

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Stephen Scarfo, and Cindy Bennett; Student Representative to the School Board Tucker Sopha; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; School Nutrition Services Director Tasha Ball.

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 (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, and Stephen Scarfo. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:05 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (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, and Stephen Scarfo), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Introduction: The School Board welcomed Kathryn Bronson as the new IHGMS Dean of Student Support Services.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 6:07 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 stated that he surveyed students to ask about issues of importance to them:

- Students being cut off from wi-fi, making it difficult to access eHall Pass, and limiting the ability to take pictures of schoolwork, as required in some classes, with their phone;
- Lack of air conditioning, and whether there's a limit to how hot a classroom is allowed to be;
- RamTime is too inflexible - students would like the ability to visit another teacher's room without having to stay there for the full RamTime;
- Some expired drinks have been sold on the lunch line.

Our Students/Our Schools: RHS Student Council Advisor Jennah Dussault and Student Council Members Tucker Sopha and Nathan Wallace talked with the Board about the membership in Student Council, the events they plan including Homecoming, Winter Carnival, and Spirit Week, and other leadership activities and fundraising events.

Nutrition Services Update: Ms. Ball presented the Nutrition Services Update, including: current year statistics, staffing update, free and reduced rates, meal participation, and current debt. Free and

reduced districtwide is at 22%: at LRES 67 free and 13 reduced, at IHGMS 79 free and 28 reduced, and at RHS 49 free and 21 reduced. Last year's debt at the end of the year was about \$18,200. This year's debt so far is \$2,278. During discussion:

- Students have more options this year with their choices for fruit, vegetables, etc, for a reimbursable meal.
- Mr. Harmon asked if there's anything that Ms. Ball is looking at this year to make changes that the Board is not yet aware of. Ms. Ball stated that they've been making adjustments because they've been shorthanded and some of those procedures to save on labor and time will probably be carried forward.
- The a la carte option at the middle school will be further expanded when the food service department there is fully staffed.

RHS Food Service: Ms. Ball discussed what she's learned about Londonderry School District and how it worked for them to remove their high school from the national meal program. At the time they only had 12% of high school students on free and reduced meals. Once the decision was made they lost their state and federal funding as well as their commodity foods at the high school. Their high school meal program remained in the black after that, but only with aggressive vending programs, catering, and other creative ideas outside of actual meals served. They had a total of 36 district employees, no union, and four full time employees with benefits. During discussion:

- Mr. Scarfo asked if Ms. Ball had an idea of the difference in profit between being on the program versus being off. Ms. Ball did not have that comparison available, but she noted that the dollar amount for the commodities and benefits received through the program is roughly \$34,000.
- Ms. Bennett asked if the students were happier with the food and if more students purchase the food, and said that's a consideration.

Mr. Saulnier stated that he doesn't feel removing the high school from the program is worth it. Mr. Harmon stated that he agrees. It was the general consensus of the School Board to take no action regarding the food service program at the high school.

Transportation Services - Renewal or RFP: Mr. Leatherman stated that he has no additional information regarding the proposed contract extension for Dail Transportation. He stated that the rationale for the 70% liquidated damages is because if a bus does not run, even if the driver does not need to be paid, the payment on the bus still remains. Mr. Harmon stated that his concern is that Dail isn't providing the services as the contract states, and when they don't provide the service, the District is on the hook. He's also concerned because Raymond was told they'd have enough drivers this year but it turns out that they still cannot cover athletic transportation. He asked if the Board should consider two different requests for proposals - one for transportation, one for extracurricular/athletic transportation.

During discussion, Mr. Leatherman stated that the bus company is providing about 50% of the athletic and extracurricular bussing needs at the high school, and 0% at the middle school. Ms. Whitmore

suggested considering agreeing to the contract extension with the athletic piece and bidding out for just the athletic/extracurricular needs.

Mr. Saulnier stated he understands that this contract extension amount is high, but he would consider it due to the cost and logistics of any other possible options. During discussion, he also stated that his concern with doing two bids would be that if they don't get an athletic contract, we would have no transportation as opposed to whatever Dail Transportation would be able to provide. There was some further discussion about athletic transportation needs and consideration of bidding out for that. Mr. Harmon stated that he's considering accepting Dail's offer since it doesn't seem like they'd be able to necessarily get anything better. Mr. Leatherman stated he agreed. After some further discussion, Mr. Harmon suggested that the contract with Dail be renewed and then see if there are other companies and talk to them about going forward. The hope would be that Dail would honor the contract as they were prior to Covid.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept Dail's contract extension through the 2026-27 school year. Mr. Harmon asked for confirmation that the school district attorney has read through the contract, and that it is the best we can do, to which Mr. Leatherman replied yes. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Mr. Sopha left the meeting at 7:32 PM.

School District Calendar Timeline: This item was postponed to the next meeting since all board members are not present.

2023-24 Opening Plan: Mr. Leatherman stated that there are no changes being suggested to the 2022-23 opening plan other than updating the year to the current school year. He explained that the District is required to have this plan as part of our acceptance of ESSERS funds. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the opening plan for the 2023-24 school year. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Warrant Articles: Surplus Funds to Maintenance CRF and Special Education CRF: Mr. Harmon stated that at the CIP meeting in July, the Board had said they wanted to have the same warrant article for \$400,000 from fund balance to the maintenance capital reserve fund. The next agenda item, the Special Education CRF Warrant Article, is to address if the Board would like to increase the balance in that fund, which is currently approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the Board has learned that the way the warrant article has been worded ("up to \$400,000") doesn't mean what they have thought it does, and asked if the attorney could wordsmith it. Mr. Harmon stated that this evening the Board can determine what they'd like to do and the wording can follow.

Mr. Harmon suggested putting \$300,000 from fund balance into the maintenance capital reserve fund, and \$100,000 in the special education capital reserve fund. He said he is hoping it can be done in one warrant article. Mr. Scarfo suggested keeping two separate warrant articles, keeping the maintenance capital reserve fund at \$400,000, and \$100,000 into the special education capital reserve fund.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to put up to \$300,000 from surplus funds into our maintenance capital reserve fund, and up to \$100,000 into our special education capital reserve fund. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Ms. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending August 31, 2023. She noted that she's asked the DRA and the DOE to call back the budget information previously submitted to make the changes that they've previously notified the Board of, which is why they see "TBD" next to the tax rate information, as we are waiting for the updated calculations. During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon stated his concern is that we don't know yet what the special education transportation and tuition lines will be, and the district is not currently on a freeze, and perhaps we will realize at a later date that we should have been in a freeze earlier. He stated he would like to see something to look at in the current budget for these lines, even if it's last year's numbers and then they can be adjusted as actual costs come in. It was the general consensus of the Board that the information be included in upcoming financial reports in that manner.
- Mr. Scarfo asked why the \$600,000 that was being returned to the taxpayers from the 2022-23 school year couldn't be used for this year's anticipated shortfall. Mr. Harmon stated that statutorily the school district is not allowed to save that money in that way. Mr. Saulnier stated that the June 30th date is the end of that year's budget, and those funds can't be used for the current year unless they had been previously designated to do so.
- It was the consensus of the Board to ask administration to check in with the Budget Committee to confirm that presentations could include a breakdown only by object codes, not function codes.

Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Marie Roy at the middle school. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

2023-24 Professional Development Days: Mr. Leatherman reviewed the agendas from the current year's professional development days to date. Mr. Harmon stated that there is no election in Raymond in November, when we do have a professional development day, and that there is an election day in Raymond in January, during which there are no professional development days, and asked if there has been discussion with Seacoast School of Technology about moving that around. Mr. Leatherman said he will look into that.

Mr. Harmon asked that the Board be provided in a future Friday Memo a summary of how much professional development time, by the end of the year, we'll have for differentiated learning, vertical alignment, behavioral health, and positive relationships within the school community, as outlined in the strategic plan.

New/Revised Policies First Reading: The School Board reviewed the following policies for the first of two readings: IOD Family Life and Sex Education (Redact), JCA Change of Class or School Assignment Best Interests, Manifest Hardship (Revised), JECD Pupil Placement (Redact), JECD-R Pupil Placement Regulations (Redact). There were no further revisions suggested at this time.

Leaps and Bounds Teacher: Mr. Leatherman stated that the Leaps and Bounds Program, which deals with the students with significant needs, requires some more staff to provide the needed services. He proposed using ESSERS funds to hire an additional teacher for that program. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to hire a teacher out of ESSERS funds for the Leaps and Bounds program. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the Policy Committee met and the Friday Memo included the policies that were reviewed with no changes suggested.

Mr. Harmon stated that school district administration attended the Budget Committee meeting last night to review the 2022-23 year-end report. There is currently a vacant position on the Budget Committee due to a member's resignation.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the Raymond Coalition for Youth met, and they have a walk through Riverside Park coming up in the next month. Their annual gala is scheduled for March 23, 2024.

Mr. Saulnier stated the SST Governing Board met. Enrollment numbers are down from last year. They are looking at adding classes in cybersecurity and cosmetology, as well as electrician courses. Their budget for next year looks to be a 3% increase.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated it's been a fantastic start to the school year, that i-Ready diagnostics at LRES are being wrapped up, and that the district is still looking for paraeducators, kitchen staff, and custodians.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Harmon stated that Fremont School Board toured the high school last week with administration from Fremont and Raymond. He said that the four student class officers who joined them were outstanding - Maddie Ambrose, Acadia Gafford, Aynalem Levesque, and Kylie Potter. He stated he received an email from the Fremont Chairperson who was also very complimentary of those students.

Raymond School Board Meeting
September 20, 2023
Raymond High School Media Center
Minutes Page 6
DRAFT

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$772,418.15. Payroll total \$493,854.09.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the public minutes of September 6, 2023 with the following amendments: page 1, correct Mr. Tucker to Mr. Sopha, and on page 2, under Principal's Opening Day Remarks, correct the first sentence under bullet #2 to read "when either MS or HS has an activity that will impact the day's schedule..." Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept and unseal the non-public minutes of September 6, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative..

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the minutes of September 7, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Cindy Bennett abstaining.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the minutes of September 13, 2023 with the following amendment: correct date to September 13. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (I) "Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present." Upon the Board members being individually polled, the motion was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:21 PM and resumed public session at 9:40 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and keep the minutes sealed (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Cindy Bennett, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Stephen Scarfo), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Meeting
September 20, 2023
Raymond High School Media Center
Minutes Page 7
DRAFT

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session
September 20, 2023

Not voted to be kept confidential.

Item A

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

The Superintendent reviewed this evening's nomination with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Leatherman,
Superintendent of Schools