

Raymond School Board Meeting,,
April 19, 2023
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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, and Stephen Scarfo; Student Representative to the School Board Tucker Sopha; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Raymond High School Assistant Principal Joanne McCann.

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 Tony Clements, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) "The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted" and (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 6:14 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and to seal item B (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), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Recognition: The School Board recognized the following students for achieving RHS Principal's List for the third quarter and IHGMS High Honors for the second trimester:

22-23 2nd Trimester IHGMS High Honors:

Grade 7

Nora Comrie
Avery Dean
Isabella Gott
Addison Pekalsky
Alice Peretti
Jasmine Saulnier
Leah Unger

Grade 8

Madelyn Alfonso

Hayden Babineau

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Eleanor Brewitt
Maddie Callahan
Lucy Ennis
Annaliese Hetherington
Mary Hubbard
Leanna Jean
Sophie Jolie
Brooke Leger
Jacob Parker
Alyssa Tilton

22-23 3rd Quarter RHS High Honors:

Grade 9

Rachel Ni

Grade 11

Acadia Gafford
Violet Reynolds

Grade 12

Sarah Bouchard
Tina Chen
Lydia Cramer
Jasmin French
Payton Hartlen

Public Input: Public input was opened at 6:16 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.

Kate Brooks approached the Board. She inquired about the status of athletic transportation, if the district has considered coach buses or vans, if the district is fining our current bus company for not providing athletic transportation, and if it would be possible to cancel our contract with the bus company. Mr. Leatherman replied to each concern, stating that the athletic director has reached out to every provider in the area and there are no buses available yet, coach buses are too expensive to be considered an option, the current bus company is being fined, and if we were to cancel the current contract we would be left with no buses. Ms. Brooks asked that consideration be given to the fact that students are driving themselves to and from games 1.5 hours away after a full day of school, and requested that students and parents be provided reimbursement for the cost of gas.

Elizabeth McGovern approached the Board and stated she's heard that one of the varsity baseball players was hurt at an away game and without his parents there, there were only two parents of other students available to drive his car home for him, so that is another layer to consider when it comes to athletic transportation.

Our Students/Our Schools: IHGMS Teachers Elizabeth McGovern and Suzy Gagnon, along with students Theresa McGovern, Alice Peretti, [name redacted], Olivia Mitchell, and Abby Gordon spoke with the Board about Read Across America and Pi Celebration. Over the course of two weeks, the school celebrated Read Across America with guest readers, "Caught You Reading" program, a spelling bee, a reading challenge, Vocabulary Day, Characters Day, and a scavenger hunt. They also shared some math fun facts about pi, pi art, and discussed the pi recitation contest.

Student Representative to the School Board Report: Mr. Sopha discussed Spirit Week at RHS, saying that it's been a good turnout and there are a lot of students participating. He said that he wanted to bring up again the issue of school bathrooms and students hanging out in the bathrooms between blocks, discussed some head counts of students in the bathrooms, and stated that he's spoken with the Assistant Principal.

Principals' Reports and Curriculum Reports to the Board: Ms. Yacek reviewed the LRES Report to the Board, including grade level and team highlights, acknowledgments, challenges, discipline information, upcoming events, and enrollment. During discussion:

- Mr. Scarfo asked if we know yet what the total enrollment will be for kindergarten next year. Ms. Yacek said no, but typically there will be about another 15 for kindergarten (currently at 46 for 23-24) and there are usually about 90 students enrolled for first grade.
- Mr. Harmon asked that the LRES website calendar be updated to include the upcoming events.

Ms. McCann reviewed the RHS Report to the Board, including grade level and team highlights, acknowledgments, challenges, discipline information, upcoming events, and enrollment. During discussion:

- Ms. McCann noted that the school just received results this week for PSAT's. Mr. Harmon asked if students have access to the PSAT scores. Ms. McCann replied that she believes so, through College Board, but she can check on that.

Mr. Bickford reviewed the IHGMS Report to the Board, including grade level and team highlights, acknowledgments, challenges, discipline information, upcoming events, and enrollment. During discussion:

- Mr. Clements asked if future discipline reports could include a column as to how many students are habitual/repeat offenders. Mr. Harmon asked for this for all three schools in the future.

- Ms. Bennett suggested that the elementary school connect with the town library to help facilitate a larger selection of phonetic-type books for younger children.
- Mr. Saulnier asked to receive enrollment numbers at the high school based on what grade level students are supposed to be at (based on the original year of graduation).

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to amend the agenda to move the surplus funds [agenda item] to now. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Administration Recommendations for Surplus Funds: The School Board reviewed the recommendations from administration for the use of surplus funds. Mr. Leatherman noted that because the reading programs that were budgeted for next year at \$150,000 would actually cost about \$126,000, the \$21,987 listed this evening for i-Ready math pilot materials in grades K-5 could be removed from the administration recommendations for surplus funds and taken instead from that money budgeted for next year's reading program.

During review, Mr. Bickford said that any of the items on the middle school list, if not funded with surplus funds, would appear in the middle school proposed budget next year.

Mr. Harmon said that there is currently \$649,601 projected in surplus funds and up to \$400,000 of any money leftover will go into the maintenance capital reserve fund. Mr. Leatherman stated that he is still nervous about special education costs coming up. Mr. Harmon stated that there is also about \$500,000 in unanticipated revenue coming. Ms. Bennett asked what Mr. Leatherman would be comfortable spending, to which he said he views surplus expenditures as an unanticipated need, not something which would normally be funded next year, and he would recommend \$50,000 at the most.

During discussion about athletic uniforms, Mr. Harmon suggested setting up a schedule for replacement uniforms so that the district doesn't fall behind again. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to expend \$10,680 from surplus funds for uniforms for co-ed cross country, girls basketball, girls soccer, and bowling. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

During review of curriculum items, Mr. Leatherman said he would prefer to get a committee together to review curriculum across all schools. It would be his goal to have both digital and physical textbooks as part of a purchased class set, but that is something that needs to be planned out now for the 2024-25 school year.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to buy the copies of the 6th grade - one copy of each informational text - for \$486.32. Mr. Harmon stated he won't be supporting any of it, as he feels we should be giving it back to the taxpayers. Mr. Saulnier said there have been several years when surplus funds have been used. Motion passed with Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to buy a new class set of *The Giver* books for \$202.35. Motion passed with Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to spend \$3,700 on new kitchen kits and flatware for unified arts at the middle school. Motion passed with Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

MOTION: Cindy Bennett moved to finish up with the middle school, and then withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to spend \$200 for Easy CBM. Ms. Yacek clarified that this is an online subscription for special education teachers, with access to progress-monitoring assessments specific to individual student goals. Right now, teachers are probably working with something that they created some time ago. Mr. Leatherman suggested that i-Ready could possibly be used for this purpose. Mr. Saulnier withdrew his motion, Mr. Scarfo withdrew his second.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to expend \$18,900 for Foundations replacement. Motion failed with Joseph Saulnier and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, and John Harmon voting in opposition.

2023-24 Grant Program Assurances: Mr. Leatherman reviewed with the Board that the District is held to certain requirements as part of receiving grant funding, and that he is required to review and make the Board aware of them. The document is in their agenda backup.

ESSER Funds 2023-24: The School Board reviewed two recommendations for ESSER funds: LRES Math Interventionist and RHS Competency Recovery.

Ms. Yacek stated that one of the three LRES math specialists went into the classroom, bringing them down to two. One of those two is retiring, so next year they will have one math specialist. Mr. Harmon said that the intent was to help students and teachers become better with instruction so those specialist positions are no longer needed, and asked if that is still the intent for next year. Ms. Yacek replied that it is, and that these specialists would work with teachers and tier III students. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to hire a math interventionist through ESSER funds. The estimated amount is \$84,847. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Mr. Leatherman stated that Ram Time is not sufficient at the high school for competency recovery. Mr. Harmon asked if retakes are being done during Ram Time. Ms. McCann replied that they are being scheduled for students, if the student chooses to come and do it. Mr. Harmon said he doesn't believe that's being done across the board, and that we are not currently using the tools we already have for competency recovery. Mr. Saulnier suggested that the proposed competency recovery, Edmentum, be

for 15 months to extend fully to the end of next school year. Mr. Clements asked if there are only 30 licenses, how would we prioritize which students can access it. Ms. McCann stated that seniors would get first priority, then juniors. Mr. Leatherman stated that a student must also have the motivation for it. Mr. Saulnier stated his agreement with Mr. Harmon that he hopes we are using the tools that we have now.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to get the competency recovery program Edmentum to the end of the 2023-24 school year. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Policy Annual Review: The School Board reviewed policies BCA School Board Member Ethics and BCB Board Member Conflict of Interest.

Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept Karen Arendt as library media specialist at the middle school. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (Tony Clements was not present).

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept Kaitlyn Wallace [health teacher, IHGMS]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (Tony Clements was not present).

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept Melissa Gardner's resignation effective June 30, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

It was generally agreed to reschedule the following agenda items to the next school board meeting: job descriptions, wrestling letter, board member input, and the transportation RFP.

Monthly Financial Update: Ms. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending March 31, 2023.

Committee Reports: Mr. Saulnier stated that the Technology Committee met and the Technology Plan will be coming to the Board soon.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated he had nothing further to report at this time.

Correspondence: None.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$628,122.51. Payroll total \$509,568.20.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) "The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her,

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unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted” 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, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:27 PM and resumed public session at 10:08 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal item D (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Tony Clements, 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), three 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 10:08 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 sealed.

Item A

Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, 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

Item C

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

The Superintendent reviewed a request from a parent.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to waive policy JFAB for the parent's request. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk