

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Scott Vachon, Mal Murray, Joe Cormier, Mike Persson, Barbara Luther, Stacie Sirois, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler, and Superintendent Terri Forsten. Absent: Chris Guilmett.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Mike Persson to accept agenda as presented, seconded by Scott Vachon. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mike Persson to approve the minutes of October 7, 2014 as presented, seconded by Joe Cormier. The vote was unanimous with Scott Vachon abstaining.

PRESENTATION

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION UPDATE

Superintendent Terri Forsten gave a short presentation recapping the Strategic Planning Session that was held on Saturday, October 18th. There were 35 participants from school administrators, teachers, parents and community members. The focus was to look at our current strategic plan and to consider focus areas and goals for the next 5-10 years. The SOARS method was used which included our strengths – what are Laconia School District's greatest strengths; opportunities – where are our opportunities for improvement; aspirations – what are our district aspirations; and results – what is the best way to measure our results. Participants were broken up into five groups and Mike Persson said that all the groups came up with similar concepts. He would like to engage more people from the business community and parent groups as well. Next steps will be to engage other stakeholders, communicate our work and seek feedback and create a revised strategic plan for our district.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Under Community Based Education, Superintendent Terri Forsten shared a presentation outlining the "Reimagine Laconia" project that is part of the City of Laconia's Master Plan Update Process. This is an 18-month process to include broad outreach to residents, businesses, and non-profits in the formation of a common vision for the future of the City. Joe Cormier attended a strategic planning session on October 8th that was attended by over 100 people. Each group reported out on common themes. Mike Persson was a facilitator and agreed that this was a great start. There will be another meeting next week. Representatives from this committee were set up at the LHS homecoming game to engage youth and families.

Under Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Assistant Kirk Beitler shared that a team has been formed to investigate and pilot an Elementary Math series K-5 for evaluation. This group will make a recommendation for a new Elementary Math series to begin at the start of the 2015 – 2016 school year. The criteria will align with Laconia School District Non-Negotiables and the Common Core State Standards. It will focus strongly where the standards focus, depth over breadth, with coherence to think across the grades and link to major topics within the grade. There will be rigor in major topics that will be pursued with equal intensity; conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and applications. Scot Vachon asked about how rigorous a curriculum would be for K-5. Mal Murray commented about the level of math taught at the 5th grade level and that it is quite rigorous. Board members expressed concern about implementing this program so soon and that staff would not have enough time to be trained. Terri said that we may implement it in a group of grades rather than K-5. She stated that there will be significant professional development training for staff before implementation. Mike Persson asked for presentations from the Math/Science and STEM councils with a focus on the work they are doing.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Personnel Committee: This committee has not met. Terri, Ed and Scott attended the October 13th Laconia City Council to present a request to set up a contingency account for the 2015 Adequacy Education Aid. There will be a second reading on October 27th and, if approved, the funds will be held in a special account to be used in the future if funding is reduced.

Facilities Committee: This committee has not met.

Policy Committee: This committee met tonight and will be bringing forward "G" policies for a first reading next meeting.

Legislative Update: None

Strategic Planning Committee: None

Board Member Input: None

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Vice Board Chair Stacie Sirois asked for a volunteer to serve on the Bieniarz Award Committee. Mal Murray volunteered.

CALENDAR

Youth Symposium	Wednesday, October 22, 2014	10:00 a.m. @ Boys and Girls Club
Lakes Region Substance Abuse Roundtable	Monday, October 27, 2014	1:00 p.m. @ MVSB Café, Huot Center
Laconia City Council – 2 nd reading/Adequacy Aid	Monday, October 27, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ Laconia City Hall
LHS JBC Committee Meeting	Tuesday, October 28, 2014	4:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room
Laconia School Board	Wednesday, November 5, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

None

DISCUSSION

None

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

A parent of a preschool student asked to speak with the Board asking for mediation to receive additional educational services at the WHS Preschool Program. He currently receives services two time a week and it has been recommended by an outside agency that he receive four days of services. The Board will look into the matter and administration will follow the process for this.

Gail Ober, Daily Sun, asked if anything had been done regarding the issue that was raised by a parent at the last meeting relating to a party that some students had allegedly attended. Administration will be meeting with this parent regarding this matter. She also asked what the status was of the LHS truck that has been impounded after being stolen. She asked if there was an alternative plan for plowing if it is not available. Ed Emond said that they parking lots will be kept safe.

Ed Pierce, Laconia Citizen, asked if there would be a non-meeting and Stacie Sirois told him there would not be a non-meeting. He also asked if there would be any action taken after the non-public meeting and Stacie Sirois told him there would not be any action taken.

ACTION ITEMS

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A: 3II(c)

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mike Persson, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II(c). Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:12 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non Public Session by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mike Persson. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 8:50 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mike Persson, seconded by Scott Vachon, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk