development, mentoring and coaching, academic opportunities, extracurricular, that 35-40 % percent of our students take a course at HTC with 6-7 of this year's Top Ten students in programs there. He also noted other learning opportunities through the Office of Extended Learning.

Assistant Superintended Hinds talked about quality instruction, imbedded professional development, instructional framework, voice and choice for students, expansion of classrooms into the community, professional development around real world experiences, math and literacy, mentors, district goals, and coaches.

Business Administrator Blouin reported that the proposed budget is tax cap compliant, and how the Seamless Summer meals and how that has impacted our numbers for Adequacy Aid. She went over the expense comparison by category, and budget overview. She talked about salaries, highlighted the increases, decreases to certain budget line, and COVID-19 related funds.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on Special Education, and court involved students, the decreases in placements due to COVID-19 and facilities closing. She talked about court out of district placements, the 402 cap costs and the estimation for Special Education court placements for the school year 2021/22, and that out of 33 placements only 1 student is a school district placement.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Teegarden of 256 Gilford Ave. inquired about COVID-19 funds and if the funds that are not used this year if they go back into the same account or will the funds be reallocated for the next school year.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier reported that this committee met on April 27th and went over the budget presentation.

Facilities: Board Member Murray reported that this committee met on May 2nd and reported on the WHS boiler and hot water heater, LHS fence, sewer, and tiling, the electricity at SAU, PSS library tiling, custodial staffing, grounds work for 2021-22 being placed on hold, and the update on Siemens work with the lighting automation.

Policy: Board member Hayward reported that this committee will meet on May 12th at 4:30 PM.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board member Dunn reported that this committee will meet on May 11th at 3:15 PM.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward reported that this committee will meet on May 17th at 3:15 PM.

Board Member Input

Board Member Johnson talked about NH RSA 126 U: 4 and made a motion to remove the District's mask mandate. There was not a second to the motion. Motion made by Board member Cormier to table this topic until the next School Board meeting under discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 6-1.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported that the District will present the 2021/22 budget to City Council on May 10th and National Honor Society Induction is scheduled for May 22nd.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker talked about the revised end of year activities and referred to the handout in the Board packet. He said the end of year events will happen in person if possible with the understanding the District will have to reconsider that if needed due to COVID-19.

Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on COVID -19 impact and data from April 14th through May 3rd.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Teegarden of 256 Gilford Ave. expressed his concern over the Board not lifting the mask mandate.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk