

Raymond School Board Meeting

September 2, 2020

Raymond High School Media Center / Google Meet Video

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Melissa Sytek, Tony Clements, Beth Paris (via Google Meets) and Janice Arsenault; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Technology Coordinator Kevin Federico.

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: Resident John Harmon spoke to the Board about poor offerings of the High School for remote students during remote learning. Mr. Harmon requested an emailed response of the Board Chair. Chairman Saulnier stated that there was talk of being able to get the cameras into the high school classrooms so that remote students could have better opportunities. Dr. McCoy explained a few of the different scenarios of remote learning that are going on in the High School. Principal Woodward spoke about the classes that are available to remote students on A-B days. Mr. Federico explained the network limitations as well as technology limitations. Janice Arsenault asked for clarification about the teachers picking up an extra course. Mr. Woodward stated that those sections were being taught to remote students on Fridays. Mr. Saulnier feels that the core classes need to be offered to remote students. Melissa Sytek asked if there is a middle ground for camera purchases. Mr. Federico stated that there is. Mr. Woodward stated that an estimation would be to have 8 more classes stream remotely. Mr. Federico will be looking into equipment to make this happen as quickly as possible.

Principals' Opening Day Reports to the Board:

Principal Laura Yacek shared how opening day went for the Lamprey River Elementary School. Kindergarten screenings have been completed, and class lists are being created. Kindergarten teachers will be reaching out to families to set up a meet and greet with their homeroom teachers. Students have been able to have lunch together in the cafeteria due to the appropriate numbers.

Tony Clements stated that families had gone out to purchase chromebooks for use by their children. After that, families were told that they would have to use a district owned device. Dr. McCoy stated that it had come to her attention today that parents had purchased devices to use. Mr. Federico explained that the School District is not allowed to install programs on personal devices, and having students use district owned technology is for privacy and security. The district would be able to install software as needed, as they would not be able to on private devices. Moving forward, the policy will be flexible for this transitional year.

Principal Bickford shared how opening day went for Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. Last Friday and Monday they were able to host successful step up days for the 4th and 5th grade

students. Currently the school has not been able to hire classroom monitors, so substitutes have been used in that position.

Kate Brooks, resident, emailed Joe Saulnier to see if students could be live streaming into classrooms on every day of the week (the A or B off day). With the proper equipment, it would be ideal. At this point, we don't have the means to do that for every classroom in the district. Principal Woodward stated that the High School was also impressed with the start of school. Students were able to participate in Jumpstart, a freshman orientation program. There is not a lot of room in regards to coverage, so that is something to keep an eye on moving forward. Beth Paris stated that there are many students home for college due to the current situation, and they could be a resource for help in regards to staffing. Dr. McCoy stated that there are lots of job openings posted, but they can continue to post them in different ways.

School Board Policy re: Board Member Volunteers: The Board reviewed Policy BCB Board Member Conflict of Interest, as linked in the meeting minutes. Due to the current situation, there is a great need for volunteers. Mr. Harmon came forward to ask if the Board had changed the policy on how policies can be changed. He also explained his opposition to the policy. He believes that it is not fair to the staff to have a Board member in the building under any other role. The Board discussed waiving the language about a Board member being a designated volunteer for this year only.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved to suspend policy BCB Board Member Conflict for designated volunteers on a regular basis, seconded by Melissa Sytek. Tony Clements amended to say that this change would be for this year only, amendment seconded by Melissa Sytek. Janice Arsenault abstained, the rest of the Board voting the the affirmative (4-0-1).

Waiver of Policy IO Class Size: Dr. McCoy explained how the current situation has created challenges to be able to follow School Board Policy IO Class Size. There are some remote classes that have close to 30 students, and other classes that are smaller for remote students that may need them. General feedback from remote teachers that it was best to have all their remote students together even if those class sizes were a little bit larger. At the Elementary School, there have been some challenges with 1st and 2nd grade remote sessions being too large. In the 5th and 6th grades, the remote teachers have struggled to keep 25-30 remote students engaged. They have made some modifications to work with half of the group for a period of time and then switching to the other half of the students. Laura Yacek stated that the remote teachers with these large groups are doing a great job, but she would just like to see them supported.

Ms. Wallace stated that as a 5th grade remote teacher, she would rather have a large group to move around then to split them into A-B days.

Janice Arsenault clarified that there is a rule for students to stay remote or hybrid for the duration of the term. The Board would like to make sure that the teachers have the support they need, but leave the class size policy alone.

NHSBA Call for Resolutions: New Hampshire School Boards Association is now accepting proposed resolution submissions by its member school boards. Our School Board Chair has received the letter found in the meeting agenda. Janice Arsenault would like time to give this more thought before proposing resolutions. Janice Arsenault and Beth Paris would like to table this topic. This will be discussed in October.

2020-2021 Bus Routes: The Board reviewed the proposed bus routes that will be amended as necessary through the beginning of the school year.

MOTION: Joe Saulnier moved to accept the LRES, IHGMS and RHS bus routes as presented, seconded by Janice Arsenault. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

School Transportation Contracts: Dr. McCoy explained that Dale transportation would not be paying their drivers for all days of the week if the school district does not pay the full contract amount. This would be for certain Fridays that students are not transported, not including SST and some Fridays that students would be transported. Melissa Sytek asked if this was an annual contract. This is a 5 year contract. Her question was, if they only pay for services rendered, have they broken the contract. She also asked what would change if the District went back full time in December. Marjorie Whitmore explained that it would be an addendum to the contract. Joe Saulnier believes that the savings would be approximately \$50,000.

MOTION: Joe Saulnier moved to pay for only services rendered in transportation contracts at this time, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Committee Reports: Janice Arsenault reported that the SST Governing Committee met recently, which mostly revolved around school reopening. Joe Saulnier reported that there was a budget committee last week. Questions will be responded to when they are received in writing.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. McCoy stated that the maintenance crew has done so much to prepare for school this fall. Student Services is still in the process of planning meetings with families for students with disabilities. Most of these meetings are taking place remotely. LEAP enrollment is underway, staffing has been reduced a little bit to adjust. Auditors have been on site for a few days and will be finishing up remotely. The State finance reports should be completed by September 18th. Judy DiNatale stated that the new routines went well in the cafeteria. There is hope that preorders for meals will grow in the next few weeks. A reminder to families to fill out the applications for free and reduced lunch. The beginning of school also had

many professional development opportunities for staff to participate in including technology, special education, and curriculum.

In terms of HR, there are currently 2 teachers working remotely, but isolated in their rooms. 10 teachers working remotely from another location. One tutor working remotely. Four para educators working remotely, as well as 5 paras on leave. There are also professionals working remotely intermittently. A few teachers currently on travel quarantine. There is a need for classroom monitors, substitute teachers, para educators, and custodians in the District. There is also a special education teacher opening at the High School. The State released guidance yesterday on how to make decisions on changing from remote to hybrid to open.

Correspondence/ Other:

Manifest Signing:

Majorie Whitemore presented the Board with the Manifests. Accounts payables totaled \$975,572.49 Payroll totaling \$411,564.33. For a total of \$ 1,387,136.82.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to accept the minutes from August 5th, 2020, Beth Paris seconds. Janice Arsenault amended: on the motion to go until 10:30, Janice Arsenault's name is there twice and Beth Paris is not listed at all. Also, unseal Item B in non-public, keep Item A sealed. Janice Arsenault moved to accept minutes of August 5th, as amended, keeping Item A sealed and unsealing Item B, Beth Paris seconded. Voted unanimously in affirmative (5-0).

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to accept the minutes of August 19th, 2020 as presented, and unseal the non-public minutes. Joe Saulnier seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Non-Public Session:

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b)(c), seconded by Melissa Sytek. Upon being individually polled, Janice Arsenault, Joe Saulnier, Melissa Sytek, Beth Paris and Tony Clements voted in the affirmative (5-0).

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to exit non-public session, seconded by Joe Saulnier. Upon being individually polled, Joe Saulnier, Melissa Sytek, Beth Paris, Tony Clements and Janice Arsenault voted in the affirmative (5-0).

Adjournment:

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MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM, seconded by Joe Saulnier. Upon being individually polled, Joe Saulnier, Melissa Sytek, Beth Paris, Tony Clements and Janice Arseanult voted in the affirmative (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany LHeureux
School Board Clerk

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Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (b)(c)

Present: School Board Members Joe Saulnier, Janice Arsenault, Tony Clements, Beth Paris and Melissa Sytek; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy

Item A:

Tina McCoy presented the resignation of Sarah Poulin, IHGMS Social Studies Teacher.

MOTION: Joe Saulnier moved to accept the resignation of Sarah Poulin effective immediately, seconded by Janice Arsenault. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Item B:

Tina McCoy presented the nominations of Delaney Kabat and Cassandra Haynes.

MOTION: Janice Arseanult moved to accept the nomination of Delaney Kabat for SS Teacher at IHGMS effective ASAP, seconded by Melissa Sytek. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

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MOTION: Joe Saulnier moved to accept the nomination of Cassandra Haynes for Special Education Teacher at LRES, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Item C:

Tina McCoy presented the Board with a request from a former employee. No action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany LHeureux
School Board Clerk