

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Raymond High School Principal Peter Dannible; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Thomas Waldron; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Jessica Benson; Executive Director of Student Support Services Jodi Gutterman.

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" 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, Cindy Bennett, Stephen Scarfo, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:21 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session and seal item B (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, Stephen Scarfo and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public input was opened at 6:22 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. Tucker was not present at the meeting. Mr. Clements read a statement on behalf of and written by Mr. Tucker, relative to recent events at the high school and relative to the crowdfunding policy on the agenda later this evening. A copy of this statement can be found at the end of these minutes.

Discussion with Elected Representatives: NH State Representatives Kevin Pratt and Tim Cahill were present to discuss concerns of the School Board.

Mr. Saulnier discussed the default budget, and the fact that increased costs for serving meals to students, which schools are required to do, are not allowed to be included in the default budget even as those increased expenses remain. He said that if Raymond had gotten our default budget, we would have had to make up \$200,000 for this reason.

Mr. Harmon said that the issue is that our food service program is over budget due in part to unforeseen increases in costs, but we're required to feed students.

Mr. Cahill stated that they'll look into the language of the RSA, that perhaps there's a reason it is the way it is. Mr. Saulnier noted there have been concerns about the way that our food service is budgeted, in that we need to have a zero sum amount at the end of the year, and since we have our own full time employees, that causes a deficit. Mr. Scarfo stated that if the district could change the way we have to budget, then we can count those food service employees in the same way that we do other employees.

Mr. Saulnier asked if the State could look at how they help with special education costs for out-of-district tuition, transportation, and in-district services. He said he feels that because schools are required to provide these services, and because people see costs going up but they only see the bottom line, that programs and services for regular education students may be affected. Representative Pratt stated that funding for that is a federal program, and that New Hampshire is the seventh highest state in the country giving money back to the schools. Mr. Cahill stated that it's a balancing act, that we have to be educating our special needs students but we also have to take care of other students, and that they can do some more learning and look into it.

Mr. Harmon noted that Senator Keith Murphy had arrived during discussions, and he thanked them all for coming.

Principal's Opening Day Reports: IHGMS Principal Tom Waldron reviewed the opening day report with the School Board. During discussion:

- Dr. Waldron is considering adding a few minutes of transition time around lunch, keeping instructional hours in mind.
- Mr. Harmon asked that when a group of students goes to the high school for an activity, that it doesn't happen on either always a green day or always a white day. He asked that the principals work together so that those activities happen on different days so that different groups of students get to participate.
- Mr. Harmon stated that in the strategic plan, we're asking all homeroom teachers or RAM teachers to call their students' parents, and asked if that's been done and if not when is that scheduled. Dr. Waldron stated that it hasn't been done yet and he will consult with the Superintendent and the other principals. Mr. Harmon stated that the goal was to do it earlier in the year so that the first interaction with parents is a positive one.

LRES Principal Jessica Benson reviewed the opening day report with the School Board. During discussion:

- Ms. Bennett asked if Ms. Benson could work with the town library to make available a list of phonics readers that align with the elementary curriculum.

RHS Principal Peter Dannible reviewed the opening day report with the School Board. During discussion:

- Mr. Saulnier stated that there are about 62 students who are behind their original year of graduation and that he would like to see a way for students to not fall behind so quickly as it seems to steamroll and become more difficult to make up as a senior.
- Mr. Saulnier asked who will be running Penguin Plunge and Unified Sports. Mr. Dannible stated that he believes Mr. Hayes will be continuing this year in that capacity but he will look into that.
- Mr. Saulnier asked that students be notified well in advance of picture day information.
- Mr. Clements stated that the inconsistency in bus arrival times is unacceptable, that five minutes leeway is fine, but not ten.

Tony Clements left the meeting at 7:29 PM

Student Services Update: Ms. Gutterman reviewed the Student Services update with the School Board. During discussion:

- Ms. Bennett asked if there is a way to show improvement and that resources such as contracted providers are working. Ms. Gutterman said yes, all is charted and tracked, and she can try to bring it to another meeting in a way that's not identifiable.
- Mr. Harmon asked if future reports could include a comparison of the district's percentage of special education students compared to statewide.
- Mr. Harmon asked what happens if the school district and a charter school can't come to an agreement on services (with a memorandum of understanding). Ms. Gutterman said that they can agree to some terms and not others and as they come to more agreement, more can be added.
- Mr. Harmon asked for the cost associated with a self-contained program pilot. Ms. Gutterman said she will provide that, but it's very reasonable.

School Meal Debt Collection Process: Mr. Leatherman reviewed the steps that administration follows to contact parents regarding overdue meal payments. Mr. Harmon asked that Mr. Leatherman confirm that free and reduced meal applications are available at the town welfare office.

New/Revised Policies Second Reading: **MOTION:** Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept policy BCA School Board Member Ethics. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

During discussion about policy JJE and crowdfunding, Mr. Leatherman stated that the concern is that the district does not have control over crowdfunding procedures, however the policy doesn't prohibit an individual student from crowdfunding on behalf of just themselves. Crowdfunding cannot happen on behalf of the district. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept policy JJE Student Fundraising Activities and Crowdfunding. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to redact policy KDA Public Information Program. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept policy ED District Communication Plan. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

Donation Acceptance: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the donation of \$634.35 from All-American Publishing to Raymond High School. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

Timeline for District Calendar: This item was postponed to a later meeting date when all Board members could be present.

Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Leatherman reviewed the strategic plan update related to universal supports for all students. During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon asked for a breakdown of the professional development days this year - what has been done and what is being planned.
- Mr. Harmon asked for a report on the assessment when it's been completed.

Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve the nomination of Megan Murphy, teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Tony Clements was not present for this motion.)

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated that it's been a very good start to the school year and he can sense a change in the vibe and culture. Teachers have been engaged, and it's been positive.

Committee Reports: Mr. Saulnier reported that the Budget Committee met the previous day, and that the School District will be presenting the year-end report on September 19th.

Tony Clements returned to the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Ms. Bennett stated that the Cable Committee was discussing the fact that storage of videos longer than a year for town and school boards and committees may come with a fee. During discussion it was noted that the School District has not requested that RCTV store videos for longer than a year, and that the District is currently storing Google Meet videos of School Board meetings.

Correspondence/Other:

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$447,146.62. Payroll total \$435,049.53.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the minutes of July 26, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the minutes of August 2, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Stephen Scarfo abstaining.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the public minutes of August 16, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept and keep sealed the non-public minutes of August 16, 2023. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Tony Clements abstaining.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Stephen Scarfo, to accept the public minutes of August 23, 2023 with the following amendment: page 3, correct sentence to start with "Mr.," not "Mrs.". Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Mr. Harmon asked to hold off on approval of the August 23, 2023 non-public minutes to discuss during a non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk

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

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session  
September 6, 2023

Minutes - Not voted to be kept confidential.

Item A

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

Mr. Leatherman reviewed this evening's nomination with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Leatherman,  
Superintendent of Schools

Statement written by and read on behalf of Student Representative to the School Board Sopha Tucker:

*It has been a great beginning to the school year. I would like to give a thank you to Mr. Dannible and the rest of the administration for making the year start off great. We had an assembly introducing a lot of the new staff members and Mr. Dannible. Many students including me appreciated Mr. Dannible getting in front of the school on day one and giving a speech. I have only heard good things about him from other students so far and I'm excited to have him as our new principal.*

*This week has been astronomically hot (which you all are probably feeling right here in the library) and AC is desperately needed for more classrooms. The heat is extremely distracting and disrupts a lot of classes. I know some rooms are getting air conditioning but if more of them desperately need it.*

*Wifi has been shut off to all student devices; only school devices can use wifi. I can understand this for phones, but personal laptops should be able to use the wifi since those students are using their laptops for school work. The Chromebooks are very slow and students can get work done faster with personal devices.*

*I have also looked over tonight's agenda and would like to comment on the following one:*

*Crowdfunding : Crowdfunding is a very good way to raise money and I am unfamiliar with the problems that come with it. We don't even have enough money to pay our teachers, get a bus for sports, or get air conditioning, why would we make it even harder to raise money for extracurriculars or sports if we are tight on our budget? I don't know if there's a legal reason for this, but I do not think this is a good idea. This can take opportunities away from students. For example, a student gets into nationals for track and the school does not have the funds to go to pay for their trip. Fundraising normally can take too long and might not raise enough, but crowdfunding to family members and friends can raise that money quickly. Do you want to take the opportunity of going to nationals away from that kid? Is there a compromise that can happen to keep crowdfunding open as an option? If there is a legal, safety, or PR issue with it is there a way we mitigate it? (for example, making sure that the crowdfunding says that it's not run by the district but by students or parents). Please do NOT get rid of crowdfunding, it is an effective and great way to raise money.*