

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
 REGULAR MEETING
 November 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM
 Laconia High School
 345 Union Ave

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting at the Laconia High School Auditorium.

PRESENT: Aaron Hayward, Dawn Johnson, Heather Drolet, Laura Dunn, Nick Grenon, Jennifer Anderson, Superintendent Steve Tucker, and Assistant Superintendent Hinds.

ABSENT: Business Administrator Christine Blouin. Ward 1 was not represented at this meeting due to a ballot re-count.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion made by Board Member Grenon to empower the Board Vice Chairperson, Aaron Hayward, as a temporary role of Board Chair to facilitate the meeting until officers have been assigned, seconded by Board Member Dunn. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-1.

Board Vice Chairperson Hayward called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Monday, November 1st 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.

Motion made by Board Member Grenon to assign Assistant Superintendent Hinds as the School Board Clerk, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Board Member Grenon to approve the agenda, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Grenon to amend the minutes from October 19th to include that Board Chairperson Lounsbury called the meeting to order and not Board Vice Chairperson, Hayward. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dunn. Board Members Anderson and Drolet abstained. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS

Pleasant Street School Multi Age Classroom: Principal Levesque, Mrs. Friend-Rushton, Gail Bourn, Lisa Holiday, Jeff Greeley, and Students, Eva Greeley and Jack Tautkus talked about the multi age program for students ages 6 – 8 at Pleasant Street School. They highlighted Portrait of a Graduate skills, Inquiry Illuminated, their Academic Leadership Team, Professional Development, Student Exhibition in April 2022, and Community Connections.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

Policy: Board Member Hayward reported that there are few policies up for a second reading tonight and two up to rescind under discussion and action. He talked about the policies in the packet pertaining to new School Board Members.

Board Member Input: Board Member Johnson talked about a law on the books regarding Memorial Day through Veterans Day incorporating those holidays into school curriculum. Board Member Hayward talked about New Board Member Orientation and the following policies:

- BBA: Board Powers and Responsibilities
- BBAB: Roles and Responsibilities of the Board Chairperson
- BDA: Board Organizational Meeting
- BDB: Board Officers

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

School Board Committees: Board Vice Chairperson Hayward talked about committees and it was agreed to select them when the Ward 1 Board Member joined to make a full Board. Board Member Hayward explained the different standing committees to the newly elected Board Members.

School Board Meeting Location: After discussion of the locations to hold the School Board meetings, the consensus is to have the School Board meeting at the SAU with a ZOOM option and to be flexible when needed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker informed the Board of the passing of Laconia High School Principal, Rob Bennett. He talked about Jim McCollum being the interim principal and spoke of his years in education and his time in Laconia. Interim Principal McCollum talked about the passing of Principal Bennet and the scholarship memorial being set up in his honor. He reported on the Sachem Support Block, College and Career Vertical Planning, Read, Discuss and Write, and the social media incident of October 31st. Superintendent Tucker reported on the FDA approved vaccine for students ages 5-11 years' old and the plan to have clinics in the district for students and boosters for staff. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on new School Board Orientation, the David M. Brooks Music Grant Award of \$11,000, the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force meeting that occurred on October 18th, and the NH State Plan American Rescue Plan Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth that is included in the Board packet. She said this is one of three ESSER grants that the District is seeking approval for. She continued to report that Sullivan Mousseau, a junior at Laconia High School, is a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist and Ryan Poliquin, a senior at Laconia High, recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. She ended her portion of the report highlighting the three elementary schools' Harvest Festivals, the Laconia Endowment Educational Foundation (LEEF) grant that teachers can apply for to support innovation in the classroom, and the New Teacher Induction that is scheduled for November 9th. Superintendent Tucker reported on COVID data by city, county, and State. He said that data seems favorable and his recommendation is to stay the course with our mask mandates.

DISCUSSION

- David M. Brooks Music Fund Grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: Superintendent Tucker said the award description is in the Board packet. This is the same grant the District received last year.
- 3 ESSER Grants (IDEA, Pre-School, and Homeless): Superintendent Tucker said Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the Superintendent's report. Board Member Hayward added that the funding is for mitigation and remediation for learning loss due to the impact of COVID.
- Technology Donation: Superintendent Tucker said the monitor that was donated will be at Laconia Middle School in the gymnasium and it is a generous donation from Meridian Construction.
- Stay in School Update: There was no discussion on this item.
- Second Read Policy BEDH: Board Member Hayward explained the revisions of this policy. He added that the procedure was included to narrow the policy down. Board Member Johnson said she has concerns with public comment stricken from the record, citing "The School Board vests in its chairperson or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to content or time limitation". Board Members Dunn and Hayward explained the interpretation of the policy does not mean anything will be stricken from the record or video.
- Rescind Policy Procedure BEDH-P: Board Member Hayward said the necessary parts of this procedure have been added to the BEDH policy.
- Rescind Policy Procedure JLF-P: Board Member Hayward said this is a child abuse reporting form which is not under School Board authority.

General Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items

- There was no public comment for items under discussion and action.

ACTION

- David M. Brooks Music Fund Grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: Motion made by Board Member Dunn to accept the David M. Brooks Music Fund Grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- 3 ESSER Grants (IDEA, Pre-School, and Homeless): Motion made by Board Member Dunn to accept the ESSER Grants as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- Technology donation: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to accept this donation as presented, seconded by Board Member Dunn. The vote was unanimous.
- Stay in School Update: Motion made by Board Member Grenon that we accept the recommendation to stay in school with the same procedure currently, seconded by Board Member Drolet. Board Members Dunn and Johnson opposed. the vote was 4-2.
- Second Read Policy BEDH: Motion made by Board Member Dunn to accept this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. Board Member Johnson opposed. The vote was 5-1.
- Rescind Policy Procedure BEDH-P: Motion made by Board Member Dunn to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.
- Rescind Policy Procedure JLF-P: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to rescind this policy as presented, seconded by Board Member Drolet. The vote was unanimous.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jay Tomlinson talked about the LHS interim Principal presentation, the negative social media posts that were directed toward a School Board candidate running for the At-Large Seat and the pros and cons of vaccinations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Board Member Johnson to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk