

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Barbara Luther, Mal Murray, Chris Guilmett, Stacie Sirois, Scott Vachon, Mike Persson, Joe Cormier, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler and Superintendent Terri Forsten.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Joe Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on November 17, 2014, at the SAU office and on the district's website, along with being sent to each of our schools, "The Citizen", Laconia Library, and City Hall, in accordance with RSA 91-A.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Chris Guilmett to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Stacie Sirois. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Dr. Alison Bryant**

Alison Bryant, LMS Academic Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, presented her Doctoral Thesis, 'An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Student Engagement in Learning at the Middle Level' that she had presented to the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University in July 2014. The purpose of her study was to understand how the middle school student perceives and experiences in engagement in learning. Research questions were a). How do middle school students who identify themselves as engaged in learning understand and experience engagement? and b). What classroom and school structures and strategies do middle school students identify as supporting or hindering engagement? There were five findings that she shared with the Board. The implications for practice will help develop middle level curriculum, instruction and assessment while offering authentic opportunities for success and will identify and sustain student perseverance. The Board congratulated her on her accomplishments and look forward to hearing about her work in the future.

**NHSBA Training Opportunities**

NH School Board Association Attorney Barrett Christina explained what services are offered to school boards as members of the NHSBA. They offer a wide variety of services including assistance with policies and procedures, general legal advice and professional development and training to school boards. He offered to come present on topics such as Right to Know, School Board Responsibilities, Policy Work and Legal Rights and Responsibilities as examples. A link to the NHSBA website will be sent to board members. We would look to coordinate desired trainings with him in the future.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Under Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler gave the Board an update on the various councils that meet monthly. The four councils that meet are Humanities, Technology, Math/Science and STEM. Scott Vachon would like to see a presentation on Understanding by Design at a future meeting as well as a presentation on student digital portfolios.

**Public/Administrative Input:**

None

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** This group will meet on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for their first work session for the 2015-16 budget.

**Facilities/CIP:** This group has not met.

**Policy:** Stacie Sirois reported that this has not met and will be bringing two policies forward tonight for a second reading and approval.

**Strategic Planning:** Mike Persson said that this committee will meet on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**Board Member Input:**

None

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR**

Board Chair Joe Cormier assigned committees as follows: Policy – Chair Stacie Sirois, Chris Guilmett and Barbara Luther; Facilities – Chair Mal Murray, Scott Vachon and Barbara Luther; Budget and Personnel – Chair Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett and Mike Persson; Strategic Planning – Chair Mike Persson, Stacie Sirois and Joe Cormier.

Joe Cormier took a moment to remember Richard A. Dearborn who passed away last week. He spoke about how influential he has been to the community and how his support and donation to the Richard A Dearborn Science Center will live on in his memory.

**CALENDAR**

Strategic Planning Meeting	Thursday, November 20, 2014	5:30 pm @ SAU
Budget and Personnel Meeting	Thursday, November 20, 2014	6:30 pm @ SAU
LHS Key Club Homeless Sleep Out	Friday, November 21, 2014	overnight @ LHS Front Lawn
Salvation Army Turkey Plunge	Saturday, November 22, 2014	11:00 am @ Opechee Cove
School Board Meeting	Tuesday, December 2, 2014	7:00 pm @ SAU

**SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The following policies were presented for discussion for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *1st Policy Reading: Policy GBEC: Drug-Free Workplace; Policy GBGAA: HIV/Aids*. There was no discussion.

**GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board Chair Joe Cormier reviewed the rules of speaking during public comment.

Several community members and former students spoke on the topic of how important the Arts are in the high school. They said a perception exists that athletics takes precedence above any other program at the school. Joe Cormier assured them that the school district cares about all students. Superintendent Terri Forsten said any plans to create new weight rooms have been put on hold in light of an evaluation of the entire facility. Board Chairman Joe Cormier said he was happy to see that parents and students at the meeting expressed concerns positively.

Laconia Daily Sun reporter Gail Ober asked about the status of the rooms around the stage and was informed that there are two rooms that are used by the Drama department. Terri Forsten again reiterated that all construction is on hold until an evaluation is completed. She also asked about the LHS pickup truck that is impounded in Belmont. Ed stated that there is a hearing next week to try to get it returned.

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting and, if so, if they would be taking any action. Joe Cormier said the Board would not be having a non-meeting. He also asked if there was a way to have the school board meetings aired in a timely manner. He asked Board Chair Joe Cormier if the presence of Laconia Police Department at the meeting was in reference to expected public comment at the meeting. Joe confirmed this.

**ACTION ITEMS**

A motion was made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Scott Vachon to approve the following policies as presented: Policy GBEC: Drug-Free Workplace; Policy GBGAA: HIV/Aids. They were approved unanimously.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler  
Clerk