Raymond School Board Meeting June 15, 2022 Raymond High School Media Center Minutes Page 1 DRAFT

<u>Call to Order</u>: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, John Harmon, and Ada Vadenboncoeur (remote); Student Representative to the School Board Alyison Miller; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Safety & Facilities Director Todd Ledoux.

<u>Proof of Posting</u>: It was noted that the meeting was properly posted.

<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>: All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) "The hiring of any person as a public employee" and (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, Ada Vadeboncoeur, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:11 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett,, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

<u>Recognition</u>: The School Board recognized the following retirees from Raymond School District and wished them well, with thanks, in their retirement: Marlene Jones, Judson Slack, Mary Ann Lessard, Bob Gagnon, John Fulton, Barbara Buckingham, Sharon Doumas, and Maureen Desrosiers.

Open Public Hearing: The Board Vice Chair opened the public hearing To consider the expenditure of funds totaling up to \$41,000 from the Raymond School District Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: IHGMS Steamer Replacement and LRES Convection Oven Replacement. There was no input forthcoming. The Board Vice Chair closed the public hearing.

<u>Public Input</u>: Joseph Saulnier read an <u>email</u> from Christina Pauli regarding support for Dr. Fiona Coomey as Principal of Raymond High School. That email can be found at the end of these minutes.

Molly Nelson approached the Board and spoke in support of Dr. Coomey for the position of Raymond High School Principal. Ms. Miller and accompanying also spoke in support of Dr. Coomey.

Kate Cusano Brooks approached the Board and suggested that the District provide clarification to the community regarding the high school principal search.

Sandra Swiechowicz approached the Board and voiced her support for Dr. Coomey.

Brady Matheiu approached the Board and voiced his support for Dr. Coomey.

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<u>Student Representative to the School Board Report</u>: Ms. Miller reported on the seniors' last week in school. Class Night took place on Wednesday and Graduation took place on Friday. Finals for underclassmen are taking place this week.

Student Transportation to Sporting Events: Dr. DeRuosi reviewed the legal advice he was provided regarding the fact that any type of payment or reimbursement would put the district in a place of liability, and noted that he was asked to look to see if there's any way to alleviate that liability. Attorney advice is if the District were to reimburse after the fact we'd have a good idea if there was any level of accidents, etc., that would remove district liability, but then the District could still be liable for inappropriate conduct during transportation. He stated that he also has his own concern to reimburse after the fact regarding how to confirm who actually did the transporting. He and Mrs. Whitmore will be reviewing the transportation contract to determine legal rights moving forward if Dail Transportation cannot provide the transportation needed.

John Harmon left the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Mr. Clements asked about what it might cost for districts to run their own buses. Mrs. Whitmore stated she has correspondence from another district that their budget for transportation is two million dollars, but that's with 2100 students in three towns, and they, too, are struggling to find drivers. Ms. Bennett inquired if 15-passenger vans would be an affordable option for future consideration. Dr. DeRuosi stated that if the District was to consider purchasing vans that would be about a year's worth of planning taking place during budget development.

Kate Cusano Brooks approached the Board and asked when discussions will take place as to what will happen next year, and asked if there's something the teams can do to raise money. Mr. Saulnier stated that administration will be looking at the transportation contract and then bringing recommendations to the Board.

<u>2022-23 Student Handbooks</u> Mr. Woodward reviewed the Raymond High School Athletic/Extracurricular Handbook and the Raymond High School Student Handbook proposed for next school year. There were no changes to the Athletic/Extracurricular Handbook but depending on what happens with transportation he noted that there may be a need to update the transportation part of that handbook. He then reviewed the proposed changes to the Raymond High School Student Handbook.

There was some discussion about the need for adequate staff coverage of any opened doors at the high school.

<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the 2022-23 Raymond High School Student Handbook. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the 2022-23 Athletic/Extracurricular Handbook. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>IHGMS Handbook Revision: Schedule</u>: Mr. Bickford reviewed the proposed revised schedule for Iber Holmes Gove Middle School for 2022-23. The biggest change is going from five lunches to three lunches. With this change, two lines would be needed. They have enough staff for that, but some modifications need to be made. The other significant change is everybody being in morning meeting at the same time.

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Mr. Ledoux stated that the middle school food service line has always been set up to service two lines, but they have to add some equipment. The bigger part of the project is that the use of the cafeteria stage, which currently supports some students for lunch, may not be sustainable. The options are to remove the staff or maybe have a pull out stage for small performances. The stage is currently underutilized. Another option is to maybe redesign the stage with railings, but that's less ideal for facilities' purposes.

<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the purchase of a two bay electric hot table, a table top glass door refrigerator and associated electrical needs with an estimated cost of \$8,750 Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School revised schedule. Mr. Saulnier asked if there are any negatives to adopting this revised schedule. Mr. Bickford stated that for the last few years the first period of the day at the middle school was aligned with the high school. Next year, this schedule would not allow that. Currently there are less than ten open seats between French and Spanish. If they accommodate those ten students, then this schedule wouldn't be able to happen, as the first period at the middle school is a longer block and is now an academic block, not Unified Arts.Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Professional Development Master Plan</u>: Dr. DeRuosi reviewed the proposed revisions to the updated Professional Development Master Plan. <u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the Professional Development Master Plan. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>2022-23 Employee Handbook</u>: Dr. DeRuosi reviewed the proposed revisions to the Employee Handbook. Mr. Clements asked if language can be added to discourage teachers from taking time off in the same way that parents are discouraged from keeping students out of school. Dr. DeRuosi stated he will look into adding that language. Mr. Clements asked if, regarding Title IX, if sexual harassment happening outside the country isn't taken into account. Dr. DeRuosi stated he will look into that.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the 2022-23 Employee Handbook. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Nominations/Resignations: MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Laurie Collins as a special education teacher at LRES. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept Jocelyn Biedrzycki as a social worker at LRES. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Shanyn Grenier as a school counselor at RHS. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

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<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the resignation of Mark MacDonald effective June 30, 2022. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the transfer of Barbara Kelly to Dean of Student Support Services at the IHGMS. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Expenditure from Capital Reserve Fund</u>: Mrs. Whitmore distributed the **quotes for this expenditure**, which she did not receive until 5:00 today. She stated that they have not yet heard back from vendors regarding the steamer. The two quotes are for the convection oven, plus about \$300 for installation.

John Harmon returned to the meeting at 7:51 PM.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the expenditure of funds totaling up to \$41,000 from the Raymond School District Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: IHGMS Steamer Replacement and LRES Convection Oven Replacement. Motion passed with Ada Vadeboncoeur, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Cindy Bennett voting in the affirmative and John Harmon abstaining.

<u>New/Revised Policies First Reading</u>: The School Board reviewed the following proposed new and revised policies for the first of two readings:

**BEDG Minutes** 

ECAF Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses
EEAA Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property
EDCA Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices
EDCA-R Employee Use of Cellular Telephones
GBEBB Staff-Student Relations
JJE Student Fundraising Activities
JLCJA Emergency Plans for Sports Related Injuries

Regarding Policy GBEBB, there was some discussion about investigating options for coaches or other staff members to send a group text to students through the use of apps, the need for administration to develop a procedure for parents to opt in or out, and for that process to be clear to parents. Dr. DeRuosi will discuss this with I.T. for their recommendations.

<u>New/Revised Policies - Second Reading</u>: <u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve policy BBB School Board Elections. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve policy BEC Non-Public Session. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

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<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve policy DAF Administration of Federal Grant Funds. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve policy GBI Staff Participation in Political Activities. Ms. Bennett asked if it's possible to clarify "political." During discussion, Dr. DeRuosi stated that viewpoints or opinions shouldn't be interfering with class. Ms. Vadeboncoeur stated that policy is a guide and if a parent is concerned, then it goes to administration. She stated that if we tried to identify every single thing that is political, anything could be considered political, and to let the district follow the guidelines provided by the Board. Mr. Harmon noted that events and facts can be discussed in class, but not opinions. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve policy IB Academic Freedom. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Policies Annual Review</u>: <u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to review policies DFA and DFA-R. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, <u>Tony Clements</u>, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Strategic Planning Membership</u>: <u>MOTION</u>: John <u>Harmon moved</u>, <u>seconded</u> by Tony Clements, to appoint Marisa Lara as a Strategic Planning Committee member representing LRES as a parent. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John <u>Harmon</u>, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative

<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to appoint Danielle Karcz to the Strategic Planning Committee as a citizen. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to appoint Elizabeth Boucher to the Strategic Planning Committee as support staff for the middle school. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>Monthly Financial Update</u>: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending May 31, 2022. During discussion, Mr. Harmon and Mr. Clements indicated that they would like for I.T. do determine if there are any more tech needs at the schools, since there is still funding available in those lines.

<u>Authorization for School Board Chair to Sign FY 2023 General Assurances</u>: <u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to authorize the Board Chair to sign the FY2023 General Assurances. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative and Cindy Bennett abstaining.

<u>NHSBA Call for Resolutions</u>: <u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the proposed resolution for NHSBA as presented. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

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<u>Auditor Engagement Letter</u>: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the letter to authorize auditor services for the 2021-22 school year, to be signed by the Board Chair. <u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the Board Chair signing the auditor engagement letter as presented. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: None.

<u>Superintendent's Report</u>: Dr. DeRuosi stated that he attended Senior Awards Night, which had a great turnout, where students were recognized for their academic ability and scholarships were awarded. Last week the IHGMS National Junior Honor Society's Induction Ceremony was held. And the RHS Graduation was nicely done out on the field.

Mr. Saulnier thanked Dr. Deruosi for working with the District this past year as Interim Superintendent of Schools.

<u>Correspondence/Other</u>: The School Board scheduled a meeting on Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 PM to discuss setting goals for incoming Superintendent Terry Leatherman.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total: \$682,965.22 Payroll total: \$480,835.12

<u>Approval of minutes</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by <u>Tony Clements</u>, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2022. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, <u>Tony Clements</u>, <u>John Harmon</u>, <u>Cindy Bennett</u>, and <u>Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative</u>.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve and unseal the non-public minutes of May 18, 2022. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

<u>MOTION</u>: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the minutes of June 1, 2022. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon 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, Ada Vadeboncoeur, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:04 PM and resumed public session at 9:33 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes, since not doing so would render ineffective the action/proposed action taken in non-public session (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett,, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

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Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood, Raymond School Board Clerk



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## Raymond School Board Non-Public Session June 15, 2022

Not voted to be kept confidential.

## Item A

Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, John Harmon, and Ada Vadenboncoeur (remote); Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi.

Dr. DeRuosi reviewed this evening's nominations and resignations with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood, Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session

June 15, 2022

Not voted to be kept confidential.

## Item B

Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, John Harmon, and Ada Vadenboncoeur (remote); Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi.

The School Board reviewed the letters of interest received for the Strategic Planning Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood, Raymond School Board Clerk Raymond School Board Meeting June 15, 2022 Raymond High School Media Center Minutes Page 9 DRAFT

## Email read during tonight's public input:

"Remember, I'm here when you need me."

May 17, 2022

Dear Ms. Vadeboncoeur and Dr. DeRuosi,

We would like to thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns about the future of Raymond High School. Right now, we feel we are at a very crucial moment. Throughout the last two years, our community has faced some of the gravest challenges many of us are likely to ever see in our careers. While conquering these obstacles, the faculty and staff at Raymond High School have been able to depend on a consistent source of support and guidance in our Assistant Principal, Dr. Fiona Coomey. We would like to formally voice our support for her candidacy for the role of Raymond High School Principal beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

There are several reasons we feel Dr. Coomey is the candidate we need for this extremely important role. She, too, faced an unprecedented number of challenges throughout the last two years after fulfilling her new role as Assistant Principal in 2020. Throughout her tenure as Assistant Principal, Dr. Coomey emphasized the importance of unity, respect, consistency, and communication. She actively puts these notions into practice in her day-to-day interactions with her colleagues, students, and community members. We have no doubt that Dr. Coomey's heart is truly "Forever Green." Not only does she promote and encourage our school's core values and beliefs in our community, but she also embodies many of them. Her rapport with students, parents, faculty, and staff is unique, authentic, and heartfelt. Perhaps what is most admirable about Dr. Coomey as a leader is her innate passion for learning. She considers the education of our students to be at the essence of what she does as a professional. Additionally, she embraces her own love of learning by asking questions, seeking honest feedback, researching for much-needed answers, and following through with concerns and suggestions.

At the end of her emails to faculty and staff Dr. Coomey writes, "Remember, I'm here when you need me." This is *not* something she writes simply because it sounds like a decent thing to say during a trying time. Dr. Coomey has been there for us any time we've needed her. It is fitting that her quote seems to be relevant to our community's current hiring situation. Dr. Coomey *is* currently here with us at Raymond High School, and we *do* need her as our new leader.

We know you are just as concerned about the future of RHS as we are. It is our sincere hope that the decision of who will fulfill this role will be made with our students' best interest in mind with Dr. Coomey as the selection for the Principal position at Raymond High School. Thank you for your time and dedication to the Raymond community this year.

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Signed, the Forever Green Faculty and Staff of Raymond High School,

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