

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Ada Vadeboncoeur and Janice Arsenault; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy; Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Director of Student Services Michael Hatfield; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore.

Proof of Posting: It was noted that the meeting was properly posted.

Pledge of Allegiance: Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition: The Board and Dr. McCoy thanked Beth Paris and Melissa Sytek for their years of service on the School Board.

Introduction: Ada Vadeboncoeur and John Harmon have joined the School Board. Mason Lord has joined as the Student Representative to the Board.

Election of Officers:

Janice Arsenault nominated Joe Saulnier for Chair. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Janice Arsenault nominated John Harmon for Vice Chair. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

John Harmon nominated Ada Vadeboncoeur for secretary. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session:

**MOTION**: John Harmon moved to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (c), seconded by Janice Arsenault. Upon being individually polled, Janice Arsenault, Joe Saulnier, John Harmon, Ava Vadeboncoeur and Tony Clements all voted in the affirmative (5-0).

**MOTION**: Janice Arsenault moved to exit the non-public session sealing the minutes, seconded by John Harmon. Upon being individually polled, Janice Arsenault, Tony Clements, John Harmon, Ava Vadeboncoeur and Joe Saulnier all voted in the affirmative (5-0).

Public Input: Randy Lacasse spoke to the Board to thank them for their service to the students of Raymond. He also wished to thank the district for organizing the mobile vaccine clinic. Mr. Lacasse shared the fears of his daughter, a senior, returning to school full time. She feels that what has been done so far has been keeping them safe at school, and may not be worth the risk.

School Board Committee Assignments:

Policy Committee- John Harmon and Joe Saulnier  
Technology Committee- Joe Saulnier  
Strategic Planning Committee- Janice Arsenault, John Harmon and Ava Vadeboncoeur (alt)  
Competency Based Education Committee- Not currently meeting, may be on future agenda.  
REA Sick Leave Bank- Ava Vadeboncoeur  
Seacoast School of Technology- Janice Arsenault, Tony Clements as Alternate  
Transportation Committee- John Harmon, Janice Arsenault as alternate  
Wellness Committee- Joe Saulnier and Janice Arsenault  
Budget Committee- Tony Clements, Joe Saulnier as alternate  
Cable Committee- Joe Saulnier, Janice Arsenault as alternate  
Capital Improvements Committee- Ava Vadeboncoeur and John Harmon  
Conservation Committee re: District- issues will be brought to the Board as necessary  
Raymond Coalition for Youth- Janice Arsenault, Joe Saulnier as alternate  
Mentor for Student Representative- Joe Saulnier  
NH School Board Association- Janice Arsenault, Ava Vadeboncoeur as alternate  
RESS Negotiations- on hold until after the recount  
Business Association (Rotary Club)- may be coming in the future as an agenda item  
Janice Arsenault is going to continue on the District Community Leadership Committee with Jessica Caron

Alec O'Meara called in to the meeting to speak with the Board about their family hoping to have young students back in the building more often than 2 days a week if it is possible.

School Board Members and Social Media Posts: Janice Arsenault expressed concern that it is important for the public to know that there is a distinction between a School Board member speaking as a citizen or as a School Board member. John Harmon also expressed concern about a possible quorum of a Board when three Board members are on one social media thread in a discussion. Ava Vadeboncoeur stated that she chooses to not speak with people as a Board member on social media, and invites them to the public meeting.

2021-22 Default Budget: The Board discussed the Default Budget in light of the fact that our operating budget warrant article was not approved by the voters. Attached to the agenda is a document that includes both the default and proposed budget. There is also an attached document with Administration recommendations for budget cuts. The Board discussed possibly eliminating a math teacher at RHS, eliminating a half time World Language teacher at IHGMS and taking some technology out of the budget at RHS and IHGMS.

John Harmon brought up the seven 2nd grade teachers at LRES as a possible place for budget cuts. Laura Yacek explained the movement that would allow for 6 teachers in each grade. John Harmon suggested removing the \$7,000 for the PR Firm. He would also remove the half time world language teacher as suggested by administration. He also suggested adjusting salary lines for when new teachers come in often under budget.

Janice Arsenault agreed with all of the cuts that are on the administrative suggestions.

John Harmon spoke about hoping to see the CARES act money going towards staff to help students. Ava Vadeboncoeur agreed that CARES funding would be better used for resources for the students.

Joe Saulnier asked if salary lines could be adjusted for the two retirements for the year that are known. Marjorie Whitmore reported that after doing quick math for a step 6 replacement on retiring positions, it would be a savings of \$65,255.

Joe Saulnier also proposed cutting \$28,175 from wagepool. Mr. Saulnier also suggested adding a fee to play sports for students. John Harmon and Marjorie Whitmore discussed not being able to adjust revenues at this point in time.

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved to eliminate a 2nd grade teacher for \$77,257, High School Math teacher for \$76,738, and the PR Firm for \$7,000 for a total of \$160,995. John Harmon took the PR firm off the table- for a total of \$153,995. This motion was not seconded.

**MOTION:** Janice Arsenault moved to eliminate the HS math teacher for \$77,257, the world language teacher at IHGMS for \$35,918, \$19,950 for new equipment at MS and \$16,349 for new at equipment at RHS for a total of \$148,964. Seconded by Tony Clements. John Harmon does not support this motion. The motion passed (4-1).

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved to amend the agenda to remove the District Calendar and the School Board Summer Calendar from tonight's agenda, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur. The motion passed with Tony Clements voting against the motion, (4-1).

Full-Time Reopening of School: Dr. McCoy shared information with the Board that was pertinent to the Full-Time Reopening, referencing information provided in the agenda. Dr. McCoy clarified that there would still be a fully remote option for students that would like that choice. Dr. McCoy suggested that if the Board decided to do this, after spring break would be the best time to bring students back.

Joe Saulnier read emails from residents that wrote in to the School Board.

John Harmon asked about keeping students 3 feet apart on the buses. Tina McCoy explained that the students would not be able to be kept 3 feet apart on the bus.

Mr. Harmon asked about how labs could be done with a full size class. Mr. Woodward explained some of the creative solutions that teachers have been using to address this. Mr. Bickford also shared creative ways that teachers were addressing this, such as sending lab kits home.

Mr. Harmon asked if there are enough staff to bring students back full time. Dr. McCoy stated that they do. Mr. Harmon asked what the district would do to support students that have to quarantine and can not be in the building. Dr. McCoy stated that there were more Google Meet kits coming that could assist teachers in providing remote instruction to students.

Kristen Wallace would like to know how soon parents would be polled to see what students would remain fully remote, in case there is a need for adjustments to class lists. John Harmon also thought that gathering this data from parents is important.

Tina Thomas asked if the District was short paying for the bus contract since there are less buses currently being used. Dr. McCoy is looking into it.

John Harmon would like to know what the new reopening plan would look like and what the trend and historical data for Raymond is.

Ava Vadeboncoeur hears the need for the data, but would not wait for the next School Board meeting to make this decision.

The proposal was to meet again on March 31st after speaking with families and gathering the data asked for.

Tonya Thompson came to the Board to suggest that with hand sanitizer, open windows and masks would make the bus situation less of a concern. Lunches could also utilize space that is outside.

Megan Brown came to the Board to say that if the District told parents about the bus concerns, many parents would handle it and bring their students to school if needed. She expressed concern that not making a decision today would be taking time away from teachers to prepare. Dr. McCoy stated that the calculations were based on all the hybrid students coming back. If everyone came back (remote students included) it may be more challenging.

John Harmon would like to see the information from parents first.

Erin Brewit called in to share with the Board her perspective on trusting administrators and staff to make this work for students to come back full time.

**MOTION:** Tony Clements moved to set a preliminary opening date of May 3rd, providing the data supports it, seconded by Janice Arsnault. John Harmon clarified that remote would be an option for students that would like to remain remote. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

John Harmon asked when the reopening plan would be available. Dr. McCoy shared that they could work for March 31st to allow for time if needed. Administration will be asking parents to let the District know if they will be sending their child back full time.

Policy IHGB-R and Participation in Assessments by Charter and Private School Students: The Board reviewed Policies IHGB-R and IHGB (found in the meeting agenda) in order to discuss Raymond resident students who attend charter schools or private schools to participate in district wide assessments.

**MOTION:** Janice Arsenault moved to change policy IHGB-R Participation in Public School Activities by Home Educated, Nonpublic, and Charter Students for this year only, seconded by John Harmon. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

**MOTION:** Janice Arsenault moved to go past 10PM for the amount of time it takes to do the Special Education District Reorganization, seconded by John Harmon. Janice Arsenault amended her motion to include Donation Acceptance and Manifest signing, John Harmon seconded the amendment. Upon being individually polled, all Board members voted in the affirmative (5-0).

Special Education District Reorganization: Director of Student Services Mike Hatfield explained a plan to reorganize special education administration. Proposed job descriptions can be found in the meeting agenda. John Harmon asked for clarification on where the two other individuals would be residing. Director Hatfield stated that they would be in the SAU office. Mr. Harmon asked how much those administrators would be in the buildings. Director Hatfield shared how they would be a visible face and not be limited to the SAU building. Ava Vadeboncoeur asked what would happen if there was a crisis situation in the Elementary School when the Coordinator is in the Middle School. Director Hatfield stated that they could call the Special Education Office and someone would come over for support. Ms. Vadeboncoeur also expressed concern over the job description for the District Wide Coordinator.

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved to approve the job descriptions as proposed as well as the reorganization as proposed, seconded by Janice Arseanult. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Donation Acceptance:

**MOTION:** Janice Arsenault moved to accept \$2,000 to LRES from Friends and Family of Jenny Fisk, seconded by John Harmon. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Manifest Signing: Marjorie Whitmore presented the Board with the Manifest totals: For \$735,688.86 in payables, \$467,484.86 in Payroll for a total of \$1,203,173.72.

There will be a quick meeting next Wednesday March 24th to go over the MS-22, and a meeting March 31st.

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Adjournment:

**MOTION:** John Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 PM, seconded by Janice Arsenault. Voted unanimously in the affirmative (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany L'Heureux  
School Board Clerk