

Raymond School Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 29, 2012
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved September 19, 2012

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Stewart, John Harmon, Tina Thomas, and Maurice Titcomb; Adam Maxwell, 7:28 PM; Superintendent Jean Richards; Business Administrator Ron Brickett; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Ellen Small; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Dan LeGallo; Curriculum Coordinator Lisa Desruisseaux; Raymond High School Principal Kirk Beitler; Lamprey River Elementary School Assistant Principal Alice Jette; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Chouinard.

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: Randy LaCasse approached the Board to talk with them about the second reading of policy IMAB, Staff Members Instructing Their Own Children. He requested that the policy allow for autonomy of the building principal and that students aren't singled out if their parents live in the community and work in the district. He feels the language of the policy is editorial and presumes unethical behavior of teachers. He thanks the Board for the second reading version which did take into account some of his points from when he first approached the Board. However, he believes that the wording of the policy is in conflict with the State of New Hampshire's recognition of home school programs. He asked the Board to consider: changing the policy to "School District Employees Whose Children Attend School in District" because there are many facets that affect a child's education; ensuring the Building Principal has the authority to change assignments; and that the policy include a component for an administrator who has children who attend school in the district. Mr. LaCasse stated he understands the need for this type of policy, but that he requests more editing be done.

Principals' Opening Day Reports: Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Ellen Small stated the following: NECAP testing is taking place Oct 2 – 21; the 5th grade and the 8th grade each have their own week for NECAP testing to allow for the maximum number of smaller groups; a student volunteer program was started this year as well as a student leadership team; teachers at every grade level are involved in Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD); teachers from every grade level are piloting standards-based grading; Math camp was well attended with 14 teachers in participating; eighteen 7th grade students and nine 8th grade students attended the Phillips Exeter Summer Program; Open House is scheduled for September 25th, 6-7:30 PM. Mr. Stewart asked that Mrs. Small provide information to the Board as to the numbers of participants in the SST exploratory program.

Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Dan LeGallo stated the following: the PTO held a Welcome Back Picnic for over 100 families; new Assistant Principal Alice Jette was welcomed; LRES teachers are piloting standards based grading; they are working the instructional model with special education students and co-teaching; co-teaching is now happening at every grade level at every applicable subject; Open House is scheduled for September 13, 6-7:30 PM. Raymond High School Principal Kirk Beitler stated the following: teachers at the high school are also involved in BYOD and in piloting standards-based grading; over the summer, three students

went to St. Paul's, three to Phillips Exeter Academy, three to Brown University, six SEAD students went to Dartmouth for a month, and ten students participated in Phillips Exeter Roundtables at the middle school. 22 students attended summer school in July and took advantage of offerings to recover credits; five students went through Ocean's Classroom. Mr. Harmon asked for the rate of credit recovery for summer school students.

Lisa Desruisseaux updated the Board on teacher professional development over the summer, including Understanding by Design units created and work on guidance curriculum maps. A survey will be going out the next week to all participants to get some feedback and she will share the results with the Board in her next report.

Spring 2012 NWEA Results: The NWEA testing is a national assessment for grade K-8. The results are known immediately and targeted improvement plans are developed as a result of these immediate scores.

- NWEA testing is not used at the high school level. A better assessment tool is being researched. As grade level goes up, the amount of improvement gets decreases, so at the high school level the improvement was within the margin of error, reducing the tests effectiveness for measuring growth.
- The quartile reports allow for looking at the data in a different way and seeing if groups of children are in certain concentrations.

In response to questions from the Board:

- There is no way to compare to national statistics as to the percentage of students who meet their projected target growth. There does not seem to be that information published anywhere.

New/Revised Policies – First Reading: Mrs. Thomas questioned why the drug and alcohol policy that she referenced in an email in July did not appear before the Board earlier than this policy, which came up during discussion at a later date. Dr. Richards clarified that the Policy Committee did review the policy but did not have any recommended changes. She did send a letter home to parents to stress the policy requirements and she stated that the handbooks will need to be reviewed before printing next year, but the policy itself did not require change. Mrs. Thomas requested that the policy come before the Board during a September meeting for discussion. Mr. Stewart agreed that it could be placed on the agenda for the second meeting in September.

The Board read, in their entirety, new/revised policies CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent and CBIA – Superintendent's Evaluation.

Withdrawal of Regulation: MOTION: Tina Thomas moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, that the Superintendent's Evaluation Community Input Form go back to the Policy Committee to make a policy for it to keep it active. She clarified that the intent of her motion includes the

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ability for the Policy Committee to recommend revisions to the form if they feel it necessary. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to withdraw regulation CBIA-RA, Superintendent's Self Evaluation. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New/Revised Policies – Second Reading: MOTION: Tina Thomas moved to change the last sentence of the first paragraph of policy IMAB, Staff Members Instructing Their Own Children, to read that staff assignments may be adjusted by principals and for the Policy Committee to look into a similar policy for an administrator as recommended by the citizen. After discussion, Mrs. Thomas retracted her motion to remove the qualification of the Policy Committee review. MOTION: Tina Thomas moved, seconded by John Harmon, to change the last sentence of the first paragraph of policy IMAB, Staff Members Instructing Their Own Children, to read that staff assignments may be adjusted by principals and to approve the policy as amended. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Signing of MS-25 and DOE 25 2011-12 Budget: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the signing of the MS 25 and DOE 25, 2011-12. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Signing of District Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the signing of the District Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Technology Committee Board Representative: Maurice Titcomb was named the School Board Representative to the Technology Committee.

Committee Reports: John Harmon reported that the Lamprey River Elementary School Building Committee is moving forward in meeting the charge that the Board had set for them. They will present their recommendation to the Board on September 19th.

Tina Thomas reported that the Budget Committee will be meeting on September 18th. One member has resigned and they will be discussing his replacement.

Dr. Richards reported that the first Seacoast School of Technology meeting was held. 63 students from Raymond are enrolled in SST this year. SST will be increasing tuition costs due to a new collective bargaining agreement and increased retirement costs. Public school districts are now responsible for tuition costs to SST for full-time charter school students. Three Raymond students attend charter school full-time and Raymond is now responsible for their tuition costs. SST is considering the addition of two courses – advanced manufacturing and cosmetology.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Richards reported that the school year started smoothly with an in-service day for employees and training in the new discrimination policy. Transportation for students was also smooth.

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Reach High Scholars recently held a celebration with parents and students. 6.8% of Raymond's students are attending highly competitive schools, which is the highest percentage in this region.

Correspondence/Other: Mrs. Thomas inquired as to why some nominations and resignations have been voted on in public while others have been in non-public. Mr. Harmon stated that it is due to scheduling and when the non-public discussion of the personnel issues occurs in the agenda.

Mrs. Thomas stated that the Annual Report Card was not approved by the Board to go out as she had read that the Board stated in 2011 that they wanted to do. Mr. Harmon replied that, though he didn't recall that, the Superintendent had brought it forth and the Board did review it and give input. He had believed everything was done. It was noted that the Board would like to vote on the Annual Report Card to approve it in the future.

Mrs. Thomas inquired about the Chair not being able to originate or second motions. She asked what RSA dictated that, and asked that it be placed on a future agenda for discussion. It was agreed that the Policy Committee would review the relevant Board policy at their next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Postponed to the next meeting.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Total for Accounts Payable is \$374,492.19. Total for Payroll is \$354,721.47.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (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 John Harmon and Maurice Titcomb and was voted in the negative by Tina Thomas and John Stewart. The Board did not enter into non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gillespie,
Raymond School Board Clerk