

LACONIA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 21, 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, Joe Cormier, Laura Dunn, Heather Lounsbury, Malcolm Murray, Nick Grenon, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Hinds, and Business Administrator Christine Blouin.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chairperson, Heather Lounsbury, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

Board Member Cormier made the motion to amend the agenda to have the Performance Assessment and Portrait of a Graduate to presentation first and the Patriot Award second. The motion was seconded by Board Member Murray. The vote was unanimous.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Murray to amend the minutes to correct the spelling of a last name during Public Comment and under action, to include "Motion made by Board Member Dunn to approve that masks are strongly recommended, with given guidance to the Superintendent". The motion was seconded by Board Member Grenon. The vote was unanimous.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Academic Coordinators, Gail Bourn and Lisa Hinds presented on District Professional Development Day that was held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The presentation highlighted the six skills of the Portrait of a Graduate, Performance Based Assessment, validation protocols, and goals for teaching staff.

Amani Mwirigira with Bruce Thompson presented Superintendent Tucker with the Patriot Award. The award recognizes employers for supporting National Guard and Reserve members.

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Personnel:** Board Member Cormier said this committee has not met but is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Facilities:** Board Member Murray said this committee met with Rist Frost Shumway and discussed items they will work on.

**Policy:** Board Member Hayward said this committee has not met but is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Board Member Input**

There was no Board Member input.

#### **BOARD CHAIR REPORT /CALENDAR**

Board Chairperson Lounsbury reported the October 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Area Board for the Lakes Region Career Technical Education, the NH School Board Association's Delegate Assembly on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Bradley Kidder Law Conference on October 18<sup>th</sup>. She discussed the proposed resolutions for the Delegate Assembly with the Board members.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Tucker reported on the September 14<sup>th</sup> Professional Development day that focused on the Portrait of a Graduate work and Performance Based Assessment work. Business Administrator Blouin reported on changes in the Adequacy Grant Calculation to offset the shortfall, the additional funds, and the transfer of funds to the reserve funds. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported on teaching and learning that included Portrait of a Graduate Task Force and Advisory Board, summer programming, Boy and Girls Club running programs at Woodland Heights School and Pleasant Street School, and a new position at Laconia Middle School and Laconia High School both funded through ESSER Funds and the transition from Naviance to Awato at Laconia High School. Superintendent Tucker reported on the inclement weather plan and the Stay in School Guidelines that included county and local COVID cases from October 2020-September 2021, considerations for safety protocols, the District's COVID dashboard, and the decision making matrix as of September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**DISCUSSION**

- **Stay in School Guideline:** The Board discussed the Superintendent's recommendation to mandate mask wearing across the District, having mask breaks, and not requiring masks when students and staff are 6 feet apart of each other or outside. He offered clarity regarding volleyball at Laconia High School that we would follow the team's higher protocol and guests attending sports games will need to wear a mask entering the building but may take it off once seated. He clarified that if a student needs a reminder for a mask break, that parents should talk with their child's teacher on helping with that if they have any concerns.
- **NH School Board Association Resolutions:** This item was discussed under the Board Chair report.

**General Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items**

- Melissa Hayward of Union Ave talked about being supportive of a mask mandate.
- Alex Dea of Ward 4 talked about being supportive of a mask mandate.
- Doug Teegarden of Gilford Ave talked about not being supportive of respirator masking and gave the Board an informational handout.
- Joe McCarthy of Ward 3 talked about the benefits of KN95 masks.

**ACTION**

- **Stay in School Guidelines:** Motion made by Board Member Johnson to make mask wearing optional unless the Superintendent determines a cluster. There was no second to that motion.

Motion made by Board Member Murray to require masks in school while following the recommendations as discussed by the APA, CDC, and DHHS when students/staff cannot maintain 6 feet apart, seconded by Board Member Cormier. Board Members Johnson and Dunn opposed. The vote was 5-2 in favor of the mask mandate.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Daniel Concannon of Ward 3 talked about opposition to the Critical Race Theory.
- Doug Teegarden of Gilford Ave. talked about his views of transgender issues.
- Sally Schrader of Bridge Drive talked about a program she would like to bring to the District.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (A) AND (C)**

Motion made by Board Member Cormier to enter into nonpublic session, seconded by Board Member Murray. The roll vote was unanimous. The Board entered into nonpublic at 8:26 PM.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Public Session reconvened at 8:46 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Board Member Murray to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Johnson. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds  
Clerk