

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward (remote); Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford (remote).

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:** John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, 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, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:07 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by Tony Clements, seconded by Dawn Leamer, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Mr. Saulnier invited public input. Cindy Bennett spoke to her concerns about children wearing masks. She spoke of her history of originally endorsing mask usage and how she has studied the topic. She appealed to the Board to look at the picture in Raymond. She asked that the kids be taught that they need fresh air. She stated that she feels it [mask wearing] is not acceptable and we need to look at our town, our kids.

Nominations: **MOTION:** John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the nomination of Jennifer Heywood as School Board Clerk. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the nomination of Aimee Castonguay, English Teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Budget Development Planning Work Session: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the budget development planning worksheet. During discussion:

- Mrs. Whitmore confirmed that the Dail Transportation cost is for nine buses, including the bus to Seacoast School of Technology.
- Mr. Harmon stated that he believes the Board should be looking at a level-funded budget of \$26,237,757. He feels that with two union contracts coming up, along with the CIP and operating budget, the Board should look to level-fund.
- Mr. Saulnier stated that he would like to hear from administrators as to what their needs are. He feels it's too early to say that. Ms. Leamer stated her agreement with Mr. Saulnier. Mr. Harmon stated that supports hearing fiscally responsible initiatives.
- Ms. Leamer stated that she hopes that the community sees the importance of teachers after this last year and a half and that an increase would be supported. She suggested that perhaps parents didn't see that until they had to do it themselves. Mr. Harmon noted that the community voted no to the teacher's contract five months ago.

- Mr. Saulnier stated he's not necessarily against a level-funded budget, but he wants to hear what the administration feels is needed.
- Mrs. Whitmore suggested that the administration could review possible reductions on a tiered basis. Those could be brought to the School Board. Dr. DeRuosi stated that he is also comfortable with that approach.
- Mr. Clements stated he agrees with Mr. Saulnier regarding wanting to hear an honest assessment and then making decisions from there.
- Mr. Harmon stated he doesn't agree with the tiered approach. They should be able to meet and support the budget. If we truly want to hear what the administration wants, there would be no constraints. Whatever the number is we need to be able to justify it. Mr. Saulnier stated he agreed, but he just think's this isn't the time to say "level-funded."
- Ms. Leamer stated her preference for the tiered approach. She feels it makes sense to tier it by way of necessity. Mrs. Whitmore stated that even though administration presents the tiers, the Board makes the decisions.
- Mr. Harmon stated that he would hope that the administration would not look at bringing forth a budget knowing it's going to be cut. He stated that the Board should be reasonable and set expectations now.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to amend the agenda to make this agenda item an action item. Mr. Harmon and Mr. Saulnier noted that this agenda item was listed as discussion in error; it should have been an action item. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, that administration be asked to come back with a level-funded budget in the amount of \$26,237,757. Mr. Harmon stated we need to be level-funded at this point; there's nothing to say we can't go up or down, but they can set the tone going forward. Ms. Leamer stated that she supports a tiered approach, and that she believes the Superintendent would know what's needed for the teachers. Mr. Clements clarified that level-funding the budget would mean a decrease in expenses matching the \$383,985 "Total Estimated Contracted Budget Amounts" on tonight's Budget Planning Backup sheet. Mr. Saulnier stated he doesn't disagree about level funding, but he is looking at it differently. Motion failed with John Harmon voting in the affirmative and Dawn Leamer, Joseph Salnier, and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept the administration's proposal at this time. Mr. Harmon suggested not saying "proposed" but instead using a dollar amount. Mr. Clements stated he doesn't want to prevent anyone from giving their honest assessment. Mr. Clements then amended the motion to: accept the administration's proposal at this time of \$26,621,742. Ms. Leamer seconded the amendment. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

Budget Delivery Date: The School Board set the following meeting dates:

Wednesday October 13th and Thursday October 14th. 6:00 PM - Administration budget presentation dates, no action. Actual action on the budget (such as cuts) would take place at a separate meeting, not added onto an existing meeting date. That meeting will take place on October 27th.

Mr. Harmon stated he thinks it's important that if there are any fiscally responsible initiatives that the administration would like to put forth, he would like to hear about it. The Board generally agreed with this sentiment.

The Board requested that not all three schools present their budget on the same night; that the schedules of October 13th and 14th presentations be more evenly balanced.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) "Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled." Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 7:19 PM and resumed public session at 7:58 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Dawn Leamer, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session  
August 11, 2021

Not voted to be kept confidential

Non Public Session Item A

Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, and Dawn Leamer; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi.

Dr. DeRuosi reviewed this evening's nominations with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk