

**LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
HTC MVSDB DINING ROOM**

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting, at the Huot Career and Technical Center on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

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 Friday, November 13, 2020 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 to amend the agenda to reflect nonpublic per RSA 91 A:3,II (a), under Board Chair report to include the Deb Bieniarz Award Committee member nomination, and NHSBA webinar updates, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to amend the minutes to reflect that Board Chairperson Lounsbury referred to policy BCA versus read it to its entirety and to include during the discussion portion of the meeting to add that in addition to Business Administrator Blouin replying that staff may use their personal time, staff may use their vacation time if they have it. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Laconia High School Athletic Director, Craig Kozens,. Mr. Kozens presented on the winter sports proposal for Laconia Middle School and Laconia High School with COVID-19 guidelines.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Facilities/CIP: Board Member Murray reported on the updated bid for the pumps at Elm Street School, security work at the SAU, the Laconia High School doors, Laconia High School trash compactor that will replace a dumpster, and front right door at Laconia Middle School.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Johnson reported that this committee met today and discussed grading, member input, and getting more members on the task force.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Superintendent Tucker reported that this committee met on November 16th and discussed PD offerings for staff, policy, and diversity and inclusion in the District.

Board Member Input

There was no Board Member input.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported that the School Reopening Committee and Pandemic Response Committee are looking to combine and work together as one group. Superintendent Tucker added that these are parallel committees. Board Chairperson Lounsbury continued to report on NH School Board Association upcoming webinars and the Deb Bieniarz Award. After discussing the Deb Bieniarz award Committee, Board Member Dunn volunteered to represent the Laconia School Board on that committee.

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

School Board Meeting

6:30 PM at HTC MVSDB Dining Room at 6:30 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker reported on the COVID-19 case at LHS and the impact on staffing, the work being conducted with Public Health regarding contact tracing, new guidelines for quarantining for essential workers, and the survey for Christmas travel. Board Member Dunn inquired about the data breakdown by level from the Christmas survey and Superintendent Tucker said he would send that to the Board. Superintendent Tucker went on to report on the email from Dr. Chan regarding contact tracing, NHIAA Guidance for sports, and the remote division and quarter 2 transition for students. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on current COVID-19 cases by county as of November 16th, the school impact data, the daily 13 questions the nurses submit to DHHS, and the cumulative data from school nurses for quarter I regarding student stayed/sent home with COVID – 19 symptoms. Superintendent Tucker reported community transmission rate and the positivity test rate, number of new infections within 14 days, and new hospitalizations. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the level of COVID-19 impact in schools. Superintendent Tucker reported on the decision-making matrix, four instruction models, calendar considerations based on the Christmas travel survey data, and calendar options for coming back from Christmas vacation.

DISCUSSION

Winter Sports: Board Member Hayward said he is excited to see what students can do this winter.

Elm Street School Pumps: Business Administrator Blouin said this is a new proposal for a less expensive pump, the other approved pump did not meet expectations.

Phase-In Update: Board Member Dunn inquired about Pre K and Life Skills at Laconia High School and expressed concerns about going back to hybrid on November 23rd and the push for winter sports. Assistant Superintendent Hinds talked about the hybrid calendar and red and white days and alternating Fridays. Board Member Dunn inquired about a plan in place for special education students to be sure their IEP's are being followed. Board Member Johnson expressed concerns with going back to hybrid and noted the data for Laconia cases. Board Member Cormier added that winter sports are also a hybrid model with limited teams and travel and going back to a hybrid model would align things. Board Member Hayward added that there will be no competitions until January and winter sports will be with local teams abiding by the guidelines and working on specific skill development. Board member Hayward said there was a significant impact of COVID-19 at the high school resulting in staff and students needing to quarantine and if we are in a hybrid we are minimizing the risk of shutting the school down. Board Member Grenon talked about the area data of 90% of affected students are at the high school level and how older students tend to bounce back from hybrid to full face to face learning versus younger students. Board Member Dunn asked if there would be a refresher in communication for students returning to hybrid regarding routines, expectations, and mask breaks when physically distanced.

Building Use: Superintendent Tucker presented a list of organizations that have used the district buildings in the past. He talked about the facilities meeting last week with building use up for discussion and noted that he, himself is on the Board Member of LAYBL. With winter months coming, he would like to in some way, with following guidelines support the children of Laconia. Board Member Murray said in the past we waived the fee but with new cleaning guidelines we may have to charge a fee. Superintendent Tucker said organizations are aware that they may need to absorb that. The Board talked about who would decide which organizations would use the buildings, that the building use would be for Laconia students and teams they would play, who would police to be sure they would follow procedures, and giving our younger students the same opportunity as the middle and high school students.

2020/21 Calendar: Board Member Dunn said it would be helpful to see the data from the Christmas travel survey. The Board talked about the three options for the remote schedule after Christmas. The consensus is to go with option 1. The Board talked about guidelines for traveling outside of New England and decided to table the vote and bring it back to the December 1st School Board Meeting.

Robotics Grants (PSS, LHS, and LMS): The Board discussed the grants awarded to Laconia High School, Laconia Middle School, and Pleasant Street School.

First Read: AC Equal Rights: Board Member Hayward said the update to this policy was a date change.

First Read: AC-E Non Discrimination Equal Opportunity employment and Anti-Discrimination Plan: Board Member Hayward said assignments were updated on this form at all levels.

First Read and Acceptance: Policy ACAC Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process: Board Member Hayward reported that we need to adopt this policy to be in compliance. Superintendent Tucker said it is not dissimilar to other districts, many being behind the timeline.

First Read: Procedure ACAC-P Title IX Sexual Harassment Investigation: Board Member Hayward said this is a reporting form which is adequate for what our needs are now.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Kozens, Laconia High School Athletic Director addressed Board Member Dunn's question about going into a hybrid learning and approving a winter sports schedule. He talked the benefits of local control versus traveling club organizations.

Liz Tomlinson of Adams Street commented about hybrid concerns.

Candace Knowlton of Morningside Drive commented on hybrid learning concerns and why we would accommodate travel.

Chrissy Dee of Shore Drive commented on hybrid learning concerns, holiday travel and remote learning concerns.

ACTION

Winter Sports: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve the winter sports proposal as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

Elm Street School Pumps: Motion made by Board Member Murray to approve the purchase of pumps at Elm Street School as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

Phase-In Update: Motion made by Board member Johnson to remain in school five days per week. There was not a second to that motion. Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the Phase in Plan with a stipulation that students with IEP's will receive extra help on the off days, Seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was 3-4 not in favor of Board Member Dunn's motion. Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve the phase in plan as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. Board Member Johnson, Board Member Dunn opposed, and Board Member Grenon abstained. The vote of 4-3 in favor of the phase in plan to go into hybrid November 23rd.

2020/21 Calendar: Motion made by Board Member Johnson to table this item until December 1st, seconded by Board Member Hayward. The vote was unanimous.

Robotics Grants (PSS, LHS, and LMS): Motion made by Board Member Cormier to accept the Robotics Grant, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

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First Read and Acceptance: Policy ACAC Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process: Motion made by Board Member Johnson to approve this policy with first read minor revision, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

NONPUBLIC:

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to enter in to Nonpublic per RSA 91-A3, II (a), seconded by Board Member Murray. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board entered into nonpublic at 9:04P.M.

Motion made by Board Member Murray to return to public session, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous. Public Session reconvened at 9:37 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk