

**LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 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 Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

PRESENT: Aaron Hayward, Dawn Johnson, Heather Lounsbury, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, Malcolm Murray, Nick Grenon, Superintendent Steve Tucker, and Assistant Superintendent Hinds.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairperson, Heather Lounsbury, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Monday, October 12, 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 Johnson to approve the amended agenda to exclude the School Board Work session on October 21st at 5:00 PM and to add Elm Street donation under discussion and action, seconded by Board Member Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to approve the minutes from October 6, 2020 as presented, seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: Board Member Cormier deferred to Superintendent Tucker to report out. Superintendent Tucker reported on October 13th Committee meeting highlighting the Remote Division proposal, Adequacy Aid, CARES Funding and purchases. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on Speech and Occupational Therapy services for the Remote Division.

Facilities/CIP: Board Member Murray said this committee has not met.

Policy: Board Member Hayward said the committee met on October 7th and will meet again on October 21st.

Strategic Planning/Portrait of a Graduate: Board Member Johnson said this committee has not met.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force: Board Member Hayward said the committee is on hold.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported the work session planned for October 20th is canceled and will work in smaller committees. She talked about committee meetings on a standing schedule, committee reassignments on November 4th, the Superintendent evaluation and the timeline.

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

School Board Meeting

6:30 PM at HTC MVSDB Dining Room

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Reopening Committee Meeting

3:30 PM at the SAU Board Room

Wednesday, November 4th

School Board Meeting

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker presented on the Laconia School District Reopening Updated Proposal. He said the presentation was sent to the School Board and staff members on Tuesday, October 13th. He said the reopening plan is cautious and careful with nimbleness and flexibility. He talked about guidance from the Department of Public Health and communication with schools in the event of a COVID-19 flare up. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on quarter II registration results, the remote division by grade level, the remote division costs for quarter II and support from the Office of Extended Learning. The Director of the Office of Extended Learning, Christine Gingerella talked about the waiver request with regard to flexible use of 21st CCLC funds to support the Remote Division. Superintendent Tucker continued to report on the phasing in plan, HTC attendance, and logistical and critical considerations. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on the seven COVID-19 scenarios and Superintendent Tucker reported on the sample remote schedules. Board Member Dunn expressed concerns with the 8AM morning meeting time and Superintendent Tucker said they can talk about that. He continued to report on COVID-19 data in Belknap County, staff to go back to full face to face school, physical distancing and mask use. He read an email from the State Epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan and talked about plans for closure, remote scenarios, contact tracing, and the Office of School Wellness coordinating two professional development days for staff in the event of snow days. He noted that phasing in can change and pivot to remote learning. Board Member Johnson inquired about phasing in by grade level at opposite ends of the building to get kids back sooner and Principal Beauchemin said the schools will not have enough staff and the grades are set up differently and would not work. Board Member Dunn expressed concerns with the 8:30 AM morning meeting and Principal Levesque said it was to compress the 6-hour schedule to a 4-hour block. Board member Johnson expressed concerns with the phase in with grade levels and classes at Laconia High School. Principal

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Bennett said they will still have the red/white cohorts and will utilize Google Classroom and find the best practice with differentiating teaching. Board Member Hayward inquired about the class sizes at the elementary level and if they will all be 6 feet physically distanced. Principal Johnson said that grade 2 at Woodland Heights has two classes having 21 and 22 students and will be able to maintain 6 feet apart and will wear masks when not 6 feet apart. Board Member Hayward inquired about needing additional staff at Pleasant Street School to support their lunch model and Principal Leveque said no additional staff will be needed but will shift schedules and duties. Principal Beauchemin talked about mask wearing at Elm Street School and mask breaks. Board Member Hayward asked about possible exposure and what that would look like. Superintendent Tucker talked about internal coverage and Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines and contact tracing. Board Member Hayward inquired about the protocol for students waiting outside at school. Principal Bryant talked about floor coverings and encouraging physical distancing, supervision and walking to class. Board Member Hayward inquired about staffing and subs in the event of exposure and the impact it will have on families and noted that the decisions we make affect the health of all of them. Board Member Grenon inquired about the possibility of going to remote learning and if the model would be the same as before. Principal Beauchemin talked about the schedule and said it will definitely look different including direct instruction, break out rooms in Zoom for differentiated instruction.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Trefrey of Ward 3 Pleasant Street asked about the option of using plexiglass barriers in classrooms.

Deborah Wilk, Ward 3 of Pleasant Street asked if students are sitting 6 feet apart do they have to wear masks?

DISCUSSION:

Laconia School District Reopening Updated Proposal: Board Member Johnson inquired about mask breaks. Principal Bryant said Laconia Middle School is working on finding spaces to maintaining 6 feet apart, lunch breaks, utilizing outside spaces, and the increase of mask wearing but will be working mask breaks into the schedule. Board Member Hayward inquired about lunches at Laconia Middle School. Principal Bryant said they eat in the multipurpose room and cafeteria and believe they can have three lunches but will have to have different tables. Hayward inquired about cleaning. Principal Bryant said they will need them cleaned between lunches. Board Member Dunn inquired about families with multiple students how the phase in schedule will look for them, Superintendents Tucker said it was not part of the planning. Board Member Hayward inquired about the contingency plan for positive COVID cases and who would cover a class if we do not have a sub. Superintendent Tucker talked about internal coverage and subs. Board Member Hayward expressed his concerns with phasing in to full and the implications of a potential COVID-19 case would have students, staff and families. He talked about not taking action on approving everything in the phasing in plan and adequately approving each transition as we go.

Remote Division: Board Member Johnson asked if the Remote Davison was covered by the CARES Funding, Superintendent Tucker said CARES and Project EXTRA.

Elm Street School Donation: Board Chairperson Lounsbury talked about the donation from Broadridge in the amount of \$1,966.40 to Elm Street School.

ACTION

Laconia School District Reopening Updated Proposal: Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve the proposal as presented, seconded by Board member Johnson. Board Member Hayward opposed. The vote was 6-1 in favor of the proposal.

Remote Division: Motion made by Board Member Grenon to approve the Remote Division as presented, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

Elm Street School Donation: Motion made by Board Member Johnson to approve the donation of \$1,966.40 to Elm Street School as presented, seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Tucker
Clerk