

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chris Guilmett, Mal Murray, Joe Cormier, Mike Persson, Scott Vachon, Stacie Sirois, 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 7:02 PM. The agenda was posted on September 12, 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

Board Chair Chris Guilmett asked that the agenda be amended to add "Approval of August 12, 2014 minutes" and also under Discussion and Action the high school turnaround and potential transfer of funds. Motion made by Mike Persson to amend as stated, seconded by Mal Murray. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mike Persson to approve the minutes of August 12, 2014 as amended, seconded by Scott Vachon. The vote was unanimous. Motion made by Scott Vachon to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014 as presented, seconded by Joe Cormier. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

Laconia Middle School JAG Program

LMS JAG Coordinator Jessica Roberts introduced several students that are currently enrolled in the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates). This is the 7th year that this program has been in existence. The students presented a short power point highlighting their activities for the past year. There are currently 30 students in the program in 7th and 8th grade. The program runs all year and students can move onto JAG at LHS. In the summer they meet for 4 weeks, 4 days a week. Participation is voluntary and 20 students attended various weeks this past summer. They focused on community service, summer homework, team building and exploration. They are part of a state-wide program, following the National Jobs for America's Graduates program model. They learn career skills, perform community service and explore their community. They shared photos and stories about the gardens that they tended at LMS, field trips to Prescott Farm for community service and Incentive Field Trips that they went on. They hiked, paddled the rivers, camped out and visited many great spots in the area. Upcoming events are the Initiation and Installation Ceremony on October 2nd, Stone Environmental School field trip on October 14th and the Empty Bowls Banquet Dinner to benefit local food pantries on November 13th. Several board members thanked them for their presentation and commended them on their commitment to the program. NH JAG State Director Katie Dichard thanked the board for allowing them to present their program.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Under Community Based, Joe Cormier shared information on the newly formed committee "Re-Imagine Laconia". As part of the City of Laconia's Master Plan Update Process, the City has been awarded a Heart & Soul Community Planning Grant from the Orton Family Foundation. Together with funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and assistance from the New Hampshire Listens program of the UNH Carsey Institute, the City is undertaking 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. They will be holding a community forum on October 8th at 6:00 pm at the Belknap Mill and would encourage everyone to attend.

Under Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Kirk Beitler stated that the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing is almost completed in our district. This year it has migrated to web-based and the results are available within 24 hours to teachers. We do not have to order reports anymore and teachers have access to results on their computers. Scott Vachon would like to see data on how students that are involved in summer programming tested out. Kirk stated that this test has been aligned to the Common Core. A presentation on the results will be shared at the October 21st board meeting.

Under Facilities, Ed Emond updated the Board on the building renovations at Laconia High School with a short pictorial presentation. Renovations are almost complete and should be done by the first week of October. Later in the meeting there will be discussion and action on the turnaround in front of the school. He also shared a sample of what the wall of fame plaques will look like. They are being ordered this week.

Under Professional Development, Kirk Beitler shared information on the upcoming "Learn It and Earn It" program for iPad minis. There will be a lottery for staff interested and they will be required to sign a contract stating that they will attend all three programs in order to earn the device. The dates are Thursday October 30, November 6 and November 13 from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Personnel Committee: This committee has not met.

Facilities Committee: This committee met on Monday, September 15th and will report out under discussion and action.

Policy Committee: This committee has not met.

Legislative Update: Board Chair Chris Guilmett shared the publication “Legislative Updates” from NH School Board Association. Janet will send out the website link to this site.

Board Member Input: Mike Persson shared that the Strategic Planning Committee met tonight. They are working on scheduling an October 18th work session that would include board members, administrators and community members to help formulate the goals for the next 5 – 7 years. Details will be coming.

Mike Persson also thanked the district for their support of Up with People. Both nights were sold out with over 900 people attending each night. Stand Up Laconia benefited from this presentation and will be promoting their program with great emphasis on a decrease in youth alcohol and drug use and an increase in positive, healthy peer and family relationships.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Board Chair Chris Guilmett reminded the audience that the 4th Annual LHS Alumni Reunion and Homecoming festivities will be held on Friday, September 19th. He also thanked the Laconia Citizen for their publication of the 3rd Alumni Newsletter that was in Monday, September 15th Citizen.

CALENDAR

LHS Homecoming and Alumni Reunion	Friday, September 19, 2014	4:00 p.m. @ LHS
Laconia School Board	Tuesday, October 7, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Terri Forsten shared the NHDOE online publication, “NH – Our Story of Transformation.” This publication provides information about the successes and struggles to transform the Education System in New Hampshire. The narrative is threaded together with videos of our students, educators, parents, administrators and higher education leaders just to name a few. Elementary ACTL Gail Bourn and Integration Technologist Karen Switzer are highlighted.

Terri also highlighted her September publication, “Monthly Musings” for the board. She shared the connections in our schools with United Way, Aavid and Shaw’s supermarket. She also reminded the board about homecoming and events scheduled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

LHS Turnaround – LHS JBC committee member Joe Cormier shared the proposed repaving of the bus turnaround in front of Laconia High School. There will be granite curbing installed with ADA compliance. The total cost for this is \$40,000 and the committee is proposing that we cover ½ the cost - \$20,000 and take it out of contingency funds.

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if there would be a non-meeting and Chris Guilmett told him there would not be a non-meeting. Dick Coggon asked if there would be a non-public meeting and Chris Guilmett told him there would not be a non-public meeting. Mr. Coggon also asked if there have been any applications for the Ward 2 vacancy. Chris stated that there are not as of yet. He also asked if we will announce when interviews will be conducted and Chris stated that we would post this. Mr. Coggon also asked that Budget Transfers sheets be available to the public at the meeting. Chris stated that this would happen in the future. Mr. Coggon also suggested that the interviews for the vacancy be done the same as the City Council does by interviewing applicants in public at a board meeting and thinks all board members should be involved in this process. He gave a history of prior board members and stated that they should be consulted about the process.

Mike Persson stated that misinformation was published in the paper about how the process works. Budget and Personnel will be recommending candidates and ultimately the entire Board will make the decision of who will fill the position. It is the Board’s responsibility to follow the law.

Gail Ober, Laconia Daily Sun, asked if the Board would be hiring a facilitator to run the Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for October 18th. They are looking into this and there is money allocated in the budget for this. The committee will look at various options.

ACTION ITEMS

LHS Turnaround – Motion made by Scott Vachon to appropriate up to \$20,000 to pay for half of LHS turnaround, seconded by Mike Persson and approved unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A: 3II(c)

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk