

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Tony Clements, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Dawn Leamer; Student Representative to the School Board Mason Lord; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek.

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 Ada Vadeboncoeur, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (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, Ada Vadeboncoeur, Dawn Leamer, John Harmon, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:08 PM and resumed public session at 6:15 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (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, Dawn Leamer, John Harmon, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Our Students/Our Schools: RHS Drama Coach Bob Gagnon and students Mason Lord, Molly Harmon, and Wyatt Cramer talked with the Board about the recent production *The Sound of Murder*. They shared a program with the Board, discussed the plot, and shared how each of them started in drama.

Recognition: The School Board recognized the following students for achieving High Honors at IHGMS for the first trimester:

Avery Dean	Isabella Gott	Leah Unger
Paige Lemire	Peyton Russell	Makenna Brackett
Broderick Dupuy	Abigail Gilbert	Nathan Holt
Rachel Ni	Casey Peters	Meagan Ward
Emily Wood		

Public Input: The School Board read emails as follows (complete emails are included at the end of these minutes):

From Julie Laughner regarding treating children the same.
From Kate Brooks regarding keeping wrestling in the budget
From Kelly Thomas regarding COVID-19 protocols, Washington D.C. trip
From Beth Clark regarding quarantine rules
From Jill Luquette regarding quarantine protocol

Sandra Swiechowicz approached the Board and stated she is speaking as a parent. She stated that she feels her child is being denied education because school policy is keeping her from going to school or attending remote classes when she's ill, but not sick with COVID-19. Google Kits allows students to still have an education when out of school. She feels that because school policy is keeping her child from coming back to school, the school is

responsible for ensuring she can still have an education. She suggested that it not be a requirement that a student attend remotely when out of school for illness, but that they should be allowed to if they are able. She feels that the District is not doing the best it can in providing students the opportunity to learn and that parents are being denied the right to decide what's best for their children.

Cindy Bennett approached the Board. She stated her concern for protecting freedoms for everyone, that she believes it's a parent's choice when it comes to masking or vaccination.

Susan Peters approached the Board. She asked if students are in a room with someone who tests positive then why is it only unvaccinated being sent home if exposed? She also asked if legally schools are allowed to ask if a child is vaccinated. Mr. Saulner stated that is not being asked. Ms. Peters asked if we can't ask a child their vaccination status, how are they being sent home?

Student Representative to the School Board Report: Mr. Lord discussed the upcoming winter carnival and some of the events planned for that week.

Principals' Reports to the Board: LRES Principal Laura Yacek reviewed her first trimester report to the Board, including: LRES received first prize at the Deerfield Fair for their school art display; Music Teacher Alison LaCasse is this year's recipient of the Triple S Award; they now have a NH DOE approved ASD program, *Leaps and Bounds*.

IHGMS Principal Bob Bickford reviewed his first trimester report to the Board, including: he received a petition from staff and students to allow this year's 6th grade students to go to Nature's Classroom; grade-level Friendship Award winners; the National Junior Honor Society food drive benefiting Raymond Food Pantry and End 68 Hours of Hunger; team building activities; and preparing for benchmark assessments.

Mr. Clements stated that the Board had been told that every student affected by the elimination of the YEES personnel would have something in place to meet their support needs. Mr. Harmon asked that this topic be placed on a future agenda.

Technology Update: Technology Director Brittany L'Heureux reviewed the Technology Update with the Board. She reviewed the major activities of the department monthly since July, including wifi improvements, preparation for school opening, new staff members, online registration assistance, repairs, challenges, and projects.

Raymond High School 2022-23 Program of Studies: Mr. Woodward reviewed the proposed changes to the Program of Studies. Dr. DeRuosi stated that earlier on in budget discussions regarding an additional para-educator at RHS, they had talked about the JAG program as a possible reduction to fund that position. When the Board decided to put that position in the budget, JAG was still on the table as a potential reduction and so those funds were allocated to the IHGMS language teacher. He stated that they're looking at creating JAG in a different light, perhaps as a stipend position. Mr. Woodward stated that JAG numbers have decreased, but ELO enrollment is growing significantly, and there's a certain level of redundancy between the two.

During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon asked that the legislative changes regarding the civics test requirement FAFSA requirement beginning with the Class of 2024 be added to the Program of Studies.
- Honors Precalculus - the last sentence will be removed because precalculus will not be offered.
- JAG will be removed
- Mr. Woodward requested an addition not yet included in the draft - they would like to offer an AP Composition course to run in the opposite year as the AP Literature course. They're not sure what the numbers would look like, it hasn't been offered before.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the 2022-2023 RHS Program of Studies as amended. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

RHS 2022 Graduation Date: Dr. DeRuosi proposed the date of June 10, 2022 for graduation. Mr. Harmon questioned the requirement for seniors to finish their school year no more than 30 hours or 5 days than the rest of the school, and what would happen with snow days added? Mr. Woodward stated that he will verify, but he believes the graduation date goes off of the approved calendar, not snow days.

MOTION: Tony Clements moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to set the graduation date of June 10th. Motion passed with Dawn Leamer, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

2021-22 School Year Reopening Plan: Kera Clements approached the Board. She stated that the Governor has given school districts the ability to construct plans that best suit their district and they would like to see no difference in how vaccinated students are treated versus unvaccinated.

Tina Thomas approached the Board, stating she wants to be sure the district is not discriminating against children who are vaccinated or not.

Tara Campbell approached the Board stating that children will never recover from the stress that is being put on them due to all the changes that keep coming because of COVID-19.

Jocelyn Willis approached the Board and suggested that the District may want to consider spacing out overnight field trips and April vacation so that they are not "smashed into" each other on either end. She stated that schools should not be telling students to get vaccinated, that's up to doctors.

A member of the public approached the Board asking what the protocol is when reporting a child absent, and inquiring about how much time is being spent calling parents to find out what's wrong with their student who is absent. She asked why she is getting calls to explain symptoms to the nurse, and that we're spending too much time on COVID-19. Mr. Clements stated that seems intrusive.

Dr. DeRuosi stated that the plan for vaccinated students versus non-vaccinated came from the DHHS chart. If a vaccinated student is a household contact, that student can come to school with a mask recommended and self-monitor. If they are not feeling well, they can take themselves out. The trip poses a different and unique situation. The question being, if a student is in a hotel room with others and one is positive and that positive case is a vaccinated person, the non-vaccinated students would need to quarantine. The vaccinated positive case also needs to quarantine. Mr. Clements stated that the vaccinated person who is non positive would get to stay until

symptoms began to show. He stated that the LRES flowchart is different from DHHS. He asked that vaccinated students be held to the same requirements as unvaccinated students. Ms. Leamer stated the same, that vaccinated students be held to the same standards when they come in contact with a positive case.

Mr. Harmon asked if the Board wanted to change the reopening plan to accommodate this, that vaccinated and unvaccinated students are held to the same standard when they come in contact with a positive case regardless of location or whether it's on a trip or in school, can that be done and still meet DHHS requirements?

LRES School Nurse Emily Donati stated that, regarding the concern about nurses' calls being intrusive, if a parent doesn't specify the reason for a student's absence on their phone message then they do follow up because they're trying to contain the spread. She stated that the nurses are healthcare providers and that's their role. She also stated that nobody, vaccinated or unvaccinated, is being quarantined because of exposure in school settings, it's only for overnight or household contacts. She's not certain if the DHHS guidelines are required or recommendations; those are the guidelines that have been followed.

Tiffany Richards approached the Board and asked if, when parents get notices that a child has been exposed, does the school follow the recommendations that they wear masks and get tested.

Mr. Saulnier stated that if restrictions can be loosened then he's happy to treat students the same in the other direction. He asked if legal counsel should be asked whether the district needs to follow those recommendations. Mr. Clements asked why that would be necessary if we are being more safe. Mr. Harmon stated that if the question is can we quarantine individuals who have been vaccinated the same as unvaccinated, we can do that. He stated that Mr. Saulnier is asking about going the opposite way, that both vaccinated and unvaccinated watch for symptoms.

Kera Clements asked that they also consider how the Governor's order for districts to make their own plans applies, and they want to clarify that in terms of closing down classrooms, the district is automatically making those students close household contacts.

Mr. Clements asked about students riding the bus to Washington D.C. If one person is positive on the bus, are they all considered a close contact on the 11-hour bus ride?

Susan Peters approached the Board and asked that consideration be given to rapid testing of unvaccinated students who may be exposed in a hotel during a field trip. Mr. Saulnier stated that's one of the things they're asking.

Superintendent Search: Job Posting Approval: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the proposed job posting for the Superintendent position. She noted that the wording for the salary range was not yet determined, and that the statement that there should be no calls to board members or the SAU office would be added. Mr. Harmon suggested that because the Board has not researched or discussed the specific salary range, that the wording be left to the NHSBA facilitator to keep it nonspecific. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve the Raymond School District Superintendent job posting as amended this evening. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - First Reading: The School Board reviewed the following policies for the first of two readings:

DG Depository of Funds
DM Cash in School Buildings
DN Equipment and Supplies Sales, Properties Disposal Procedure
JICD Student Discipline and Due Process

There were no revisions suggested at this time.

Nominations/Resignations/Retirements:

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to approve the nomination of Lisa Baka. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to accept Irene Martin's resignation from the high school pending receipt of the liquidated damages fee per the CBA effective December 10, 2021. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the retirement of John Fulton effective June 30, 2022. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the retirement of Barbara Buckingham effective June 30, 2022. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the retirement of Mary Ann Lessard effective June 30, 2022. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending November 30, 2021. Mr. Harmon asked if columns could be added to the federal funds sheet regarding what has been spent versus what's leftover, perhaps a column for allocations.

Committee Reports: Mr. Clements stated that the Budget Committee's public hearing for the Town will be January 4th and for the District, January 11th.

Ms. Vadeboncoeur stated that the Sick Bank Committee met and there were some questions about the use of sick bank for COVID. Dr. DeRuosi stated that he's going to bring back some language to the committee regarding under what circumstances they would cover COVID-related absences, if at all.

Mr. Saulnier stated that he met with Student Behavioral Health Director Jessica Caron regarding how to help students, and then the Wellness Committee regarding how our services are doing.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. DeRuosi stated that the vaccine clinic for 5-11 year olds went well and over 50 children took advantage of it. He is currently meeting with all Student Intervention Teams to gauge how each one

functions in each building. From the District Community Leadership Team meeting, they are looking into bringing in formalized training around threat assessments.

Mr. Clements asked about parental consent needed for the vaccination clinic. Dr. DeRuosi stated that express written consent is required.

Correspondence: None.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$808,204.40. Payroll total \$420,622.19.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (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, Ada Vadeboncoeur, Dawn Leamer, John Harmon, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:16 PM and resumed public session at 10:50 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), three motions were voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session
December 15, 2021
Not voted to be kept confidential.

Item A

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

Dr. DeRuosi reviewed this evening's resignation, retirements, and nomination with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Emails read at tonight's meeting:

To the School Board,

Please treat children the same. At this stressful time in the world, children need some normalcy. Please don't discriminate among children for any reason, whether it is medical, skin color, disability, or any characteristic.

Please read this into the minutes. Thank you.

*Thank you,
Julie Laughner
Raymond resident*

Please read on the December 7th meeting for Budget, as well as at the School Board 14th meeting. (I was hoping to attend in person with some of the kids in uniform, but practices, driving, and schedules don't allow me to get there. If I can provide input at 7pm tonight, please let me know. I will read it myself.)

Hello School Board and Budget Committee. Thank you for all the work you do - it does not go unnoticed.

Why Wrestling should become an official high school sport in Raymond, and not be cut from the budget:

- 1. Wrestling is one of the few team sports that is also an individual sport. It will be the athlete's time on the mat as your team cheers you on.*
- 2. Wrestling trains kids to think, react fast which will sharpen your reflexes to anticipate your opponent's moves. Your hard work will benefit you in other sports and in life. It is said that trained collegiate wrestlers move on in life being confident problem solvers. There are no roadblocks, just obstacles to adapt and overcome.*
- 3. Wrestlers become the persistent person who never gives up and achieves their goals.*

Why we support Coach Robinson:

- 1. He coached the Boys & Girls club k-12th from 2010 to 2016*
- 2. He created the FIRST all-girls k-12th grade wrestling team in 2015*
- 3. He started the FIRST all-girls tournament Wonder Women Classic 2015*
- 4. Opened GSR Wrestling Clubs and housed an independent k-12 club team and 5-8th grade Derry middle school team JR Astros.*
- 5. Coach Robinson programs produced "multiple-time" State Champions in youth as well as NHIAA high school wrestling. Some of his wrestlers are currently or have been nationally ranked in youth as well as high school.*
- 6. For more info: Watch "EOY Where Are They Now: Jay Robinson" on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/5XdHPLipcKE>*

Currently, we have 3 girls participating in the wrestling program. The experience Coach Robinson has coaching the girls, is strikingly evident, and I am thrilled with how he is incorporating them in to the team. To be honest,

when my daughter said she wanted to wrestle, this was my first concern. Would the coach welcome girls on the team? Would they be supported, or just tolerated? I'm so glad that Coach Robinson is seamlessly including all of the female athletes.

In terms of the budget, we can save \$8,000 by accepting Coach Robinson's offer of a mat. He has inspected the donated mat and it's in good shape. He will freely donate this mat, for school use, as long as there is a wrestling team at the high school. That is the only caveat he has - no wrestling team, the mat is returned to him. So if there's a High School wrestling team, the mat is OURS! No strings attached, no obligation. If the high school ever stops having an official wrestling team at the school, he would like the mat returned to him. That sounds entirely reasonable. How can we reflect that in the budget proposals? Look at that - We just saved \$8,000!!!!

*All the best,
Kate*

Dear Raymond School Board and Administration,

I'd like to first take the opportunity to thank you for your hard work and attention to all the things you do for Raymond. The things that get noticed and are talked about and the many more things that go unnoticed. I strongly believe in supporting you for doing what appears too often to be a very thankless job.

I would also like to express my concern for the push to go above and beyond what is recommended by the CDC and State of NH for Covid-19 protocols and guidelines in our schools and on school trips. What is this based on? Why is there this need for additional rules and guidelines? How has following the CDC and NH guidelines failed our students? From what I have seen besides that Covid-cluster from early this fall at the High School, our positive cases have stayed low. Our kids need the structure of school more than ever and should not be out on quarantine unnecessarily. I'm asking you to ignore the keyboard warriors out there stirring up a bee's nest on Facebook. To be clear, I'm not asking you to make special concessions or to treat my children differently. I'm not asking you to factor in my personal choices or those that I've made for my children. I'm asking you to maintain a consistent, level headed approach to how our school rules and guidelines are created, meaning you continue to utilize/follow those outlined by the CDC and State of NH for Covid-19.

Regarding the 8th grade trip to Washington DC. I have an 8th grader and I'm worried there are people in town looking to have the 8th grade trip cancelled particularly people who don't have children in SAU33 and or people that don't have 8th graders. Their opinions should not matter and should not be taken into consideration. If there are decisions to be made about the DC trip, it's the actual parents/guardians along with the powers that be who should make those decisions. I ask that this board and the administration are not swayed by people with "no skin in the game". To that end, parent's who are not comfortable with the DC trip for whatever reason or reasons have the option to not send their child. These kids have been selling candy bars and pies, they have been looking forward to and talking about this trip for a very long time. And for good reason, the itinerary looks incredible and going to our Nation's Capital is a big deal!

It was important for me to write you, so that you know there are parents in town with my point of view.

Go Rams!

Best,

Kelly Thomas

Raymond Resident and Parent of an 8th & 6th Grade Student

Hello School Board Members,

First of all, thank you all for your continued service during these difficult times. As a mother and community member, I truly appreciate your service.

It has been brought to my attention that the fact that vaccinated and unvaccinated children have different rules for quarantine is on the schedule for tonight. I feel strongly that because it has been proven the vaccinated people do in fact get Covid and spread it, the rules should be the same for unvaccinated and vaccinated children. My son returned to school yesterday after being home with Covid and his older sister returned today because he was isolated in his room and she did not see him the day he tested so that is what was determined for her quarantine. However, if she was vaccinated she would have been at school the whole time and potentially spread Covid to who knows how many kids. Household members should either quarantine or not, vaccination should not make a difference since it isn't making a difference in the spread.

As far as Washington DC and Nature's Classroom goes, not only do I feel the plan should be the same for all kids, but I also feel it's unreasonable to ask the parents of any kid who has a symptom, which could be just a runny nose and going to a different area could certainly trigger allergies, to go pick them up, especially when one destination is a day's drive. (For the record, I don't have a children in either of the grades this affects, so my concerns are not personal.)

I know that the DHHS recommendations have been brought up. The keyword there is recommendations, they are not laws or regulations, I don't feel the board is legally obligated to put this huge damper on what should be fun experiences for students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth Clark

Dear Valued School Board Members,

Thank you all for your continued service during these difficult times.

From my understanding, there will be some discussion regarding vaccinated vs unvaccinated children and the differences we are seeing in quarantine expectations this evening. If this is the case, I have some concerns as to why there are differences as it has been proven that vaccinated people do in fact get Covid and spread it and feel the rules should be the same for both unvaccinated and vaccinated children. The standard should either be quarantine or not, vaccination should not make a difference since it isn't making a difference in the spread.

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This carries over to our upcoming Washington DC and Nature's Classroom trips. The protocol should be the same for all of the children, whether vaccinated or not.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill Luquette