

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Director of School Nutrition Services Tasha Ball.

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." 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 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:22 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal item B, as not doing so would adversely affect the reputation of someone 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, Stephen Scarfo and Tony Clements), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 6:23 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.

Student Representative to the School Board Report: The Student Representative to the School Board was not present this evening.

2023-24 Meal Prices: Ms. Ball reviewed her recommendation for meal prices for the 2023-24 school year, as well as some comparison information regarding lunch programs in other districts. During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon stated that he has asked about the total budgets these districts have that we're comparing ourselves to, and that the issue he has is that in each case they don't have a significant variance like Raymond does, so they are charging prices reasonable for them. Raymond has a food service debt in excess of \$125,000 and his concern is that we're continuing to have large debts.
- Mr. Leatherman stated that Londonderry had pulled out of the USDA program and started serving foods that the students liked better and sales went up. Ms. Ball suggested that if Raymond looks to go off-program, that we consider students' disposable income and how free and reduced meal students would be impacted. Mr. Harmon asked if pulling out of the program at the high school would affect aid to the middle and elementary schools. Ms. Ball said no. Mr.

Leatherman stated they can reach out to Londonderry to see if they're still off-program and what their experience has been.

- Mr. Saulnier suggested discussing the meal service debt with the state representatives when they meet with the Board. Mr. Harmon said whether people pay for their meals is not a legislative issue. He suggested discussing the policies and procedures in place to collect meal debt at the first meeting in September.
- Mr. Scarfo asked if it makes sense to come off a federal program if it won't actually help to fully eliminate the deficit in the food service program. Ms. Ball stated that coming off-program means that we don't have to follow their rules, so we would no longer be required to feed students at cost.
- Ms. Whitmore shared the amount of the food service meal debt at each school: LRES: \$7,684. IHGMS: \$7,193. RHS: \$4,880.
- During discussion, Ms. Ball stated that a la carte meals are not reimbursable. She reviews those prices annually. There should be a markup on all items that are being sold. She hasn't completed that process yet but she's reviewing them and getting them updated. Mr. Saulnier asked to know what the percentage is that we're increasing a la carte prices by for the next time it is discussed. Ms. Ball stated she will also bring back at that time what we're actually receiving in reimbursements.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by John Harmon, to raise 20 cents for lunch prices throughout the district. Mr. Clements stated he feels like this is punishing parents and students because of the model in place. Mr. Scarfo stated that it seems strange to pay employees one way but food service another. Mr. Harmon stated they're paid the same way, just from a different fund. After further discussion, he stated that he didn't want people to think that lowering the food service deficit amount can't be done - it can, it's the situation in Raymond. Ms. Ball stated she visited Epping and that it does come down to staffing. Ms. Bennett stated that our prices are lower than the cost to make the meal, so we aren't going to make that up. Mr. Scarfo stated he's worried about the overall process and consistently carrying \$100,000 in deficit. Mr. Clements asked if we're not going to make this up then why do it? Mr. Harmon stated he doesn't think it should be put on all taxpayers. Mr. Saulnier asked if the federally approved lunch could be in one section and then off program meals in another. Ms. Ball replied no, everything sold during the school day needs to be compliant. Mr. Scarfo asked for information about other schools in New Hampshire who have gone off-program and if they've been successful. Motion passed with John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Joseph Saulnier voting in the affirmative and Tony Clements and Stephen Scarfo voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to increase breakfast prices at the middle school by 10 cents. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, Cindy Bennett, and John Harmon voting in the affirmative and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

Medical Technicians - Staff Hiring: Mr. Leatherman reviewed the difficulty in hiring an LPN and stated he's looking to bring in medical technicians or assistants to work under the direction of an RN. He's

talking to the support staff union to get an MOU to add that individual to the union. An alternative is to hire that position through the wagepool. He would choose one or the other option, not both. He's looking to hire just one for the middle school.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to approve the options for hiring medical technicians for health services as an option in regards to medical staff at the middle school. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

2022-23 Surplus Funds to Maintenance CRF: Mr. Harmon reviewed that the district's attorney has stated that if the warrant article approved by voters stated the amount of surplus funds to be transferred to the maintenance capital reserve fund as "up to \$400,000," then - if available - that amount must be put into the capital reserve fund. In the past, the Board has weighed in on the exact amount to be transferred, but no motion is necessary as the amount is predetermined by the warrant article. Ms. Saulnier asked to review the wording of the warrant article for next year.

2022-23 Unassigned Fund Balance: Ms. Whitmore reviewed the unassigned fund balance from 2022-23, which is a percentage of town appropriation for statewide education tax that the school district can retain, up to 2.5%. She had already calculated 2.5%, but the percentage allowed has decreased this year. She stated that there is no need to vote on it, we have to reduce it. This year it's \$477,000. If the district needs to access the money for an emergency purpose, we would need to ask the Commissioner to use it. She said she's uncertain if it would require prior approval from the Budget Committee. Mr. Harmon stated that the other side of is that school districts don't need to hold money back like a town does because the town is collecting taxes. Ms. Whitmore noted that the amount received for the statewide education tax decreased by \$5,000 - \$6,000.

Signing of DOE-25 and MS-25: Ms. Whitmore reviewed the DOE 25 Annual Financial Report to the Department of Education for 2022-23 and the MS 25 Financial Report to the Department of Revenue Administration for 2022-23.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the DOE 25 and MS 25. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to approve policy JH Enrollment Policy. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies First Reading: The School Board reviewed the following policies for the first of two readings: BCA School Board Member Ethics (revised), JJE Student Fundraising Activities (revised), KDA Public Information Program (for redaction), and EG District Communication Plan (new). Mr. Saulnier suggested making the communication plan available via link within the policy when posted online.

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Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to approve the nomination of Kathryn Bronson as Dean of Student Support Services at IHGMS. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to approve the nomination of Heather Newton as a Behavior Teacher at IHGMS. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the nomination of Katelyn Nyhan as a Behavior Teacher at LRES. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the resignation of Erica Hill, LRES Teacher, effective August 21, 2023 pending receipt of liquidated damages as per the collective bargaining agreement. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: Mr. Leatherman reported that the Seacoast School of Technology Governing Board held their first meeting of the school year. They've hired two new teachers. Enrollment in June was 708, they expect that to drop - the add/drop period ends on September 9th. They are still working on the four-year agreement. The goal is to have that by the end of September.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the Raymond Coalition for Youth held a meeting but he wasn't able to attend.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated that the AED's that were ordered have arrived and are being put in place. He will include in the Friday Memo how many there are and where they're going. The administrative team participated in a teambuilding admin retreat. Tomorrow is district in-service day.

Correspondence: None.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total: \$92,859.78. (No payroll total for this manifest.)

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk

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Not voted to be kept confidential.

Item A

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

Mr. Leatherman reviewed this evening's nominations and resignation with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk