

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements; Student Representative to the School Board Mason Lord; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Director of Student Services Michael Hatfield; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek.

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.

Public Input: The School Board read emails from community members regarding the use of masks. These emails are attached to the end of these minutes.

Student Representative to School Board Report: Mr. Lord stated that students have expressed concern with the cell phone policy.

Opening Day Principals' Reports: Laura Yacek reported on Lamprey River Elementary School, including: there was a great turnout at the meet and greet on Monday; morning bus drop-offs and parent drop-off line in the mornings have been fine, but afternoon buses have been a little slower which is typical in the beginning of the year; buses are not full at this time, but kindergarten hasn't started running yet. Kindergarten screening started yesterday; incoming kindergarten students have been in to meet the teachers; 93 students are registered for kindergarten for an average of 15-16 students per class; first day 11 students grades 1-3 were absent, today 12 students were absent; total population next week will be 384 students; students and staff are happy to be back. During discussion it was noted that it was the white dot bus that has been running later.

Bob Bickford reported on Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, including: the turnout for open house was very good; 76 students are enrolled in 4th grade, 86 students in 5th, 92 in 6th, 90 in 7th, and 104 in 8th, totaling 448 students; there were a few registrations today that may bring that number above 450; first day attendance was at 98%; currently 25 students are enrolled in Spanish I and 8 students are enrolled in French 1; 6 Unified Arts classes are up and running - all students will be able to participate in all UA classes this year; dropoff and pickup has been a little challenging which may be impacted by the addition of 4th grade, the impact of which wasn't really felt last year - the hope is the backlog will be relieved by Friday, if not they may consider some adjustments to the dismissal process; students are excited; teachers this year will have advisory every day; the middle school had their first COVID exposure - Mr. Bickford reviewed the notification procedure; he stated he understands the concerns about mask-wearing but to his knowledge for the past year and a half there hasn't been transmission of the virus through school-based exposures; right now there are 9 away athletic games for which transportation has not been secured; there are a number of unfilled positions; 5th grade caseload has been spread out among other teachers which has been challenging; without a computer teacher the middle school students are not receiving computer training - the hope is to hire someone to start the program up again at some point in the year; there are fewer interventionists this year than last year; Mr. Hatfield is working on a job fair to try to secure more applicants for para-educator positions.

During discussion, Mr. Hatfield explained the redistribution of the middle school caseload, stating that the fifth grade caseload was divided out among case managers on other grade levels, except to 6th grade which was already high. SAU Special Education staff members are helping in a similar manner at the elementary level.

Mr. Harmon inquired if all Chromebooks have been handed out. Mr. Bickford stated that the Chromebooks are handed out based on parents' completion of the online registration process, which includes the completion of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). All registrations that were done by Monday afternoon had Chromebooks in the classrooms on Tuesday morning, and after that daily at the beginning of the day based on the previous days' registrations.

Mr. Harmon inquired if the dropoff time prior to last year was before 7:35 AM. Mr. Bickford stated yes, but with lack of staffing they are not able to supervise that number of students in the lobby. In the past, any supervision was passive supervision by the school secretary, but they were running into some challenges which would have caused the early dropoff to come to an end regardless of COVID. Mr. Harmon stated that the reason he was asking is due to the high number of cars on Epping Street, but that we'll see if that solves itself.

Steve Woodward reported on Raymond High School, including: 65 freshmen attended the Jumpstart program on Transition Day; they distributed all the Chromebooks they could that day based on registration; there will be 426 students enrolled when preschool starts next week; there were 18 absences the first day; drop offs and pickups don't seem problematic at this point; to enforce rules consistently, every day in Ram Time they're reviewing a policy so that everyone is aware of the expectations in the building.

During discussion, Mr. Harmon asked for confirmation that at the middle school and high school, if a parent hasn't registered, the student wouldn't get a Chromebook and then asked why those students are being treated differently. The District distributes textbooks and other handbooks, and he would hope the students aren't being held back on their learning due to not having a Chromebook. Mr. Saulnier stated he believes there is a legal requirement to have a signed parent agreement before a student uses district technology resources. Dr. DeRuosi stated that he believes the intent is to help get parents to do the online registration, and stated he will look at the AUP and put a copy in the Friday Memo.

Mr. Saulnier noted that the middle school and elementary school calendars on the district website don't have any events.

Mr. Saulnier asked how many students are in preschool. Mr. Woodward replied 47 as of today.

Athletic Transportation: Dr. DeRuosi stated that regarding the need for transportation options outside of Dail Transportation for away athletic events, he has heard back from Durham School Services that they cannot support our needs, though they may be able to help pick students up after games if we send them schedules. After some additional shifting of game times, the bus company is now able to cover 16 of the remaining 41 events. Dr. DeRuosi noted that there is a bottleneck at the state level causing the shortage in drivers right now. Mr. Woodward stated that perhaps the purchase of passenger vans to help with this shortage could be considered a COVID expenditure. Ms. Leamer suggested inquiring with First Student out of Derry. Mr. Woodward replied that when he spoke with First Student in the spring, they were unable to help. Mr. Clements suggested the District purchase buses. In response to inquiry, Mrs. Whitmore stated that the cost for athletic/extra curricular trips is \$29.75 per hour plus cost per mile, and in 2018-19 the District spent \$6,993 on middle school athletic transportation and \$32,126 on high school athletic transportation.

Mr. Harmon asked if the District has looked into renting vans, and stated that he's wondering if anyone has looked into it and found that it won't work. Administration will investigate whether this is an option. Mr. Saulnier suggested leasing as an option.

There was some discussion about Saturday games, but it was noted that there may be problems getting other teams here, and very few players are available to play on Saturdays.

There was some discussion about the possibility of waiving policy requirements to allow parents and students more flexibility to transport themselves/their students to and from athletic events. Ms. Leamer suggested a waiver of liability for the District if parents/students transport themselves.

MOTION: Mr. Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to amend the agenda item "Athletic Transportation" to an action item. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to waive policy EEBB, thus allowing students to transport themselves and a sibling to athletic events during school year 2021-22. Mr. Harmon noted that he is hoping that the motion would be that it only waives that part that is right now exclusive to SST but everything else applies, including the need for a parent sign off. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, second by Dawn Leamer, to waive policy EEBB-R to allow parents to transport their student or students to and from athletic events for school year 21-22. It was noted that the caveat to this motion would be that if we don't have 100% of the athletes able to go because of transportation, then the team doesn't go. Voted unanimously in the affirmative, and the agreement to the caveat was again noted.

District Transportation Update: Mr. DeRuosi has spoken with the principals and is keeping in touch with Dail Transportation. Some of the routes may be a little slow, but they were able to handle the coverage of the routes. The routes are all covered but contractually, the District is still down one bus. Mrs. Whitmore confirmed that the District is not paying for that bus. Mr. Harmon stated that he, as part of the Transportation Committee, will look at revisiting all the bus stops during the month of September.

Potential Current Administrative Reorganization: Dr. DeRuosi stated that he's spent a lot of time meeting with the administrative team regarding the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and he could not in good mindset fill the position this year without a pool of good candidates. He made a recommendation to use some of the salary for that position to allow teams after school to develop the rubrics, led by an administrator.

Ms. Vadeboncoeur asked how this would tie in with the new model with Special Education. Dr. DeRuosi stated that Tier I Support is in our strategic plan, and that the Special Education team would be part of the process. Anytime there is discussion about instructional practices, Mr. Hatfield is in the meeting.

It was the general consensus of the Board that they support Dr. DeRuosi's proposal, and that it doesn't need Board approval as long as the finances for stipends are within the salary limit of the budgeted CIA Director position, which will not be filled this year.

School Board Committee Assignments: Mr. Saulnier stated that he can serve as the Alternate for Seacoast School of Technology. He also volunteered to serve for now as the NH School Boards Association representative.

Signing of Revised MS-25 and DOE-25: Mrs. Whitmore explained that typically the bank reconciliation would have been done earlier. During the Bank Reconciliation Process, it was discovered that part of a journal entry for Food Service to adjust Student & Staff balances was never posted. This has now been completed and the difference was \$11,435.91, so now the amount being returned to the Town is \$11,435.91 less than what was reported at the last meeting.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to authorize the Board to sign both the MS-25 and the DOE-25 as amended. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve policy DGD [District Credit Card Policy]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve policy DI [Fiscal Accounting and Reporting]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve policy DA [Fiscal Management Plan]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve policy DEA [Revenues from Local Tax Sources]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve policy DI-R [Fiscal Accounting and Reporting Regulations]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve policy DID-R [Fixed Assets]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Superintendent Search: Mr. Harmon stated that he asked for this agenda item to start the conversation about what timeframe the Board would like to conduct the search within. After some discussion it was the general recommendation to aim for a completion date of February 23rd. It was the general consensus of the Board that they would like Raymond membership, rather than staff of an organization providing superintendent search services, to review applicants and recommend finalists to the Board. The Board requested that Mr. Saulnier reach out to NH School Boards Association to see if they can provide services that align with this preference, as well as to other organizations that may be able to assist in a similar manner to provide some cost estimates.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the Transportation Committee has had a number of bus stop requests and he will meet with the Superintendent in the next day or so to review them. They'll be looking at the routes in their entirety this month.

Mr. Saulnier stated that no one has yet signed up for the Budget Committee, and their next scheduled meeting date is the date that the District is presenting their year-end review (September 21).

Superintendent's Report: Dr. DeRuosi stated that he visited all buildings on Transition Day and was very impressed by the middle school attendance. Opening Day went very well. Our new teachers are a wide range, not all new, some seasoned. The District will be moving forward with an October 1 vaccination day, working with Walgreens. A survey will go out to the general population to see if there is interest in vaccinations and surveillance testing in schools.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Saulnier read an email from a parent whose child had not received their Chromebook.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$614,753.77. Payroll total \$394,062.78.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2021. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Dawn Leamer abstaining.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve the public minutes of August 11, 2021. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the public minutes of August 18, 2021. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the August 18, 2021 non-public minutes and unseal items B and C. Mr. Saulnier suggested that item C remain sealed. Mr. Harmon withdrew his motion, and Ms. Leamer withdrew her second.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the August 18, 2021 non-public minutes and unseal item B. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, 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" and (i) "Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life." Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements. The Board entered non-public session at 8:39 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal Item A (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Dawn Leamer, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Emails Read at Tonight's Meeting:

I would like it brought to the attention of people of Raymond that I find it very risky & political that there is no mask mandate in school in which my high risk son has been back two days & already exposed in the classroom he can stay in class with a mask & test if we would like? With no online option this puts parents like myself in a position putting me in a corner. The people that don't want to wear mask should be in different classroom or put all the kids with mask in a class by themselves. I think this is to not cause conflict with unruly parents that can't see that the CDC recommendations are REAL.

Katie Beauchesne

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you today in response to an e-mail received from the superintendent of schools about the positive case of COVID 19 that was determined yesterday at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, the first day of the new school year. I was really scared that this was going to happen but not so soon. I watched the meeting last Wednesday and I was completely shocked at the way some of the parents literally pushed you up against the wall to make the masks optional. It felt like they were not given you any chance to vote no matter what you said it didn't matter to them. As I was watching the only thing I kept thinking is that when we filled out the survey in May for the reopening of the school year, that the COVID numbers were down, many vaccinations were given out and we all felt it would be a brand new start and normalcy on the first day of school. But unfortunately towards the middle of the summer or roughly around there the cases started to rise and deaths occurred once again, like reliving the last year and a half all over again.

On the survey, I was a parent that voted for optional mask wearing but hoping for no masks at all, but as it got closer to the start of school. The scarier it got.

After hearing the news on the vote last week, I advised my daughter of the outcome. I specifically asked her to please continue wearing a mask and she had no problem with doing it, I felt at least it would keep her a little bit safer. I also heard from a lot of the parents that kids no matter what ages do not get COVID, but that is false. There have been so many sad stories of how kids are so sick from this and ending up in the hospital for awhile or worse that I believe anyone can get it vaccinated or not. I sent my child to school with a mask yesterday and today, she came home both days and told me she didn't wear it and that nobody else was wearing one, but yet the first day of school there is positive case reported. That is one of many, if nothing gets done. She told me it is uncomfortable and all I can say to her is "wouldn't you rather be uncomfortable wearing a mask than be very sick

and not be able to be in school at all." This is my opinion and I really wanted to release my opinion on this issue last week, but I figured we could give it a try and see how it goes. Other than wearing the mask on the buses, which has to be done, it seems that nobody is wearing one. I do know what optional is but no matter how you look at it I would prefer not to see my child be sick with COVID-19.

I as a parent of a middle school student want this to be a normal year, but it seems like we all need to work together again in order to protect one another and our children from this horrible virus, and in order to do this, I feel and maybe others do as well that the mask mandate should be reinstated and for the school board to have the option to re-vote on the mask mandate. I understand that the situation is being monitored and I know that you will do what's right for our kids and our town.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concern.

Mother of Middle School Student

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session
September 1, 2021

Not voted to be kept confidential.

Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi.

Item B

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to amend the non-public minutes of May 5, 2021 to read "The Board discussed Tony Clements' recent interaction with a staff member" and to unseal. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative and Tony Clements abstaining.

Respectfully submitted,
Ada Vadeboncoeur,
School Board Member