

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Michelle Couture, Joseph Saulnier, and Janice Arsenault; Student Representative to the School Board Jeffrey Rivard; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy; Business Administrator Ron Brickett; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland, Lamprey River Elementary School Assistant Principal Laura Yacek; Facilities Director Todd Ledoux.

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: Michelle Couture moved, seconded by Janice Arsenault, 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 Janice Arsenault, Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture, and John Harmon. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:46 PM and resumed public session at 7:00 PM. Other than the vote to exit non-public session (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Michelle Couture, and voted in the affirmative by Janice Arsenault, Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture, and John Harmon), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Recognition: Dr. McCoy and the School Board recognized and congratulated Linda Richard on her upcoming retirement.

Public Input: No public input was forthcoming.

Senate Bill 193: Representative Carolyn Matthews, Representative Kathleen Hoelzel, and Senator John Reagan discussed with the Board Senate Bill 193-FN 2018, Education Freedom Savings Accounts.

During the presentation:

- The Bill will go to the House on January 3rd.
- Representative Hoelzel stated that Raymond will not lose much revenue.
- Fewer than 1% of students use the Educational Savings Account (ESA).
- Funding goes to the parent to decide how it's to be spent, not to the school.
- If the School District loses more than ¼ of 1% of total voted appropriations, the District will receive that money back.
- Representative Matthews stated that they look at this as a pilot project and the intention is to review in a few years to determine how it's helped students.

During discussion:

- A "qualified student" must be in the school system at least one year and student has an IEP or student applied but didn't get into a public charter school, at least 5 years old, and meet certain household income requirements. Parents must go before the scholarship organization and prove that the student is qualified.
- Funding isn't available to parents who are already home schooling. Enrollment in school for one year is a qualification.

- Mr. Saulnier asked if this funding can be used for students with 504 plans. Senator Reagan and Representative Hoelzel replied yes, special education and programs with IDEA funding. Representative Hoelzel stated that an assessment takes place each year, and the scholarship program will not continue unless the student is making progress.
- Raymond currently receives approximately \$3,600 per student in adequacy aid. This amount, plus any extra money attached to adequacy such as the free and reduced stipend, would be the amount provided through the scholarship program.
- Mrs. Couture stated that it was said that the most Raymond could lose would be \$60,000, and that that amount is equal to a teacher. She asked what is the guarantee that the money the State says they'll provide for the stabilization grant will be funded. Senator Reagan replied that it will be funded because in it will be in statute, part of the law.
- Representative Matthews stated that it is the feeling in the Legislature that school budgets are flexible enough to handle a 1% difference in student enrollment. It's very targeted, not available to all students across the board.
- Mrs. Couture asked why the investment isn't being made in public education, since there is already a mechanism in place through manifest educational hardship. Senator Reagan stated that the philosophy is that the parent is the best judge of the adequacy of education for their children. He stated that nationally, anytime competition is introduced, schools get better.
- Mrs. Couture inquired about coverage for special education services should the child attend a private school that is not required to abide by an IEP. Senator Reagan stated that the public school district doesn't have to pay for special education services for students who attend a private school under this bill, and this bill doesn't apply to students who attend charter schools. Mrs. Couture asked if there is any mechanism to ensure that money is refunded if a private school closes its doors. Senator Reagan stated that that's nothing they could answer. Representative Matthews stated that the emphasis is on the child and the child's needs.
- Mr. Harmon asked if the bill requires that parents of a student with an IEP who choose to go to a private school are notified that they will lose their rights by going to that school. Senator Reagan stated that it's not in the law.
- Mr. Harmon asked if students who use this scholarship program will be required to take the same assessments that public schools do. Representative Hoelzel stated that they will have access to the same assessments.
- Mr. Saulnier asked how this bill helps individuals near the poverty level, as they will not be able to afford private school. Senator Reagan stated that they already do it, though he doesn't know how they do it.
- Mr. Saulnier asked if the receiving private schools are required to have a lower dropout rate than the public school of residency. There is no such requirement.
- Mrs. Arsenaault stated that she feels that it is the School Board's and District's responsibility to educate the students of Raymond, and if we cannot offer something the student needs, then it's our responsibility to make sure the students get that; that the money that people vote in for education in this town should stay in schools in this town.
- Mr. Saulnier stated he doesn't see how this bill helps everyone who wants to take their children out of the public school system. He noted that if the scholarship committee is going to go through all of the potential qualified students, there may be many, many applicants.

- Mrs. Couture stated that as a taxpayer, she shouldn't have to pay for a parent who doesn't want to send their child to school to use the money for another avenue or sent somewhere else where taxpayers have no say over how their money is spent.
- Mr. Harmon stated that one of his overriding concerns is that there are funding mechanisms which haven't been fully funded, such as building aid, catastrophic aid, and retirement. He asked that elected officials take care of these mechanisms which are already in place before directing money to other areas.

Energy Efficient Investments Report: Mike Davey, of Energy Efficient Investments, along with Mr. Brickett, Mr. Ledoux, and Mrs. Couture, talked with the Board about the report of the Energy Efficiency Committee regarding what projects they recommend to plan for as part of the comprehensive energy upgrades district-wide plan. Mr. Davey stated that the report doesn't reflect every potential project that could be done, but it reflects the ones the Committee believes are best to choose at this time, including:

- Converting all schools to LED lighting.
- Converting the high school and middle school to propane.
- The largest need is the control system at the high school. This project has a longer payback in terms of energy savings, but that system is in need of replacement, it's a constant battle to keep it up and running, and it's more than useful life.
- The package could be financed through a municipal lease and would pay for itself within 15.6 years and could potentially be funded in a tax neutral way.
- They potentially considered solar panels on the high school roof. The current roof is an ideal candidate for solar panels. Payback is 13 years and the system lasts 25 years.

Mr. Brickett stated that the District already has budgeted energy and oil costs in next year's budget, so the lease could be approved by the Board and paid through those lines. A second option, which he is more comfortable with, is to obtain approval through a warrant article. During discussion:

- Mr. Harmon expressed his concern that the cost savings doesn't pay for itself year in and year out. In addition to the controls at the high school and the boilers at the middle school and high school, he asked what other projects need to be done in 2-3 years. Mr. Ledoux stated that the high school tank doesn't need to be replaced, but ideally the District shouldn't have underground storage tanks. The high school tank is not on his schedule. The middle school tank has caused problems.
- Mr. Harmon stated that he wouldn't support a warrant article this year since the Board had told the people that there would be no more initiatives. However, he would support it for next year because there are projects that need to be done.
- Mr. Saulnier asked if there are less expensive methods to address the projects. Mr. Davey stated that a comprehensive approach is the best overall approach and value.
- Mr. Saulnier stated that some citizens may be concerned that this didn't go out to bid. Mr. Davey stated that they competitively bid all the trades down from them and the school district selects from the bidding trades. The presented cost is the worst case scenario, and once it's bid out, the cost could be lower.
- When asked if the potential rebate is guaranteed, Mr. Davey stated that the District would be presented with an offer letter from the rebate company that they could decide on.
- Mrs. Couture stated that this could be a question on the ballot, not a dollar amount to be impacted. Mr. Saulnier stated that he is in support of putting it on the ballot this year. Mr. Brickett stated that he's not

sure if the District would have to raise and appropriate money as part of the warrant article, as it's already offset in the budget, and that he will check with the attorney.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the attorney review it and bring the issue back to the January 3rd meeting. Mr. Harmon stated that the last two bond issues, they've considered no growth in the town, which this would counter if it was put on as a no tax impact warrant article.

Raymond Capital Improvements Committee: Colleen West Coates presented to the School Board the recommendations of the Capital Improvements Committee on the School District' 2018-19 Capital Improvements Plan. The CIP Committee has approved the School Board's recommended \$235,400 plan for 2018-19, which is a 10% increase from 2017. Their recommendation is to continue a 10% overall increase annually, and she noted that the CIP Committee supports a warrant article of up to \$50,000 in surplus funds to be placed in the Facilities, Maintenance, and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Competency Education Committee - PACE Application: Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland and administrators from the Competency Education Committee reviewed their recommendation as to whether to move forward with a Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) application. It is their recommendation that Raymond School District should submit an application to become a PACE district after we have accomplished some essential tasks that will ensure that we are at an acceptable level of readiness to successfully implement a PACE model. The suggested timeline for submitted an application is early 2019 and the goal is to enter PACE as a Tier 2 District.

During discussion:

- Mrs. Arsenault stated that she thinks they are on the right track looking at professional development, but that they may also want to look at teacher schedules to look for more embedded and interdepartmental time. Mrs. Couture stated that she would like to hear some of the professional development ideas embedded into the calendar, and that's is best to fill those professional development needs without sacrificing classroom time.
- Mrs. Couture asked what is the impediment right now for common planning time? Dr. McCoy stated that many do have common planning time, but it's not consistent. Specifically, the high school needs to schedule more common planning time.
- Mrs. Couture stated that the they would also like to know what the can do as a School Board to support this effort.
- Mr. Harmon suggested looking at administrators serving as substitutes periodically, knowing it's difficult to find substitutes.
- Administration will provide an update at the second meeting in February with ideas on how we can do things to move up that timeframe at all, if possible.
- Mr. Harmon recommended that a Board member be a part of the committee after the March elections.
- Mr. Saulnier stated that he had read an article about PACE and colleges not accepting it, but that colleges *are* accepting it.
- Dr. McCoy stated the need to communication not only out to parents and community, but also in-house and not just top down, but grass roots.

Default Budget 2018-19 Signing: The School Board signed the 2018-19 Default Budget of \$24,425,410, which was previously approved at the December 6, 2017 meeting.

New/Revised Policies - First Reading: The School Board read in their entirety proposed revised policy ILDA (to become ILD) Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research and proposed new policy ILD-R Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment - Supporting Forms.

It was recommended to add an "Opt-In" description to the top of the first form and to add that if the opt-in form isn't returned, the student cannot take the survey, to the first form.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Michelle Couture, to approve policy EEAA Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to redact policy IJND Video and Audio Recording in Classrooms. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mr. Brickett reviewed the financial update for months ending November 30, 2017. Areas of largest variance include salaries, health insurance, professional services for students, student tuitions, and transfers - food service.

Mr. Saulnier asked if the Board could be informed as to the number of students whose lunch accounts are in arrears as compared to last year.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Janice Arsenault, to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 PM. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Business Administrator Search Committee: There were no letters of interest submitted by parents or community members to serve on the Business Administrator Search Committee. It was generally agreed that the deadline to submit letters of interest would be extended to January 17th and that the posting would be re-advertised. Other committee members: Steve Woodward, Kevin Federico, Judith DiNatale, Gail Ernst, Todd Ledoux, and Walter Anacki. Janice Arsenault volunteered to serve as the School Board representative on the committee.

Survey Committee Request re: New School Building Cost Estimate: Mr. Harmon stated that the Survey Committee would like to have as much information as possible, and for perspective, they'd like to have an estimated amount as part of the information provided for a possible new building. The Survey Committee is asking that the Board ask administration to obtain an estimate. His recommendation is to use the equivalent of the renovated LRES with new addition and gymnasium to obtain a quote. He also stated that his hope would be to reach out to the previous bidder who did the LRES proposal. If it's not something they can do, administration could then reach out to the DOE. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Michelle Couture, to ask administration to get a rough cost estimate on a potential new school. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

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Committee Reports: Janice Arsenault stated that Raymond Coalition for Youth will hold their Family Fun Night on January 26th. The Heroin Task Force is now being named the Recovery Task Force. On January 9th, the NH Children's Trust will host a Parent Advocacy Training. At the RCFY meeting, Narcan training was provided.

Mr. Saulnier stated that at the Budget Committee meeting, there was discussion to potentially put \$60,000 back into the Fire Department budget.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. McCoy stated that she saw a middle school performance assessment of student displays of research on difference countries, including costumes, bulletin boards, computer projects, and food.

Dr. McCoy thanked RCTV for helping to televise school events.

There was a routine canine sweep at Raymond High School. It's a great opportunity for the District to be proactive against drug use, and it provides the Police Department the opportunity to train. No illegal substances were found, which reflects well on the students and the culture at the high school.

Mr. Harmon stated that he appreciated that the 5th grade assessment was common - the same for all of 5th grade.

Correspondence/Other: None.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$297,643.25 Payroll total \$433,753.80.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Janice Arsenault, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2017 with the following amendments: correct Jaclyn Serrine listed twice in attendance; verify spelling of student name in recognition section. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment: MOTION: Michelle Couture moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

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Not voted to be kept confidential.

Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Michelle Couture, Joseph Saulnier, and Janice Arsenault;
Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy.

Dr. McCoy reviewed with the School Board the potential membership of Business Administrator Search Committee. No letters of interest were received from parents or community members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk