

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chris Guilmett, Mal Murray, Joe Cormier, Mike Persson, Stacie Sirois, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler, and Superintendent Terri Forsten. Absent: Beth Arsenault and Scott Vachon.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Chris Guilmett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on March 31, 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

Chris Guilmett asked to amend the agenda to move the Alternative School presentation to before the PBIS presentation. Motion made by Joe Cormier to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mal Murray. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mal Murray, seconded by Mike Persson, to approve the minutes of March 18, 2014 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

LHS Varsity Cheer Squad

The members of the LHS Varsity Cheer Squad were honored for their second consecutive state championship title this year. Coach Michael Eddy said that the squad are great ambassadors for the sport and have been honored for their Sportsmanship as well. They are well respected by other schools that participate in these competitions. Board members congratulated the squad on their accomplishments.

Alternative School

Alternative School Director Seth Leavitt-Carlson shared with the Board a little history and explanation of the Alternative School program. The program currently has 26 students with a capacity of 30. These students are from Laconia and the five sending school areas. There are three teachers, a director and a part-time secretary. They are located at 17 Church Street and this program was started in 2006. The students who participate in this program are not the "bad kids" but rather students who were not successful at their school and want to make a change in their education and themselves. They are usually facing challenges including poor attendance, low motivation and have difficulty handling conflict or drama. He explained that the staff facilitate change within the students through support and structure to re-engage them in their education so that they meet their educational goals. He went on to further explain the process of a student enrolling, setting benchmarks and ultimately, meeting their goals and returning to their school to earn their diploma or certificate of completion. They also shared thoughts from current and former students on the success of the program.

Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems at LHS

LHS Principal Jim McCollum, Assistant Principal Dave Bartlett and Coach Craig Kozens presented information on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems) that is used to support students at Laconia High School. PBIS is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior based on a Response to Intervention (RTI) model and applies evidence-based programs, practices and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. PBIS is a process for creating school environments that are more predictable and effective for achieving academic and social goals using common language and consistent intervention to create the structure and unified supports for the expected, pro-social student behavior.

They shared data on student attendance and student behavior and discipline. Coach Kozens shared data on teams and their sportsmanship ratings, which have dramatically increased from 22nd in their athletic division to 3rd place this year. Lastly, Officer Steve Orton, School Resource Officer, shared his background and experiences in the high school with the Board. He has seen a marked improvement in the culture and climate of the high school students.

The Board commended the group on their efforts and also recognized teacher Mary Gibbs, who works with the students that are sent to the office to return them to their classes. Mary does an outstanding job with the students and we are very lucky to have her with us.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Under Facilities, Ed Emond shared with the board that the Joint Building Committee for the LHS renovation project met on March 24th and discussed scope of the project as well as the budget. Bids have gone out and the committee will meet again on April 11th to look at bids and make plans to move forward.

Under Grant Update, Terri Forsten said that the position for SAMHSA Project Manager has been offered to a candidate and has been accepted. The candidate will be announced next week.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Personnel Committee: This committee will be presenting the budget to the Board on April 15th and to Laconia City Council on April 28th

Facilities Committee: This committee has not met but will look to meet before the next Board meeting.

Policy Committee: This committee met tonight and will be presenting policies for a first reading at the April 15th meeting.

Legislative Update: None

Board Member Input: None.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Board Chair Chris Guilmett asked that Board members who are interested in being on a strategic planning committee should contact him.

CALENDAR

JBC Meeting	Friday, April 11, 2014	3:00 p.m. @SAU Board Room
Laconia School Board	Tuesday, April 15, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room
Laconia City Council budget presentation	Monday, April 28, 2014	6:00 p.m. @ City Hall

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Gail Ober, Laconia Daily Sun, asked when the original strategic plan was created and was told that it was in 2003 and has been updated and used presently. This is an internal plan and is not required by the Department of Education.

Ed Pierce, Laconia Citizen, thanked Ed Emond and Janet Brough for organizing the City Wide Chess Tournament that was held on Saturday, March 29th. The winner will be awarded their trophies at the April 15th meeting.

Dick Coggon asked if the Board went into non-public session if they would be taking any action when they come out. Chris Guilmett said that they would be going into a non-public session and would not be taking any action.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A: 3II

Motion made by Mike Persson, seconded by Mal Murray, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II letter a to discuss a Personnel issue. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 8:13 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non Public Session by Mike Persson, seconded by Mal Murray. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 8:38 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mike Persson, seconded by Joe Cormier, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk