

Raymond School Board Meeting  
October 4, 2023  
Raymond High School Media Center  
Minutes Page 1  
*DRAFT*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Stephen Scarfo; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Thomas Waldron.

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 Stephen Scarfo, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (i) "Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions." 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 6:12 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes (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), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 6:13 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. There was no public input forthcoming.

Student Representative to the School Board Report: Mr. Sopha was not present this evening.

Our Students/Our Schools: Mr. Waldron and IHGMS student Isabella Gott discussed the National Junior Honor Society with the School Board, including fundraising activities, upcoming events, and other volunteer activities. National Junior Honor Society is a national organization that promotes citizenship among students, instills value about giving back to the community, and is a precursor for the National Honor Society at the high school level.

NHSBA Delegate Assembly Resolutions: The School Board reviewed the resolutions for the upcoming New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by John Harmon, to accept proposed resolution #8 [relative to curriculum decisions and complaints about curriculum] submitted by Oyster River Cooperative School Board. Voted unanimously in the negative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the NHSBA alternative language for proposed resolution #9 [relative to library materials] submitted by Dover School Board.

Motion passed with John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, second by Stephen Scarfo, to accept proposed resolution #10 [relative to costs included in the default budget] submitted by Raymond School Board. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

During discussion about proposed resolution #11, it was determined that Mr. Saulnier would ask some clarifying questions at the Delegate Assembly and if the statement in the proposed resolution could be separated out from the rest of the resolution, then he would support the resolution on behalf of the School Board. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to support proposed resolution #11 [relative to hiring certified teachers from other states] from Monadnock Regional School Board. Voted unanimously in the negative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to support the NHSBA alternative language for proposed resolution #12 [relative to responsibility of parents of students who do not conduct themselves according to local law and policy] submitted by Monadnock Regional School Board. Motion passed with John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to support resolution #13 [relative to powers of moderators in cooperative school districts] submitted by Monadnock Regional School Board. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Saulnier, to accept proposed resolution #14 [relative to funding for building aid] submitted by Manchester School Board. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, and John Harmon voting in the affirmative and Cindy Bennett and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept proposed resolution #15 [relative to funding for universal preschool] submitted by Manchester School Board. Motion failed with Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept proposed resolution #16 [relative to state sustainability incentives] submitted by the Manchester School Board. Voted unanimously in the negative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to support NHSBA's alternative resolution for proposed resolution #17 [relative to Medicaid as calculator for free and reduced meals] submitted by Manchester School Board. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept proposed resolution #18 [relative to deleting a resolution] submitted by the NHSBA Board of Directors. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

It was noted that proposed resolution #19 was submitted to NHSBA after the deadline to do so.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept proposed resolution #19 [relative to subsidized meal program] submitted by the Concord School Board. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Stephen Scarfo voting in the affirmative and John Harmon and Tony Clements voting in opposition.

The School Board reviewed NHSBA's continuing resolutions, which may be brought to the floor of the Delegate Assembly. Mr. Harmon stated he would like to take out resolution #5 relative to paying for school lunches, as he doesn't feel that tax dollars should support someone who can afford payment. Mr. Scarfo stated he is opposed to removing it.

Mr. Saulnier stated he would like to take out resolution #2, as he believes that regular school board meetings should not allow for 100% remote attendance.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to remove continuing resolution #3 relative to remote attendance at public meetings. Motion passed with John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements and Cindy Bennett voting in the affirmative and Stephen Scarfo voting in opposition.

The School Board reviewed the proposed NHSBA bylaw changes.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept bylaw change #1 relative to local school board membership and dues. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept bylaw change #2 relative to NHSBA officers election and term of office. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept bylaw change #3 relative to parliamentary authority. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

2022-23 Annual Report Card to the Community: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the 2022-23 Annual Report Card to the Community with the following amendment: add the most recent dropout rate. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to redact policy IOD Family Life and Sex Education. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept revised policy JCA Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interest or Manifest Hardship. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to redact policy JECD Pupil Placement. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to redact policy JECD-R Pupil Placement Regulations. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Leatherman provided an update to the Board regarding the progress of Culture and Climate goals of the strategic plan.

Budget Presentation Dates: The School Board discussed the request for the Budget Committee for the district's budget presentation to take place on November 21st. After some discussion, it was determined that Tony Clements, as the School Board Representative on the Budget Committee, would let the Budget Committee know that the district can make the packet available the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and then meet with the Budget Committee the week or so after that.

School District Calendar - Timeline: Mr. Harmon stated that in the past, the calendar has been set after March elections so that the sitting board at the time the calendar is implemented will have approved it. Mr. Saulnier suggested that the calendar be set shortly after SST puts theirs out to help get the information out to the public.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to set the calendar three weeks after SST sets their calendar. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, and Tony Clements voting in the affirmative and John Harmon and Stephen Scarfo voting in opposition.

Technology Update: This agenda item was postponed to a later meeting.

Rolling Gradebook Options: This agenda item was postponed to a later meeting.

Committee Reports: Mr. Clements stated that the Budget Committee met and reviewed the town budget expenditures. Ms. Bennett attended a Cable Committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated that the school year is continuing to go well, that all teachers who applied for emergency authorization have been approved, and he will be meeting with department heads regarding budget preparation.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Clements stated he attended the homecoming parade and games and complimented the parade floats and athletes.

Raymond School Board Meeting  
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Raymond High School Media Center  
Minutes Page 5  
*DRAFT*

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$439,783.43. Payroll total: \$503,390.93.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the public minutes of September 20, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Tony Clements abstaining.

MOTION: Stephen Scarfo moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept and unseal the non-public minutes of September 20, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Tony Clements abstaining.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the minutes of September 25, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with John Harmon abstaining.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (k) "Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A, which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general public or the school district that is considering a contract, including any meeting between the school boards, or committees thereof, involved in the negotiations" and (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, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 8:39 PM and resumed public session at 9:10 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal the minutes (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), no 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 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk