

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chris Guilmett, Mal Murray, Joe Cormier, Mike Persson, Beth Arsenault, 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 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on May 30, 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

Stacie Sirois asked to amend the agenda to add remove LHS Handbook under "Discussion and Action". Motion made by Scott Vachon to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mal Murray. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mike Persson, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2014 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION

2014 Retirees

Superintendent Terri Forsten presented gift bags and a plant to each of the six educators who are leaving the district with a combined total of 130 years of teaching and guidance counseling experience in Laconia. She highlighted each of their careers with Laconia School District and thanked them for all that they have contributed to the district and students. Retirees from the school district for 2014 include Wendy Olson of Pleasant Street School (36 years); Karen Goss of ESS (30 years); Ginny Babcock of LMS (28 years); Debra Brooks of ESS (27 years); Janyce Forsberg of LMS (26 years); and Aimee Stevens of Woodland Heights School (10 years).

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Under Facilities, Ed Emond shared with the board that the Joint Building Committee for the LHS renovation project is scheduled to meet on Monday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m. He reported that with the guaranteed maximum price the alternates to replace ceilings and lighting in the old part of the building will be able to be funded. They will be finalizing the scope of work however, the work will not be completed by the beginning of the 2014-15 school year but should be completed by October with minimum impact on learning. Flooring and paint will be done by our staff.

Under Technology, Kirk Beitler presented an overview of the proposed 2014 – 17 Technology Plan. He said the update was developed by a committee consisting of district teachers, administrators and staff in accordance with state guidelines and is hoped to be implemented by the start of the new school year this fall. Some items covered in the update to the plan include the creation of more one-on-one learning communities through technology, improving communications between students and teachers from home, being able to tap into a master data collection to access any given student's progress for evaluation purposes, changing out and updating 20 percent of the district's computers every year, exploring more virtual professional development opportunities for teachers, and to use technology as a learning tool. He also said the committee advocates expansion of the Alert Now system for parents and doing more with Edline to increase parental engagement in a child's education. Mike Persson said that he believes more community input into the technology plan update would be helpful. Scott Vachon said he agreed with Persson and likes that technology is now at the forefront of the educational process. Beth Arsenault suggested that we have more staff dedicated to the IT department with over 1100 devices in the district now.

Public/Administrative Input:

Gail Ober, Daily Sun, asked for clarification on which part of LHS would be renovated with ceilings and lights and Ed Emond explained that this was the oldest part of the building where the former science rooms are housed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Personnel Committee: This committee has not met tonight but did present the 2014-2015 Budget to City Council on May 26th. Scott Vachon thanked Ed and Terri for their assistance on this presentation. Following the presentation of its proposed budget to the City Council last week, the city has asked the district to explore dropping an additional \$50,000 from its budget as savings to be applied against the tax cap.

Facilities Committee: This committee has not met.

Policy Committee: This committee met this morning and began reviewing the Laconia High School Student Handbook. They will be bringing this forward for discussion and action upon completion of review.

Legislative Update: Beth Arsenault informed the group that tomorrow is the last day of sessions and it looks like the funding for education will remain the same for next year. She will keep the Board updated.

Board Member Input: Mike Persson shared his thoughts from the LHS Top 10 Dinner that was held last week. It is his hope that this event will continue in the future and that it was a very well organized event. He also reminded the Board that June 4th at 1 pm at LHS will be the presentation of the underclass awards.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Board Chair Chris Guilmett also commended Chris Ulrich for his organizing of the Top 10 dinner. He also reminded Board members of upcoming events. He appointed a committee to review the strategic plan – Mike Persson, Chair; Stacie Sirois and Joe Cormier.

CALENDAR

Laconia Academy Graduation	Friday, June 6, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ LHS Auditorium
Laconia High School Graduation	Saturday, June 7, 2104	4:00 p.m. @ Bank of New Hampshire Athletic Stadium
LHS JBC Committee Meeting	Monday, June 9, 2014	4:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room
Laconia Middle School Graduation	Thursday, June 12, 2014	6:00 p.m. @ Laconia Middle School Gym
Laconia School Board	Tuesday, June 17, 2014	7:00 p.m. @ SAU Board Room

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

LMS Assistant Principal: Terri Forsten presented James Corkum as the new Assistant Principal at Laconia Middle School. He has worked for the past five years as a middle school social studies teacher for the Concord School District. He earned a master's degree in education at PSU and is currently working toward an advanced degree in educational leadership.

ESS Principal: Terri Forsten presented Tara Beauchemin as the new Principal of Elm Street School. She has been a classroom teacher for the past 14 years in the Chichester School District. She received her undergraduate degree from Plymouth State University and a master's degree in education from New England College.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2014 – 2015 School Calendar: Terri Forsten explained to the Board that although we have already approved the calendar a March professional development day needed to be removed in order to have the total number of days required for the school year. This calendar aligns with all of our sending schools for the Huot program.

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if, in the future, a copy of the proposed budget transfers would be available in hard copy for the public. Ed Emond said that this would be available in the future. He also commended the Superintendent for the presentation to retiring educators and said that it was “classy”. He asked if there would be a non-meeting and Chris Guilmett told him there would not be a non-meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2014 – 2015 School Calendar: A motion was made by Scott Vachon to accept the calendar as presented, seconded by Mal Murray. The vote was unanimous.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A: 3II(c)

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mal Murray, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk