

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, and John Harmon; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Raymond High School Principal Sharon Wilson; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek.

Pledge of Allegiance: All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Non-Public Session: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, 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 Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:01 PM and resumed public session at 6:10 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Tony Clements, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to accept the nomination of Ashley Lewis, elementary school teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Student Transportation: Mr. Leatherman stated that he was in touch with Durham School Services on July 12th when they said they have two drivers and two buses. He is waiting to be provided with the cost. Dail Transportation has provided some route numbers, and they are high because we have to provide a seat for everyone on that route whether they're riding the bus or not. The routes would potentially be a little over an hour long.

There was some discussion about the possibility of changing school start and end times for students. It was noted that Seacoast School of Technology times cannot be changed. Some options mentioned included a later end time for students, or dismissing elementary students 15 minutes earlier each day as we would still meet our yearly hourly requirements. Mr. Harmon expressed some concern about younger students getting off the bus when it's dark. He would try to keep the three runs as is, and adjust school times.

Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Bickford and Mrs. Yacek how the 20 minutes before the start of the school day is utilized. Mr. Bickford stated that students are having breakfast, parents are dropping students off, and students are waiting for class. Teachers are expected to be in the classrooms and provide supervision at 7:35 AM while students go to their lockers and get breakfast. Mr. Harmon asked if that 20 minutes in the morning were cut to 15 minutes, would that allow them to still do what they need to do. Mr. Bickford said yes, depending on when the buses arrive and that they're not arriving all at one time.

Mr. Harmon asked how long it would take at the end of the day to get the students on the bus. Mrs. Yacek and Mr. Bickford replied about 10-15 minutes.

Ms. Bennett asked Mrs. Yacek and Mr. Bickford their thoughts about the possibility of changing school times. They stated they are concerned about staff's ability to bring their children to daycare in the morning to get to work earlier, as well as in the afternoon to have their children in daycare later. At the elementary school the contracted

hours are 7 hours 10 minutes, while at the other schools they are 7 hours 30 minutes, so that needs to be figured in. And if staff are legitimately not able to be at work earlier or later, then student supervision needs to be provided another way. They also expressed concern for traffic backing up and causing issues, both buses and parent cars.

Dawn Leamer approached the Board and stated that NHSTA states that children are not permitted to be on the bus any longer than one hour - that it's a federal mandate. She added that regarding staff and conflicts with daycare, as long as the district is meeting the contractual hours employees should be at work.

Mr. Harmon stated that we don't have two buses right now and they have to make decisions. He suggested moving the dropoff time at the high school to 7:10 AM, and the middle school dropoff time to 7:55 AM. Then, start dropping off at the elementary school at 9:00 AM, which means the end of the day for the elementary school is 3:45 PM, which is 50 minutes after the middle school.

Mr. Saulnier suggested supporting Mr. Harmon's proposal for now with hope for another remedy. Mr. Harmon stated that it's important to give people as much notice as possible. He stated that the Board should either make a decision now or wait if they're going to wait for Durham School Services. Ms. Bennett stated she's not comfortable with the uncertainty. Mr. Clements stated he feels the Board can wait another week [to see if Durham School Services provides cost information], as he doesn't want to cause confusion and anger. Mr. Saulnier stated that if the decision had to be made tonight, most people would want to keep it the way it is and right now we can't have that; he suggested waiting a week. Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Leatherman to ensure that he'll have a conversation with Durham School Services so they understand that a contract needs to be provided by a certain time or the Board will move forward.

MOTION: Cindy Bennett moved, seconded by John Harmon for discussion, to continue this discussion on Wednesday and if we don't hear back we definitely go with the five buses. Mr. Harmon stated he's not sure that a motion needs to be made, as the Board's direction was that we'll wait. Ms. Bennett withdrew her motion and Mr. Harmon withdrew his second.

Process to Fill Board Member Vacancy: The School Board discussed the process to fill the School Board Member position left vacant by the resignation of Ada Vadeboncoeur. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to ask for citizens of Raymond to submit a letter of interest in the School Board vacancy with the expectation that they be here August 24th for candidate interviews, with letters to be submitted by noon on August 24th. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, July 27, 2022  
Raymond High School Media Center  
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Approved August 24, 2022

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session  
July 27, 2022

*Not voted to be kept confidential.*

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,  
Raymond School Board Clerk