

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo; (Tony Clements arrived at 8:00 PM); Student Representative to the School Board Tucker Sopha; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore.

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: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, 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, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 7:55 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 Cindy Bennett, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 7:56 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.

Nominations/Resignations: None.

Transportation Contract: Mr. Leatherman stated that he had no further information regarding the possible bus contract, but he is aware that there may not be athletic transportation this year. He said that he hopes to have all of the information for the next meeting.

Hockey Multi-Year Plan: Mr. Leatherman said that NHIAA has stated they will not honor a one-year agreement, and they have requested a three-year agreement. He stated that parents are paying for year one, and that there will be discussion about years two and three, but there is no guarantee at this point that the district will be paying for it. Mr. Saulnier noted that in the agreement, it states that the district is paying, not the parents.

Tony Clements arrived at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Harmon stated his concern is that they went from committing to one year to three years with no vote from the citizens. If we agree and we don't get our budget, we would be cutting other things because

we won't be able to cut hockey because we are committing. Mr. Clements stated that even if we sign the agreement, we are not obligated to send students. Mr. Saulnier asked if there is a form for parents and students to sign to agree to pay the cost. Mr. Leatherman stated that form would be developed. Mr. Scarfo stated that this agreement would provide an opportunity, not an obligation.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the Sanborn Epping Raymond Cooperative Ice Hockey Team agreement for 23-24, 24-25, and 25-26. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

Mr. Sopha left the meeting.

2023-24 Bus Routes: Mr. Harmon stated that as per School Board policy, the bus routes should be approved by the School Board prior to posting on the website. He noted that the policy should be reviewed. During review of the routes, Mr. Harmon suggested moving the high school stop on the corner of Lane and Sherman, as that stop was considered to be an unsafe stop for the middle school. He asked that the bus company weigh in on the best place to go.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the high school bus routes draft as amended for 23-24. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the elementary and middle school bus routes for 23-24. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Budget Development Planning Work Session: Ms. Whitmore distributed an updated budget planning worksheet. Mr. Scarfo asked if the increase in projected budget next year includes potential surprises such as special education tuition. Ms. Whitmore stated that it does not. She said that we will not receive out-of-district tuition rates until next month, so for the time being the increase is based on 22-23 tuition rates. Mr. Harmon stated that we have a capital reserve fund for the purpose of special education tuition with about \$200,000. Mr. Scarfo asked if a buffer of about 20% could be built into the budget. Mr. Saulnier stated that the biggest issue is that what we have got is where we stand plus additional students this year, which can be put into the default budget, but increasing things generally would cause a wider variance between the budget and the default. Mr. Clements suggested using year-end funds for the capital reserve fund.

Mr. Saulnier stated he'd like to see two things: what the district's needs are when they are planning the budget and making cuts later, and he'd also like to see Spanish or World Languages back at the middle school. .

Mr. Harmon stated one of his concerns is that if we continue the behavioral health program for 2024-25, that will no longer be grant funded and it's ours to pay. Some of that the district is paying now. He

believes that's an initiative but he's not sure since it's a current program. He asked to look into how LEAP was handled when it wasn't funded - was it an initiative?

Mr. Harmon stated that another concern is the 8% projected increase. The year we're in now is 6.5%, so we're north of 13% for two years. We need to be in tune with what citizens can pay. He stated as of right now he can't support \$31 million. He would like to see wages go up for the district and the way to do that is to be fiscally responsible.

Mr. Saulnier asked if, since the cost for behavioral health was grant funded, would the whole \$600,000 appear on the default budget? Ms. Whitmore said she can check with legal but she doesn't think so.

Mr. Harmon stated he won't support \$31 million but he's hoping for support to provide direction to administration. Mr. Scarfo stated it looks to him like the increases are fixed, so he doesn't understand where cuts would be made. Mr. Saulnier stated at this point he can accept what's being proposed now because if things do happen they can shuffle it around.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the budget plan as presented. Mr. Clements asked if this is the starting point. Mr. Harmon stated it gives direction to administration that the Board wants to budget in that dollar amount area. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

Budget Delivery Date: The School Board set meetings for October 24 and October 25, both at 6:00 PM, for department budget presentations. Mr. Harmon suggested that if the school district is able to provide the budget to the Budget Committee after Thanksgiving, there is a better chance of giving accurate information (as some information from the State usually doesn't come in until mid-November).

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$437,208.36. Payroll total \$192,434.73.

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk