

The Laconia School Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 39 Harvard Street, SAU 30, Board Room. **PRESENT:** Aaron Hayward, Bob Champlin, Dawn Johnson, Heather Lounsbury, Barbara Luther, Malcolm Murray, Superintendent Steve Tucker, Assistant Superintendent Amy Hinds, and Business Administrator Christine Blouin. **ABSENT:** Stacie Sirois

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Malcolm Murray called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The agenda was posted on Friday, August 30, 2019 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 Dawn Johnson to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Heather Lounsbury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Dawn Johnson to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 as presented, seconded by Barbara Luther. Aaron Hayward noted a typo in the minutes under discussion items. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Personnel: Bob Champlin talked about possible dates for the next Budget and Personnel Meeting. It was agreed to have the meeting on September 25th or 26th contingent on the District meeting schedule.

Facilities: Heather Lounsbury reported that the committee has not met. Bob Champlin asked if there was time when City Councilors could tour District buildings to see all the improvements and if there could be an informative sheet outlining all the work that has been completed by Siemens. Mr. Champlin stated this would happen outside academic hours. Christine Blouin said she would set up a time for a tour and put a list together.

Policy: Heather Lounsbury said the Policy Committee met on August 28th with Tim Goossens to discuss unpaid food service meals, the debt, and policy and procedures to get that remedied.

Strategic Planning: Aaron Hayward reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is in a holding pattern until the end of the month.

Legislative Update: Superintendent Tucker reported on House Bill 111: Related to establishing a committee to study the effect of the opioid crisis, substance misuse, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and domestic violence as a cause of post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome (PTSD) and other mental health and behavioral problems in New Hampshire children. Superintendent Tucker said regarding this House Bill, the Laconia School District is ahead of the curve with all the District's work in this area. Superintendent Tucker went on to report on House Bill 226 relating to an act relative to the renomination of teachers, this bill reduces from 5 to 3 consecutive years of teaching required for a teacher to be entitled to notification and a hearing where the teacher is not reappointed. Superintendent Tucker reported that this House Bill has not passed and could go back to Legislature in the Spring of 2020. Bob Champlin added that Governor Chris Sununu vetoed the budget and the State currently does not have a budget. Barbara Luther inquired about vaping detectors in schools and Heather Lounsbury said that was a summer project at Laconia Middle School and Laconia High School.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Board Chairperson, Malcolm Murray stated that the November 5th school board meeting is also an election day and would like the board to consider moving the scheduled meeting to November 6th. All agreed that November 6th would be suitable date to reschedule.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Tucker reported on the District Opening, on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Maintenance and Capital Improvements, and that the 2/5 portion at LMS is not filled and they are looking at the idea of adding a Reading Specialist to reduce classroom size numbers. Superintendent Tucker informed the board that the Instructional Coaches will start next week and that he is looking at what their schedules will look like. Assistant Superintendent Hinds reported that there are 2 para educator positions at Laconia Middle School unfilled and 1 Para educator position at Elm Street School unfilled and that for the time, those positions are being filled internally or with substitute paras. Superintendent Tucker went on to report that on September 21st we have Homecoming events and there is also a planned block party event with Chaos and Kindness. Superintendent Tucker has met with the Laconia High School Athletic Director, Laconia Police Chief as well as the Laconia Fire Chief to be proactive in managing the events at Laconia High School. Lastly, Superintendent Tucker reported that Louann Breen, the District's payroll Specialist of 21 years has sent in her formal request to retire as of December 31, 2019.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2nd Policy Reading: JH Student Absences and Excuses- The board discussed this proposed, revised policy. Assistant Superintendent Hinds said the procedure will follow this policy and that the procedures are already in the updated building handbooks. The procedure was gleaned from the CHINS checklist created with Juvenile Probation Officers.

1st Policy Reading: IMG-Animals in Schools- The board discussed this policy and agreed that it needs to go back to the Policy Committee to separate the policy and procedure pieces.

1st Policy Reading IMG- Therapy Dogs in Schools- The board discussed this policy and agreed that it needs to go back to the Policy Committee to separate the policy and procedure pieces.

Early Retirement: The board discussed the early retirement stipulations and the board's latitude to approve more than 5 requests. The board talked about the calculation of years of service in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and decided to have a list of early retirement requests brought to the September 17th school board meeting for review, discussion, and action.

School Lunch Program Meal Charges: Superintendent Tucker referred to the handout of option 1 and 2 of the proposed meal charging policy. The board talked about the possibility of utilizing local organizations, student outreach coordinators and social workers working with parents and the potential of small claims court for debt remedy. Superintendent Tucker said that we do not want to be a District that does not feed kids. Assistant Superintendent Hinds said that last year, student outreach coordinators worked with families and that per the McKinney Vento Act, homeless students are automatically eligible for free meals and that a letter goes to food service to inform them so they do not accrue debt. Superintendent Tucker said he will bring a procedure to the September 17th board meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Dunn said that the My Mealtime online fee service is discouraging to families as they charge an additional fee to use the service. Laura went on to say that she liked the envelopes that were once sent home with students as she used the envelope as a reminder to pay her child's lunch account.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Policy Reading: JH Student Absences and Excuses- Motion made by Dawn Johnson to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Barbara Luther. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Heather Lounsbury to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dawn Johnson. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hinds
Clerk