

Raymond School Board Meeting
April 20, 2016, 7:00 PM
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved May 4, 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Jaclyn Serrine, Diane Naoum, Andrea Peterson, and Joe Saulnier; Student Representative to the School Board James Coomey; Superintendent of Schools Ellen Small; Business Administrator Ron Brickett.

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.

Public Input: Brian Campbell approached the Board. He talked with the Board about some Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants the Town has received over the years and reviewed a bit about the history of LWCF and their goals. Raymond has received three LWCF grants: one grant was for the land for Cammett Ball Fields; one was for the middle school baseball field; and another was for the land behind the elementary school for a boat and kayak launch and a town beach. Property from LWCF grants are opened up to anyone for use. Mr. Campbell left some information about the grants. He noted that a requirement of the grants is perpetual public access.

Our Students/Our Schools: RHS Band/Chorus teacher Randy LaCasse and students Alex Doherty, Chris LaCasse, and Isaac Whitten talked with the Board about the student trip to the Heritage Music Festival in Annapolis, MD. They talked about the tour of the Naval Academy and the organ concert that they attended during their trip. They played at the festival, for which there is a rubric and criteria, and they attended an awards ceremony. The band and chorus received second place within their division. Student Devon Jordan received The Ovation Award, which is given to one person out of the entire festival. The students talked about what they learned during their adjudication, including using the whole body when singing and that every piece of the band plays a part.

REA 2016-2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement: The School Board thanked the members of the REA Negotiating Team: Tom Koch, Colleen Bridle, Alison LaCasse, Paula Chouinard, Mike Brazeau, and Pat Popieniek. They briefly reviewed the major revisions to the collective bargaining agreement. Representatives from the Raymond Education Association and the Raymond School Board signed the 2016-2018 REA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

LRES Building Committee Membership: It was the consensus of the Board to put out an invite for a community member or parent to join the LRES Building Committee, with the deadline to submit letters of intent by May 3.

HealthTrust Application and Membership Agreement & Certificate of Authorizing Resolution: Mr. Brickett reviewed the fact that HealthTrust asks for the governing body to authorize the signature of the resolution that SAU 33 will participate as a member in the HealthTrust Pooled risk management program. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joe Saulnier, to approve the resolution and to authorize the Board Chair to sign said document. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mr. Brickett reviewed the financial update for months ending March 31, 2016. Items of largest variance include: salaries, professional services for students, and student tuitions.

Mr. Brickett also stated that a bill has passed the House and the Senate and is expected to be signed into law which will prohibit the serving of alternative meals if a student's account is in arrears. Any receivables at the end of the year must be picked up by the district.

School Board/Admin Retreat Date: The Board chose to move forward with May 23 as the admin/retreat date at 6:00 PM in the IHGMS Media Center.

School Board Member Conflict of Interest: Mrs. Serrine stated that one of the School Board Members works as a substitute and that this was an opportunity to address any conflict of interest. Mr. Harmon stated that statute doesn't exclude substitutes from running for the Board. Mr. Harmon then read an email from the district's attorney regarding the topic. Mr. Harmon also reviewed policies BBBA-Board Member Qualifications and BCB-Board Member Conflict of Interest. He stated that being in the schools, the Board member is going to encounter things that will potentially come before the Board. It presents a perception problem and it puts the principal in a difficult position to deal with that person as a School Board member and as an employee. He stated he would hope that Mrs. Peterson would not continue working as a substitute. He noted that presently, policy doesn't stop her from doing so. Mrs. Serrine stated that she shares similar concerns, that as a Board they must remain objective, and she's concerned with how the staff feels working with a Board member. Mrs. Naoum stated that she agrees, and feels that people may feel intimidated. Mr. Saulnier stated that this type of circumstance wouldn't prevent someone from serving on a jury and he sees this situation in the same way. Mrs. Peterson stated that she can appreciate the concern for those working around her, that she was asked to run for the School Board, and that she is objective and is a person of integrity. She stated that regarding being subjective in School Board decisions, many Board members are parents and know people, so that's bound to happen. She stated that she publicized the fact that she works as a substitute for the district during the elections.

Mr. Harmon stated that he feels this is an oversight in the statute, which calls out every position except substitute. He stated that having to recuse oneself from hearings could mean risking losing a quorum, and that he feels it's trouble to ask a principal to be both a subordinate and a boss.

Approval of Updated Raymond School District Employee Benefits "Cafeteria Plan" and Approval/Signature of Formal Record of Action: Mr. Brickett reviewed the updated employee benefits "Cafeteria Plan," which allows the District to make deductions from paychecks for pre-tax benefits. The plan was updated to reflect the benefit of flexible spending accounts for some employees. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Diane Naoum, to approve the resolution and to authorize the Board Chair to sign said resolution. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that he and Mrs. Small met with Kris Dail regarding school bus routes for next year. They asked Dail Transportation to come back to them in May having looked at bus routes in Raymond with no preconceived notion of what the bus routes should be. They'd like the routes to be more efficient. If Dail comes back with a plan they think is worthy, they'll bring it to the Board.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the Budget Committee met and they are asking that the School Board present their budget this year before Thanksgiving. Mr. Harmon asked him to inquire if the Town is presenting their budget first, before the School Board. Mr. Harmon also asked if Mr. Saulnier could inquire about requesting that the openings for the Budget Committee be put on the School District website. Mr. Saulnier reviewed that the Chair of the Budget Committee is Josh Mann, the Vice Chair is David Harper Wilson, and the Secretary is Sandy Ellis.

Mr. Saulnier reported that the Technology Committee is working on the two-year plan. He expressed concern that the committee is not looking at current issues in the district. Mrs. Small stated that the Technology Plan is to address where the district is going. Mr. Harmon asked if Technology Director

Bailey Rigg could be invited to a future meeting to provide the Board with an update on technology and all issues outstanding.

Mrs. Serrine stated that she and Mr. Harmon met with the Selectmen to discuss the town well. She stated that there is no plan on the Town side to try to connect the high school into the well and it was not included in the bond warrant article to do so. Facilities Director Todd Ledoux will look into what it will take to hook the high school up. She also noted that the proposed line to go back out to the road will not interfere with the access road being planned for this year. It was noted during discussion that the School Board has not yet approved use of the land for the well.

Mrs. Peterson stated that she attended the Raymond Coalition for Youth meeting where they spoke about the Governor's Prevention Summit to be held in Manchester on May 10th. There will also be a screening at O'Neil Cinemas in Epping on April 28th of a documentary about the opioid crisis in Vermont. RCFY has a diversion program, My Choice Program, for those who are experimenting with drugs as a way for them to have some help to stop. She also stated that there is a bill being proposed to increase the allowable alcohol content in beer from 12% to 21%.

Mr. Saulnier and Mrs. Peterson reviewed the meeting of the Carroll Lake Beach Committee, which included Selectmen representatives as well as representatives from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee and the Conservation Commission. They looked at proposals to move forward with the grant, including the walking trails being public access. Mr. Saulnier stated that the kayak launch was put on the back burner, and that they are suggesting putting up a fence and cleaning up the current trails. The grant application is for the walking trails. It was noted that the trails is not what was asked of the Board – that the potential grant was mainly for the kayak/boat launch. Mr. Saulnier stated that the next meeting date of the Carroll Lake Beach Committee has not been determined. Mr. Harmon asked that Mrs. Small be notified of the next meeting so that she can attend.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Small stated that this Friday is "Poem in your Pocket Day" at the elementary school as a way to encourage literacy in a variety of formats. Students need to be prepared to either memorize or carry around a poem in their pocket throughout the day. At any time, an adult in the building can stop them and ask them to recite their poem. The poem can be one they wrote or a favorite poem.

College and Career Fairs were held at both the middle and high school. The high school fair was a mix of college admissions and information along with representatives from different careers. The middle school fair introduced students to a wide variety of career options and focused on the requirements needed for each career.

Mrs. Small announced that RHS has its second Fulbright Scholar: Charlie De Benedetto who is a 2012 Raymond High School graduate. He will be teaching in Taiwan starting in the late summer. Charlie follows in the footsteps of RHS' first Fulbright scholar, Jesse Hardman, who is currently teaching in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Correspondence/Other: None.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$158,028.61. Payroll total \$408,458.57.

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Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Andrea Peterson, to approve the public minutes of April 6, 2016 with the following amendments: page 2, revised to read “Concerns he heard *at public meetings...*” and “A concern was whether the plans...” and to approve and keep sealed non-public minutes Item A, and to approve and unseal non-public Items C and D with the following amendment to item C: revise the motion to read “as amended.” Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Diane Naoum abstaining.

Non-Public Session: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joe Saulnier, 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 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 John Harmon, Jaclyn Serrine, Joe Saulnier, Diane Naoum, and Andrea Peterson. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:14 PM and resumed public session at 9:19 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Diane Naoum and, upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by John Harmon, Jaclyn Serrine, Andrea Peterson, Diane Naoum, and Joe Saulnier), two motions were voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: Diane Naoum moved, seconded by John Harmon, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Minutes
April 20, 2016

Not voted to be sealed.
Approved May 4, 2016

Present: School Board Members Jaclyn Serrine, John Harmon, Joe Saulnier, Andrea Peterson, and Diane Naoum; Superintendent of Schools Ellen Small.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Diane Naoum, to approve the nominations of Diane Anderson, Monique Gauthier, and Joanne Morrison as school nurses for the 2016-17 school year. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Diane Naoum, to accept the resignation of Benjamin Morse effective June 30, 2016. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk