

Raymond School Board Meeting
March 22, 2017
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved April 5, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Janice Arsenault, Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture, Jaclyn Serrine, and John Harmon; Student Representative to the School Board Jeffrey Rivard; Superintendent of School Ellen Small; Business Administrator Ron Brickett; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward.

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.

Election of Officers:

School Board Chair:

Joseph Saulnier nominated John Harmon as Chair.
There were no other nominations forthcoming.
Vote was unanimous to name John Harmon as Chair.

School Board Vice Chair:

Janice Arsenault nominated Joseph Saulnier as Vice Chair.
There were no other nominations forthcoming.
Vote was unanimous to name Joseph Saulnier as Vice Chair.

School Board Secretary:

John Harmon nominated Janice Arsenault as Secretary.
There were no other nominations forthcoming.
Vote was unanimous to name Janice Arsenault as Secretary.

Public Input: Art Wolinsky approached the Board. He stated that he was looking over the Strategic Plan and was pleased to see that the District is working toward competency-based grading, and he knows the District is looking at PACE evaluations. He asked where the District stands regarding PACE. Mrs. Small discussed the four stages of implementing PACE: learning about it and visiting other schools, start doing PACE (creating performance assessments), a pilot program, and then to implement it. The District is in the first stage, and the application is in the process of being completed.

Mr. Wolinsky asked at what point the new superintendent will be getting acclimated. Mr. Harmon stated that Dr. McCoy will start July 1 as per her contract, and that the School Board has a contract with her on a consultant basis for May and June for up to 15 days. He stated that this Board, starting this evening, has had no discussions yet about how to move forward regarding those days.

Our Students/Our Schools: RHS Teachers Dean Plender and Tom Koch, along with students Alex Doherty, Jacob Rubin, Morgan Goding, Colton Corriveau, and Carly Cole, spoke with the Board about the RHS Math Team. They talked about how long they've been doing math and their reasons for participating: because it's fun, it deepens their understanding of math concepts, it's a fun way to socialize with other schools while talking about similar interests, and they are able to challenge themselves without the pressure of grades. They described how a math meet works and how points are earned for problems solved.

Request for Inclusion on School Board Agenda: Mr. Harmon noted that Ms. McDonald was unable to be at the meeting tonight. Mr. Harmon read Ms. McDonald's original request, and then read a letter she submitted to be read at the meeting in her absence. It was the consensus of the Board to delay any action on this issue until there is a need for a bus stop at the proposed construction location, as Ms. McDonald had stated in her letter that she will be bringing it back to the Board at a later date.

RHS Graduation Date: Mrs. Small recommended June 16th for the RHS Graduation Date. Mr. Harmon asked when seniors would be taking finals. Mr. Woodward stated that the high school will work backwards from the graduation date approved by the Board, so they wouldn't take their last final on the 15th if the 16th is graduation. The last day of finals would be mapped out to probably the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to graduation. Mr. Woodward noted that a senior trip may also have to be taken into account.

MOTION: Jaclyn Serrine moved, seconded by Michelle Couture, to approve the Raymond High School graduation date of Friday, June 16, 2017. During discussion, Mr. Harmon stated that he prefers that finals go up to the 14th so as not to reduce class time for seniors any more than necessary. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

School Board Committee Assignments: The School Board assigned the following committee representation:

Policy Committee: John Harmon, Michelle Couture

Building Committee: This item was tabled until confirmation that the committee will continue.

Transportation Committee: Joseph Saulnier, Michelle Couture (Alternate)

Seacoast School of Technology: Jaclyn Serrine, Janice Arsenault (Alternate)

Strategic Planning Committee: John Harmon, Janice Arsenault, Joseph Saulnier (Alternate)

REA Sick Leave Bank: Janice Arsenault

Technology Committee: Joseph Saulnier

Wellness Committee: Michelle Couture, Jaclyn Serrine

Budget Committee: Joseph Saulnier, Jaclyn Serrine (Alternate)

Cable Committee: Joseph Saulnier

Capital Improvements Committee: Jaclyn Serrine, John Harmon

Shared Resources Committee: John Harmon, Jaclyn Serrine Alternate

Recreation Advisory Board: Janice Arsenault

Raymond Coalition for Youth: Michelle Couture

Raymond Council of Business Leaders for Public Education: It was noted that this committee may be replaced and it was agreed to take this up at a future meeting.

Mentor for Student Representative: Janice Arsenault

REA Negotiations - John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier

NHSBA - Jaclyn Serrine

Mrs. Small inquired if any School Board members wanted to serve as an observer for the mock emergency drill taking place in April. Mr. Harmon volunteered.

School Board Website Information: Mr. Saulnier asked if the School Board agenda backup information could be posted on the website and made available to the public. MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Jaclyn

Sirrine, to put all public information for the School Board meetings on the SAU website. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Elementary School: Mr. Harmon stated that this agenda topic is for discussion about how to move forward with the elementary school. He asked that the Board consider if they would like a proposal ready for March 2018, or would the Board like to wait. Mr. Saulnier proposed holding off on action until talking with the Selectmen. Mrs. Sirrine stated that she thinks the School Board does need to move forward in addressing the elementary school. Mrs. Arsenault stated her agreement, and that she feels to put it off a year will cause a loss in momentum. Mrs. Couture stated her agreement to keep moving forward and exploring options. Mr. Harmon stated he feels that something needs to be done, but what that something is he doesn't know. Mrs. Small stated that she does feel they need to keep moving forward. Mr. Harmon stated that it seems the general consensus is to do something, and what that something is will be determined.

Proposed Meeting of School Board & Selectmen: Mr. Harmon proposed having a conversation with the Selectmen about setting priorities regarding the police station and the elementary school. Mr. Saulnier stated that he was speaking with Selectman Barnes about meeting together, and it was suggested to meet quarterly. Mrs. Sirrine stated that she thought meeting with the Selectmen and having that dialogue is important. Mrs. Arsenault agreed, stating that we are one town and it all comes out of one pocket. Mrs. Couture and Mr. Rivard stated their agreement as well. Mr. Harmon, as School Board Chair, will reach out to the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. He asked to have some dates to offer to expedite the process. It was the general consensus to offer April 3rd, April 13th, or April 17th, probably with a 7:00 start time. Mr. Harmon will reach out to Jonathan Woods.

Carol Watjus approached the Board and discussed her opinions and observations of social media discussion that more education and information is needed for residents. She stated that she feels the Town and the School should be looked at as a whole, not separate, and that a joint meeting is a good start. In response to some concerns that Mrs. Watjus stated she observed, Mrs. Small clarified that there is no mold in any of the school buildings. Air quality testing is done regularly and if there is any dampness, it's taken care of right away.

MOTION: Jaclyn Sirrine moved, seconded by Janice Arsenault, to allow the School Board Chair to propose a meeting between the School Board and the Selectmen. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mr. Brickett reviewed the financial update for months ending February 28, 2017. Items of largest variance include salaries, health insurance, professional development, maintenance services, student tuitions, propane, electricity & oil, and transfers - food service.

Mr. Harmon stated he would like a one-time breakdown of the budget, line-by-line, comparing the current budget versus what was actually spent, in greater detail than as supplied in the summer as the end-of-year report to the Board. Mr. Saulnier suggested that instead of line item by line item, perhaps more groupings of expenditures would make the task easier. Mrs. Sirrine described it as an external sub-schedule, perhaps by grade rather than individual position.

Randy LaCasse approached the Board and stated that he believes that he understands that Mr. Harmon is attempting to understand the variances. He stated that much of the variance falls within special education services and is also due to the fact that budgeting happens so far in advance.

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Mr. Harmon asked if this is something the Board is interested in hearing about. Mrs. Serrine and Mr. Saulnier stated they're interested in a narrative as to why a line is over or under instead of line numbers. Mrs. Arsenault requested that Mr. Brickett give the information needed to understand the variances, if not in the detail of the ledger account, then in a narrative form. Mr. Harmon asked for the narrative report for the 2016-17 school year in August and stated that the Board can talk then about whether to do the same moving forward.

MS-22 2017-2018 Budget Signing: MOTION: Michelle Couture moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to approve the MS-22 Appropriations Actually Voted. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. A quorum of the Board signed the MS-22.

Committee Reports: Mrs. Serrine reported on the SST Governing Board meeting, at which students gave presentations, one by a student who was interested in becoming an LNA.

Mr. Saulnier reported that he attended the RCFY Gala and complimented the event. It was noted that RCFY raised \$11,000 this year.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Small stated that JAG students visited the Walmart Distribution Center to participate in mock interviews and she thanked Walmart and area businesses for working with our students.

Mrs. Small congratulated the High School Varsity Cheer team for their hard work in competing in the Division II State Championships.

Mrs. Small thanked the Joanne Morrison and Rebecca Stewart from the RHS Nurse's Office for making it possible for girls who needed a dress for the semi-formal to obtain one. They've been coordinating this program for the past two years.

Correspondence: Mr. Harmon read a letter from Susan Pettigrew, thanking the Board for her departing gift and for her time on the School Board.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable total \$199,795.97. Payroll total \$406,829.43.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Jaclyn Serrine, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2017. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Michelle Couture and Janice Arsenault abstaining.

Adjournment: MOTION: Jaclyn Serrine moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk