

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 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 Chris Guilmett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on October 31, 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 amend the agenda to change Wards 2 and 3 to Wards 4 and 5 under Item #2 and to add the pledge. Motion made by Stacie Sirois to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Scott Vachon. The vote was unanimous.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Stacy Anders, Assistant Laconia City Clerk, administered the oath of office to re-elected School Board Members, which included Stacie Sirois and Chris Guilmett.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mike Persson made a correction to the minutes of October 21, 2013. Barbara Luther also made a correction to the minutes to include her name as attending. Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mal Murray, to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Chairperson:** Mal Murray nominated Joe Cormier for Chairperson. Scott Vachon seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Joe Cormier was elected unanimously.

**Vice-Chairperson:** Scott Vachon nominated Mal Murray for Vice-Chairperson. Stacie Sirois seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mal Murray was elected unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Financial Aid Counselor - LRSF**

Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation Director Joan Cormier and President Paulette Loughlin shared that a local resident had approached LRSF with a generous idea. He would like to help college bound students with their financial planning and has offered to fund the hiring of a financial aid counselor to work directly with students and their parents under the auspices of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation through and upon the recommendation of BHS, GHS & LHS Guidance Counselors. He felt, through personal experience, that high school guidance counselors are overtaxed with their daily workload, in addition to dealing with crises or misconduct situations, and cannot dedicate enough time to each student pursuing post-secondary education. He also felt that the addition of someone with more of a financial background would be a wonderful compliment to the advice and counseling, which is the strength of the guidance staff. Although the proposed concept is the mission statement of LRSF, they feel that they are not experts in the college financial aid field. The goal of this position is to provide one-on-one assistance to help parents and students complete the necessary federal form (FAFSA), research availability of local, state, or national scholarships and help them complete and submit the applications, including LRSF, guide them to affordable colleges, or counsel them to consider colleges within their financial means, and keep in mind the burden of repaying student loans. They are looking to begin offering the services to graduating 2015 seniors and reach out to juniors in the future if the program is successful. The person filling this position will meet with all guidance departments as well as LRSF staff. The Board enthusiastically endorsed the hiring of this position.

##### **New Programs at Huot Career and Technical Center**

CTC Director Dave Warrender presented a brief overview of current and new programs at Huot. There are 12 programs with 14 distinct pathways. New programs offered this year are Allied Health, Hospitality and Recreation Management and Law Enforcement. A five year plan is being developed with the Career and Technical Center Regional Advisory Board and is looking to improve instructional programs and practices as well as providing mentoring for staff. Rosemarie Therrien, a senior at LHS, is currently an Allied Health student who will be involved with an EMT program at Concord Hospital. Interlakes High School senior Emilie Haight is enrolled in the Resort and Recreation Management program and has been accepted to Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island. LHS junior Brycen Martin is studying Criminal Justice in the Law Enforcement program. All three students shared their experiences in the programs.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Under Community Based Education, Superintendent Forsten informed the board that on October 27<sup>th</sup> Senator Hosmer and Governor Hassan hosted a roundtable on Substance Abuse at the MVSB Café at HTC. This community has had recent overdoses resulting in death and all agreed that this needs to be addressed. Approximately 20 students attended this event and were given the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. There will be an informational meeting on Substance Abuse in our community to be held after the Empty Bowls event on November 13<sup>th</sup> at LMS.

Under Facilities, Ed Emond explained that last week the LHS JBC met and the renovations are mostly complete with a few items on the punch list to be addressed. This project came out \$118,000 under budget that will be used for future projects next summer. The JBC meetings will be suspended until spring.

**Public/Administrative Input:**

None

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** This group has not met.

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

**Policy:** Stacie Sirois reported that this committee met on October 21<sup>st</sup> and will be bringing two policies forward tonight for a first reading.

**Strategic Planning:** Mike Persson said that this committee will be meeting in the next month to follow up from the planning session that was held last month.

**Board Member Input:**

Scott Vachon said that the change in the traffic pattern at PSS is working very well for student drop off/pick up and bus lane. Mike Persson said that according to Policies BA and BAA the board should be evaluated annually and this has not been done. He would like to see this looked at and addressed.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR**

New Board Chair Joe Cormier will work on committee assignments and announce them at a later meeting.

**CALENDAR**

Parent Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 10, 2014	All schools at various times
Empty Bowls	Thursday, November 13, 2014	5:30 pm @ LMS Café
Informal Presentation on Substance Abuse	Thursday, November 13, 2014	6:15 pm @ LMS Café
School Board Meeting	Tuesday, November 18, 2014	7:00 pm @ SAU

**SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

**Teacher Evaluation Presentation**

Superintendent Forsten gave the board an overview of the teacher evaluation process that is being created by a committee. The new tool will begin in the 2015 -16 school year. The primary purpose will be to maximize student learning. She outlined the foundations for support and evaluation as well as the domains of professional practice including content knowledge, instructional practice, learner and learning and professional responsibility. The goal of this committee is to create a teacher evaluation tool and process for the fall of 2015. The committee meets monthly with state expertise to support the process. Several board members asked questions and expressed their thoughts.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The following policies were presented for discussion for a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *1st Policy Reading: Policy GBEC: Drug-Free Workplace; Policy GBGAA: HIV/Aids.* Language was removed in Policy GBEC and one word was changed in Policy GBGAA.

**GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be taking any action after coming out of non-public and Joe Cormier said there would be no action. 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.

A parent of a preschool student who had addressed the board at the October 21, 2014 school board meeting asked to speak with the Board again to restate his concerns. Board Chair Joe Cormier said that Superintendent Forsten would be in touch with him.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3II (c) Personnel**

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II letter c to discuss a Personnel issue. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:55 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non Public Session by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 9:53 PM.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler  
Clerk