

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Ada Vadeboncoeur, John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Cindy Bennett; Student Representative to the School Board Alyson Miller; Interim Superintendent of School David DeRuosi; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Safety & Facilities Director Todd Ledoux; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford.

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.

Our Students/Our Schools: Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Teacher Kristin Wallace and students Addison Campbell, Peyton Willis, Tiffany Crowe, Jaden Taylor, and Bentley Ahearn spoke with the Board about their recent trip to Nature's Classroom. About 62 students attended. This was the school's first time using this newer Nature's Classroom location. They reviewed the daily activities and experiments they enjoyed. Some of the students' favorite activities were learning about animals, field groups, animal tracking, and quiet sing.

Non-Public Session: **MOTION:** Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, 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, Ada Vadeboncoeur, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:18 PM and resumed public session at 6:31 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by John Harmon, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett,, Ada Vadeboncoeur, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Public Hearing: The School Board Chair opening the public hearing to consider the expenditure of funds up to \$48,976.48 from the Raymond School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance, and Replacement of Capital Reserve Fund to replace the Chain Link Fence at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. There was no public input forthcoming. The School Board Chair closed the public hearing.

Public Input: Debra Levesque approached the Board. She inquired if the public would be part of the search for a new Athletic Director, to which it was clarified that the high school principal would be hiring for that position. She stated her concern with how coaches have been communicating with students, and that the communication has bypassed parents and caregivers. Mr. Harmon stated that the Policy Committee recently discussed this topic and that a policy will be coming before the Board that will hopefully clarify proper procedure for communication with student athletes. Ms. Levesque noted in particular the amount of text messages sent from a coach to students and asked if that policy can be in place before fall sports teams start practicing.

Kristin Wallace approached the Board and stated that one topic that was upsetting was whether it would be appropriate for a male coach to get into a female student's car to get coffee, so it's not only about communication.

Ms. Vadeboncoeur read emails by Danielle Karcz regarding the use of surplus funds for district transportation and Malori Chirichiello regarding providing student transportation to athletic events. Both emails can be found at the end of these minutes.

Kristin Wallace approached the Board and stated that as a taxpayer it's difficult knowing that she has paid for buses and now also has to pay for gas. She also asked if the incoming School Nutrition Services Director could help students and parents understand better what they're paying for lunches. She asked that it be clear what the cost for a regular lunch is and what's an extra cost.

Student Representative to the School Board Report: Ms. Miller discussed the Raymond First Responders *Fatal Reality* presentation and upcoming senior events.

Student Transportation to Sporting Events: Dr. DeRuosi reviewed that Dail Transportation is down bus drivers and that they don't have the capacity to put buses on the road to transport students to away games. Limo service or coach buses are expensive, at over about \$1,000. Ms. Vadeboncoeur stated that it was requested that the District provide gas cards or reimburse students. Dr. DeRuosi stated that the attorney has advised against that; that doing so may result in the District being liable, as payment in such a manner would make a student or a parent technically a vendor.

Mr. Harmon asked if administration could research if other districts in the area who use Student Transportation of America are also experiencing these issues and how they have handled it.

Mr. Saulnier suggested charging Dail Transportation the \$250 for missing the bus they've been meeting for a year, and suggested that administration write another letter to them on this issue.

Mrs. Whitmore stated that the contract for regular education transportation is \$559,259 and as of April 30th the amount still encumbered but not spent for athletic transportation is \$14,000.

Mr. Saulnier asked if there is anything legally that can be done to remove district liability if they did choose to compensate parents and students in some way. Dr. DeRuosi stated that he will look into that.

Mr. Saulnier asked why a parent picking up students must sign out each student if it's known that they're going to an athletic event. Dr. DeRuosi stated he would be hesitant to bypass that procedure and jeopardize student safety.

Debra Levesque approached the Board and asked if the money that has been allotted and is not being spent, can that be used as a reimbursement; instead of a gas card could it instead be a reimbursement to student athletes or parents providing transportation? Dr. DeRuosi clarified that is what he will be looking into.

2022-23 Student Handbooks: Dr. DeRuosi reviewed the proposed revisions to the Preschool Handbook. It was suggested to revise the staffing section on page 11 to reflect that "Staffing will be determined based on need."

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to approve the 22-23 Preschool Handbook as amended. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

It was generally agreed to move the Raymond High School Student Handbook and the Athletic/Extracurricular Handbook to the next meeting as there were no high school administrators present to review the changes.

Use of Surplus Funds: Media Center A/C, Chairs: Mr. Harmon asked why this item was on the agenda when the Board had decided to not spend surplus funds. Mr. Saulnier stated he believed that the Board had decided not to spend surplus funds on the particular items discussed at that time. Mrs. Whitmore stated that the air conditioning in the high school media center is in the Capital Improvements Plan for 2025-26. Mr. Ledoux stated that \$75,000 would be sufficient for air conditioning in the high school media center, which is what is designated in the Capital Improvements Plan. Mr. Harmon asked how often students are in the media center needing air conditioning. Mr. Saulnier stated that air conditioning would be more for the public who use the facilities in the evenings. Ms. Vadeboncoeur stated her concern for using surplus funds for this, especially if it's in the Capital Improvements Plan.

Mr. Harmon stated that, regarding new chairs for the media center, he would ask that the next budget that comes before the Board include estimates for chairs.

Motion to Amend the Agenda: **MOTION:** Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Ada Vadeboncoeur, to amend the agenda to discuss high school graduation broadcasting. Mr. Saulnier clarified that the topic would be regarding asking to hire an outside company to livestream graduation. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Ms. Vadeboncoeur read an email she received from RCTV stating that they will be unable to broadcast the graduation live due to technical challenges with the ceremony being held outside. Mr. Harmon noted that RCTV was able to televise last year, and that it's a District decision to hold it outside. Mr. Clements stated that he is reluctant to set the ceremony inside for the sole purpose to livestream. Ms. Vadeboncoeur will reply to RCTV with appreciation for letting them know, and Dr. DeRuosi will notify the high school that the graduation ceremony will not be livestreamed.

Nominations/Resignations: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the nomination of Tasha Ball as School Nutrition Services Director. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the nomination of Amber McQuaid, elementary school teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the nomination of Kathleen Grace-Myers, high school special education teacher. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to accept the resignation of Derrick Walcott, effective May 24, 2022. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Bid Award and Expenditure of Capital Reserve Funds: Mr. Ledoux reviewed the project for chain link fence replacement at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. There was some discussion about whether there was a need to replace the fence at the cemetery once it's taken down. **MOTION:** Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to expend \$48,976.48 to replace the chain link fence around portions of the middle school. Mr. Harmon clarified that the amount in the budget for CIP was about \$45,200. Mr. Harmon stated that he will be voting no because he doesn't feel they should be replacing the cemetery fence. Motion passed with Joseph Saulnier, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements, and Ada Vadeboncoeur voting in the affirmative and John Harmon voting in opposition.

2020-21 Audit Report Review: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the 2020-21 Audit Report. During discussion, Mr. Harmon asked about the balance in the high school student activity funds. Mrs. Whitmore noted that part of that balance is some scholarships that should be cleaned up. Mr. Harmon asked where the balance of the elementary school activities funds comes from. Mrs. Whitmore stated that those funds have been there because the fundraising money follows the classes. Mr. Harmon requested that the elementary school look at exhausting some of that money with things related to what those funds should be used for. Mr. Harmon suggested breaking it out by class at the three schools, and asked what should be done about the scholarships. Mrs. Whitmore explained the Workforce Grant, the funding of which is controlled at the SAU, so that money is issued from the SAU to the high school and the high school disperses it. There are not a lot of scholarships in the activity fund. Mr. Harmon asked for a list of scholarships that are currently included in the balance of the student activities fund at the high school.

Mr. Saulnier noted that the auditors are requesting that the District have a Deputy Treasurer in place. The Board asked to have the legal advice regarding this topic that they were provided when this was last discussed and put on the warrant, as it is their understanding that this is something the School Board may put into place.

New/Revised Policies First Reading: The Board reviewed the following policies for the first of two readings.

BBB School Board Elections (Revised)
BEC Non-Public Session (Revised)
DAF Administration of Federal Grant Funds (Revised)
GBI Staff Participation in Political Activities (New)
IB Academic Freedom (New)

Regarding policy IB, Mr. Saulnier asked (at a later point in the meeting) if #3 and #4 could be revised for clarity.

New/Revised Policies Second Reading: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Cindy Bennett, to approve policy BGAA Policy Development, Adoption and Review as amended from the first reading. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to withdraw policy BGA Policy Development System. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to withdraw policy BGC Policy Review and Evaluation/Manual Accuracy Check. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to withdraw policy BG-R Policy Adoption and Dissemination. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mrs. Whitmore reviewed the financial update for months ending April 30, 2022. She stated that they met with their third party biller for Medicaid and was told there doesn't look to be any reason why the District won't receive the full \$175,000. With that, the total amount of revenue over what was expected is \$550,000. It currently still looks like there will be a surplus for food service. Mrs. Whitmore also briefly reviewed the list of grants and federal funds that was prepared earlier in the school year.

NHSBA Call for Resolutions: Mr. Saulnier suggested a resolution for subcommittees to not be subject to the need for a quorum to be physically present. It was agreed that this would be brought back to the June 15th meeting with suggested wording from administration.

Storing of School board Meeting Videos: The School Board discussed the option of storing the Google Meet videos within the District and linking them for public viewing. It was noted that the Technology Director had confirmed that there is plenty of space on the District's drives to do so. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to start storing Google Meet video recording on our website, and that the Board will revisit this in a year to determine if they would like to move forward. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the Transportation Committee has received one request, and that the Policy Committee has met, has been working on getting all of the suggested policy revisions up to date, and has reviewed some policies that will be coming to the Board. The Policy Committee discussed the Ethics Policy and are not recommending any changes.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the numbers for Seacoast School of Technology are looking stronger. There was no discussion at the last SST Governing Board meeting regarding tuition.

Mr. Clements stated that the Budget Committee met and elected their officers for the upcoming year. There was some discussion about whether the Budget Committee was asking for financial information more frequently than they currently receive it. It was noted that the school district's financial report is sent to the Budget Committee Chair monthly for the purpose of sharing it with the Budget Committee. Mr. Saulnier asked if Mr. Clements could clarify if the Budget Committee is requesting the Business Administrator or the Superintendent be present at their meetings to discuss expenditures, or if they're just looking for the monthly report that the District has been providing.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. DeRuosi discussed the You Make the Difference Award that has traditionally been awarded to an employee nominated by their peers at the end of the school year. This year, he has had several discussions with administrators about how difficult it would be to recognize just one individual, so instead they will be celebrating the *District That Made the Difference* by providing lunch for all employees on the last day of school.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Saulnier thanked the parent/teacher groups for all of the appreciation days throughout the year, and expressed appreciation for them and for the entire district staff.

Mr. Harmon asked for an agenda item he had previously requested, Schedule of Administrator Reports to the Board, to be put on the June 15th agenda.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$637,125.58. Payroll total \$481,707.14.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to approve the May 4, 2022 minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

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Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session
June 1, 2022

Not voted to be kept confidential.

Present: School Board Members Ada Vadeboncoeur, John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Tony Clements, and Cindy Bennett; Interim Superintendent of Schools David DeRuosi.

Item A

Dr. DeRuosi reviewed this evening's nominations and resignations with the School Board.

Item B

Dr. DeRuosi reviewed a request from a staff member. The School Board took no action.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Emails read during this evening's public input:

School Board members,

Please read this at tonight's meeting (6/1).

Sorry that I could not be here in person to bring this idea to the table.

Has the Board and/or District thought about using some of our surplus funding to buy a 15 passenger van? After listening to the last School Board meeting the idea popped into my head after hearing about different areas of need in our District for transportation.

It first started when listening to the costs that student athletes and their parent are paying out of pocket to get to their games. While this would not solve all the problems it would alleviate on a possible rotating basis some of the individual costs. And I'm not certain that workforce shortage issue affecting our buses is going away anytime soon.

Having a vehicle in the District would also help with the Truancy issue that was brought up, especially at the Elementary School level. While I know this was going to be looked at from a grant point of view, would a grant funded solution be able to be used across the entire District? I can sympathize with some of these parents as my younger child is in a wheelchair. When my older child was in elementary school and needed to get to her bus stop it was occasionally a struggle for us and our stop was at the top of the driveway. With some rural homes not too close to their stops and elementary aged students having younger siblings I can see this issue arising.

If a van was accessible to the District it has the potential to have more cross over and collaboration across all three schools. I believe pre-Covid French students used to come down to the elementary school to teach French to kindergartners. Having foreign language students interact at the Elementary School seems like a great way to engage younger kids in languages. Also, while the District is trying hard to rebuild the Music program, it would be great for some Band students to come down to the Middle School to help new musicians.

These are some of the ideas I thought about after listening to that meeting. I realize that tonight you are going to be discussing some of the surplus spending so I just wanted to share an additional idea.

Thank you,

Danielle Karcz

Hello:

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to work, but please accept this email as a discussion for the School Board for the proposed 6:30B agenda item re: Student Transportation to Sporting Events.

Please consider providing student transportation to sporting events as a top priority. As a first year parent of a student athlete, it was an extremely complicated process in trying to coordinate and plan ahead transportation for away games (which some were quite far because of Div 3). My husband and I both work full time and found it difficult to provide transportation for our son to and from away games. Thankfully we live in a wonderful community of fellow student athlete parents who were willing to help, but it certainly wasn't an easy puzzle to piece together. Having to request time off from work, fill out and sign multiple pieces of documentation, and send in a dismissal note each time to take a car full of student athletes is not ideal.

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Hearing the phrase "the bus company is short staffed" as being the reason why transportation was not provided by the school seems redundant. There were plenty of games where other schools had a bus. Was there a bid that was submitted too late by SAU33 for transportation? Please clarify.

SAU33 student athletes and parents deserve district provided transportation.

Thank you for your time.

Malori