

Raymond School Board Meeting  
June 14, 2023  
Raymond High School Room 109  
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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Lamprey River Elementary School Assistant Principal Dorothy Franchini.

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.

Recognition: The School Board recognized the following retirees and thanked them for their service with the District:

Bob Bickford, IHGMS Principal  
Carla Ahearn, IHGMS Secretary  
Pierre Dupuis, Maintenance Technician  
Deborah Papamichael, IHGMS Nurse's Assistant  
John Long, RHS PE Teacher  
Dean Plender, RHS Tech Ed Teacher  
Joann Plender, ESOL Teacher  
Robin Koczera, RHS Paraeducator  
Michele Busby, Kindergarten Teacher  
Amy Rocci, LRES Math Interventionist  
Dianne Cote, LRES Custodian

The School Board also recognized LRES Teacher Hailey Mercier as the recipient of this year's Raymond School District Teacher of the Year award, and RHS Paraeducator Karen Berube as the recipient of this year's Raymond School District Champion for Children.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) "The hiring of any person as a public employee" and (d) "Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community." Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:23 PM and resumed public session at 7:02 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal item A, as not doing so would render ineffective the action/proposed action taken in non-public session (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 7:03 PM. Mr. Harmon noted that public input would be open for 30 minutes. If anyone arrives within that timeframe and would like to speak, they will be allowed to do so. There was no public input forthcoming.

5th Grade Teacher Looping: IHGMS teachers Katie Bronson, Stacey Darwent, Ashley Meyer, Jennifer Saltmarsh, and Katherine Brand-Holt discussed looping with the School Board. They reviewed the benefits and challenges of looping and state assessment data for grade levels that participated in looping.

Bus Stop Location: The School Board discussed the location of the IHGMS bus stop at the corner of Lynwood and Sherman. It was noted that this stop has come before the School Board several times over the last number of years. Mr. Scarfo stated he's not sure that the time savings would be significant enough to warrant a change. Mr. Clements stated that based on the information provided he doesn't feel that it warrants being changed. Mr. Saulnier stated that he feels it's a safety issue. Ms. Bennett stated that she appreciated the work put into the review of the bus stop, but that she sees the reason for concern and would honor the parents' perspective. Mr. Harmon stated that he will support keeping the stop where it is, and that each board comes to a decision uniquely because the situation is unique each time it's presented.

Brian Berkley approached the Board and asked if keeping this stop where it is would impact the efforts to combine elementary and middle school bus routes, as the Board had previously discussed. Mr. Harmon stated that as it stands now, they will not be combining bus routes, though there is the potential for change and if so, they would have that conversation then.

LRES End of Year Principal's Report: Ms. Yacek and Ms. Franchini reviewed the year-end report and assessment data with the School Board, which included year-end i-Ready assessment information. Schoolwide, students met 122% of the reading goal and 99% of the math goal. During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon asked if Ms. Yacek could provide a sense of how many additional students will register for kindergarten. Ms. Yacek said that typically they see 20-30 students enroll in July.
- Mr. Harmon asked for information on test results for individual classes that piloted the two reading programs in comparison to others.
- Mr. Harmon asked which domains do we think will see the greatest effect with i-Ready next year. Ms. Yacek stated comprehension, literature, and informational text, and that we should also see an increase in phonological awareness and phonics due to professional development.
- Mr. Harmon asked for the graphs to include the end of year, spring, winter, and fall, and then next year include kindergarten scores. He said it's important to see how that grade did and how the kindergarten did over two years. Mr. Leatherman clarified: fall to fall,

winter to winter, spring to spring. Mr. Harmon said yes, and kindergarten below to see where they are.

- Mr. Harmon asked if we know why the first grade progress is not as strong as the other grades. Ms. Yacek stated that first grade is right alongside kindergarten for challenging behaviors this year.
- Mr. Saulnier asked what we're doing to keep students who score way above average from being bored. Ms. Franchini stated that i-Ready provides specific lessons for higher testing students.
- Mr. Harmon asked if sometime in the summer the Board can be provided with a comparison to 20 districts.
- Mr. Harmon asked if there is anything they should be doing differently that would help. Ms. Franchini stated that in kindergarten and first grade each student had their own device, but it was overwhelming for the teacher to help all the students. Mid-year they did small groups instead. She recommended starting out that way in kindergarten and first grade.

2023-24 LRES Student Handbook: Ms. Franchini and Ms. Yacek reviewed the proposed revisions to the LRES 2023-24 Student Handbook. During discussion:

- Ms. Yacek will inquire with the nurses about whether "as needed" must remain, as well as "other than COVID" - responses will be provided in the Friday Memo.
- Designated volunteers will be required to complete ALICE training.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the 2023-24 LRES Student Handbook as amended. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New Position - Lead Behavior Coach: Mr. Leatherman discussed the proposed position of a Lead Behavior Coach, which requires a transfer of funding from contracted services to salary and benefits. This is not a licensed position. The District is still advertising for a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, which is an umbrella over these individuals. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to transfer up to \$280,000 from contracted services to salaries and benefits for the hiring of a lead behavior coach and four behavior coaches. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Transportation Contract and Special Needs Transportation Contract: These items were postponed to a later meeting, as there was no additional information received.

Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Leatherman reviewed his updates on the Parent and Community Engagement section of the strategic plan. During discussion it was agreed that a time for parents to meet each buildings' administrators (principal, assistant principal, and dean) would be scheduled. Mr. Harmon suggested they be held the first week or so of school, on different evenings.

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Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the resignation of Jessica Webster-Jones, effective June 30, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the resignation of Mariah Maki, effective June 30, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the nomination of Ellie Samuelson, IHGMS Music Teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Kelly Harte, Dean of Student Services at LRES. Mr. Harmon asked if it has been determined which Dean of Student Services would be handling preschool. Mr. Leatherman said that is yet to be decided. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the nomination of Margit Hird, LRES Teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Caitlyn Fogg, IHGMS School Counselor. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Angela DePalma, Dean of Student Services at RHS. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Acceptance and Expenditure of Unanticipated Funds: Mr. Harmon noted that, though the public hearing to accept and expend these funds was held at a previous meeting, the Board had not yet acted on a motion to accept and expend. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept and expend the following unanticipated funds from state, federal, and/or private sources under 198:20-b: \$2,707,570.11 Title I, Title IIA, Title IVA, Title IVB, IDEA, ARPA ESSER III, NH Department of Health and Human Services, & Project Aware, Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, High School Robotics, Public Infrastructure, NE Dairy Association; \$3,100.14 Education Freedom Account Phase-Out; \$116,000.90 New Hampshire Retirement System One-Time Employer Contribution Reimbursement (HB 1221); \$407,416.73 Special Education Aid; \$34,214.61 School Care Refunds. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

There was some discussion about using the amount of unanticipated funds over what was budgeted for the purpose of i-Ready.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to use \$119,101.04 of the unanticipated funds for the i-Ready program. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

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NHSBA Call for Resolutions: No resolutions were proposed at this time.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the Policy Committee met and reviewed some policies, but others would wait for all members of the Policy Committee to be present.

Mr. Saulnier state that the Raymond Coalition for Youth met, they had an interesting speaker, and they went over the videos for the youth action group that premiered in Epping

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated that it's been an extremely busy hiring season, we have a full administrative team, graduation and senior night were great, and a wide variety of students received awards.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Clements stated that the LRES PTO is doing work on the garden beds if anyone would like to help.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Account Payable total \$1,041.92. Payroll total \$533,830.75.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, 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, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:40 PM and resumed public session at 9:58 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes, as not doing so would affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a Board member (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements), six motions were voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk

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Raymond School Board Non-Public Session  
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Not voted to be kept confidential.

Item B

Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Tony Clements, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman.

The Superintendent reviewed this evening's nominations with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk