

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, Dawn Leamer, and John Harmon (remote); Student Services Director Michael Hatfield; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Safety & Facilities Director Todd Ledoux; Technology Director Brittany L'Heureux (remote); Nutrition Services Director Judy DiNatale (remote).

Proof of Posting: It was noted that the meeting was properly posted.

Pledge of Allegiance: All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) "Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting." Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, Dawn Leamer, John Harmon, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:03 PM and resumed public session at 6:22 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes of item A (which was moved by Tony Clements, seconded by Dawn Leamer, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, Dawn Leamer, John Harmon, and Tony Clements), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Cindy Bennett approached the Board and stated that she watched the video from the Board meeting when the temporary mask mandate at IHGMS and LRES was voted on. She asked Mr. Clements why he voted against the mandate. Mr. Clements stated that he feels it should not be mandatory, and that's it. Ms. Bennett stated that she feels that God was taken out of the schools and physical and social distancing and wearing masks is a disgrace, a healthy person is not sick and shouldn't have to act like one, this is not about our safety and well being, parents have the right to decide for their children and make their own medical choices, and she feels that masking on buses is also an overreach and unconstitutional. Ms. Saulnier reiterated that the mask mandate is temporary.

Maegan Brown approached the Board asking on what date the mask mandate will end. She asked why we are mandating masks at LRES and IHGMS, and stated that if that topic was included on the agenda she would have been at that meeting. Mr. Saulnier stated that the Board was not notified until an hour before the meeting on October 6th that masks needed to be looked at. Ms. Brown asked why masks are required at LRES and IHGMS. Mr. Saulnier stated that they couldn't risk those numbers going up as quickly as they did at RHS. He stated that he had heard that they were looking at October 25th as the date to remove the mask mandate. Ms. Brown asked if the Board could vote tonight to end the mask mandate. She feels that it was a knee-jerk reaction to mandate masks at all schools. She suggested that teachers and parents be brought into the decisions for masks and suggested even if short notice, that an email blast be sent out.

Mr. Clements suggested that the mask mandate be lifted immediately. Ms. Leamer agreed.

Jocelyn Willis approached the Board. She stated that with a doctor's note for her student to not wear a mask, at the middle school it resulted in her daughter not being allowed to have an education that day. She stated that her daughter doesn't want to go to school because she's constantly asked about the fact that she's not wearing a

mask. Mr. Clements asked what the options were for her daughter once the doctor's note was brought in. Ms. Willis stated that she could put on a mask, wear a shield, or go home, and the school didn't have a shield to provide for her. She asked what is the process from here if we get another uptick? She presented a petition for the Board to hold a special meeting to bring the question of face coverings being optional for all to the voters. They would like something in place as policy in the future.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA: MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to amend the agenda to discuss masks at the elementary and middle schools. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to remove the mask mandate at the elementary school and the middle school. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Tony Clements and Dawn Leamer, and was voted in opposition by Joseph Saulnier and John Harmon. Motion failed.

Our Students/Our Schools: Mr. Bickford noted that the field trip being presented this evening was to the Great Bay Discovery Center, not the Seacoast Science Center. IHGMS Teacher Kathryn Blasens and students Giulia Fawcett, Thomas Waterhouse, Alex Moreau, and Hadley Luquette talked with the Board about their trip to Great Bay Discovery Center. They learned about wigwams, the use of cattails, the salt marsh, the countryside store, and using acorns for flour for baking. They each described their favorite thing on the trip - looking at the store, wigwams, and trying to make the wampum.

Student Representative to School Board Report: The Student Representative was not in attendance this evening.

Overnight Field Trip Request: Mr. Bickford and 8th Grade Class Advisor Abby Nieves discussed the proposal for the 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C. The trip is similar to how it's been in previous years and they don't anticipate any challenges at this time. Insurance is the same as in the past. Mr. Bickford discussed the security procedures, including security guards on the floor 10 PM - 6 AM, chaperones, and putting tape on the door. The cost per student decreases as more students sign up for the trip. They are also doing fundraising. About 80% of the class usually goes on the trip. Normally it's four students per room. MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

Superintendent Search Committee Membership: The School Board named the following persons to the Superintendent Search Committee:

Bob Bickford	Rebecca Boucher	Gretchen Gott
Lisa MacDonald	Brittany L'Heureux	Sandra Swiechowicz
Tina Thomas	Dana Zulager	Marjorie Whitmore

MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to accept those individuals for the Superintendent Search Committee. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by

Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed. The Board expressed their thanks to those individuals for stepping up.

Capital Improvements Plan: Mrs. Whitmore presented the updated Capital Improvements Plan. She stated that she did adjust for inflation but took a different approach to it this year. Seeing as it's a 20 year plan she didn't feel that she should apply inflation the same way for a 15 year item. During discussion:

- The van can be pushed out for a few years. The truck is still there but for future years, in 23-24.
- Mr. Harmon stated that he was disappointed, as the Board had asked to have inflation put in but it wasn't put in all the way, only part of the way; that the plan should reflect the full price with inflation.
- Mrs. Whitmore reviewed some of the changes made since the CIP was last presented to the following items: LRES septic replacement, IHGMS flooring upgrades, RHS gymnasium floors, baseball backstop for chain link fences, district truck, control upgrades, boiler upgrades at LRES, infrastructure hardware switch replacement, firewall replacement, wireless environment, replacement camera system.
- Mr. Saulnier stated that he feels going out ten years is probably fine for inflation cost.
- Mr. Clements asked why we're planning for 5% interest each year when historically it's been lower. Ms. Leamer and Mr. Saulnier both stated it's better to have more than not enough. Mrs. Whitmore stated that also the CIP Committee gets frustrated because we put money in the CIP and then we take it back out again.
- Mr. Ledoux confirmed the van can be moved out a year or two. He confirmed that he's no longer thinking he would like a dump truck as opposed to a pickup truck. The \$89,000 in the plan is for a pickup.
- Mr. Harmon asked if it would make sense to move the attached portables and doors to the 22-23 school year. These items have been kicked down the road and at some point we should acknowledge they'll be around for awhile. It may be time to put some money into them to help prevent some heat loss. Mr. Ledoux confirmed that the media center flooring at LRES is not a safety hazard. Mr. Harmon asked if the attached portables' windows and doors could be moved in and the media center flooring moved out a year.
- Mr. Harmon asked if ESSER funds would be available for the high school controls upgrades. Mrs. Whitmore stated yes. Mr. Harmon suggested taking out the high school controls and using ESSER funds. Mr. Ledoux suggested then doing the middle school and the high school at the same time. It was the general consensus of the Board to take out the middle school and high school controls and using ESSER funds. Mrs. Whitmore stated that in the spring they were told that those funds would be used more for professional development so if they are now going to include the controls then she needs to get it written into the grant and then go through the bidding process if it was approved.
- Mrs. Whitmore confirmed the adjustments so far to be made to the CIP:
  - Bathroom upgrades at IHGMS for \$67,803
  - Remove media center flooring for \$31,907
  - Move forward with chain link fence at IHGMS for \$45,202
  - Moving out the district van two years
  - Control upgrades will come from ESSER
  - Replacement of LRES 14 windows and 6 outside doors moved to 22-23
  - With these changes, the bottom line to maintenance would be \$160,305.
- Mr. Harmon stated in the summer the Board asked for the total for the CRF warrant article to be \$412,500 and asked if the Board still wanted to use this amount. He stated he would like to see the savings from these changes and planned savings to be distributed proportionally amongst the three funds

(maintenance, technology, and food service). Mr. Saulnier stated he wouldn't mind keeping the savings right where it is (maintenance). He suggested \$75,000 into technology and to divide the balance between food service and maintenance.

- Mr. Harmon suggested \$100,000 in technology, about \$30,000 in food service, and the remainder in maintenance.
- Mr. Harmon stated that the Board had talked in July about having that separate warrant article at \$75,000 brought up to \$400,000, we may not need to put more money into maintenance, and maybe put this money into technology and food service. Mr. Harmon suggested keeping warrant articles simple, and to not have too many warrant articles. Mr. Saulnier expressed his concern that voters may not realize that it's "up to" and may get sticker shock. Mr. Harmon suggested that if we don't change what we're doing, we're not going to get the savings that we need. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this initiative. Any savings would be distributed between technology and food service.
- The result of the amendments this evening are:
  - Total Warrant Article Amount \$412,500
    - \$160,305 Facilities
    - \$150,000 Technology
    - \$102,195 Food Service

**MOTION:** Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to accept the new CIP Plan. Mrs. Leamer amended the motion to include "as amended" and Mr. Clements seconded the amendment. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to have a warrant article for the wording that we would use the last number of years as up to \$75,000 from the fund balance to up to \$400,000 from the fund balance. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

The Board recessed the meeting at 7:54 PM. They resumed the meeting at 8:04 PM.

**New/Revised Policies - Second Reading:**

**MOTION:** Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept revised policy BDB Board Officers. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept revised policy EEA-R Student Transportation Services. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept policy IO Class Size. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements to accept policy JICJ Personal Communications Devices. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

MOTION: The School Board reviewed the following proposed revised policies: BEDD Rules of Order and DKA Payroll Procedures. There were no further revisions suggested at this time.

The School Board reviewed the following policies: DKC Expense Reimbursements and DP Impact Fees Requests. There were no revisions suggested at this time.

Monthly Financial Update: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending September 30, 2021. She noted that the tax rate has not yet been set. During discussion, Mr. Harmon asked if the variance of -\$100,000 for Federal Aid shouldn't be a positive variance instead of negative. Mrs. Whitmore stated she will look into that.

Committee Reports: Mr. Saulnier attended the New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate Assembly. He stated that the School Board had discussed the question about receiving funds to a particular school district as: the school district that's actually teaching those students should be receiving the funds. But that's not how it is. Chester belongs to a co-op, they send their students to Pinkerton. Pinkerton bills Chester, but the co-op holds those funds. The question discussed at the Delegate Assembly says that Chester should hold those funds so that they can pay Pinkerton and not have to go through the co-op. Another item that came up was having video conferencing for every meeting, with no board members needing to be present. A  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote was needed because it was a new item. He voted no, but the motion passed.

Mr. Saulnier asked that Mr. Clements let the Budget Committee Chair know that the District will get the budget to the Budget Committee on November 24th.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Hatfield, who spoke this evening in Dr. DeRuosi's absence, discussed: the job fair held the previous week; PSAT has been moved to October 26th due to the COVID-19 cluster, IHGMS held an ALICE drill and it was reported by administration that the staff did great and the students were amazing; LRES won first place at the elementary division in art at the Deerfield Fair; LRES is also working with the Lions Club to ensure vision screenings are completed.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$853,883.60. Payroll total \$430,874.95.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the public minutes of October 6, 2021. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, second by Dawn Leamer, to approve and unseal the non-public minutes of October 6, 2021. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed.

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Adjournment: MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned t 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
School Board Clerk

October 20, 2021 School Board Meeting  
Non-Public Session

Minutes DRAFT

Not voted to be kept confidential

Item B

Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Dawn Leamer, Tony Clements, and John Harmon (remote).

The School Board reviewed letters of interest submitted for the Superintendent Search Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk