

Raymond School Board Meeting
March 6, 2019
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved March 20, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Beth Paris, Moe Titcomb and Janice Arsenault; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Raymond High School Principal Steve Woodward; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Technology Director Kevin Federico.

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 came forward with a concern that there would not be enough teachers left to offer the appropriate sections of courses to students by increasing class size and therefore decreasing the teaching force. Mr. Lacasse asked if students would not be able to take honors courses if there are only 8 students looking to take the course. Mr. Lacasse also asked if teachers would be expected to deliver 2 different curriculums in one class period. Joe Saulnier noted that this was a guidance number from the Board for class sizes. Janice Arsenault expressed that there should be flexibility to sit and discuss which classes may run with less than 12 and which may not. Ms. Arsenault also commented that many schools have honors courses running inside a regular level course. Ms. Arsenault requested that the District gather information about other schools that have teachers teaching multiple levels in one classroom at one time.

Resident John Harmon came forward congratulating the high school faculty and students that participated in the Penguin Plunge. Mr. Harmon stated that in January he asked for attendance records for the School Board members from March of 2018 to January 24, 2019, and Mrs. Paris provided the information. Mr. Harmon stated concerns about attendance at meetings: Mr. Titcomb has missed 10 out of 32 meetings(31%), and Mrs. Paris has missed 9 out 32 meetings(28%). Mr. Harmon stated that if Board members can't do the job they shouldn't sign up or should resign. Mr. Harmon also wished to echo Mr. LaCasse but not repeat that he is disappointed in the Board's decision for class sizes. He thinks that 12 is too aggressive, as there is a French II course and honors classes that are running now with less than 12 that would no longer be held. Mr. Harmon stated that he is disappointed that the Board is taking this position when the Board chose not to cut the teaching positions at the middle school when given the chance due to enrollment numbers, but will cut now at the high school. Mr. Harmon expressed concern that a Board member referred to high school courses as "a joke". Mr. Harmon is frustrated by that those kinds of comments at a Board level meeting. Regarding the schedule, Mr. Harmon suggests that the Board step back, digest and ask for student input and parent

input to talk about a change in schedule. Mr. Harmon is concerned about the discussion of reducing RAM time. The numbers showed a reduction in failures due to RAM time. Instead he would ask the Board to go in and watch what is going on in RAM time, and have discussions about how to make RAM time better as opposed to reducing it. Mr. Harmon spoke about frustration when his daughter had to sign up for classes; students were told that they had to sign up for 7 classes, when the student handbook only says that students have to have 6 courses during Freshman, Sophomore and Junior year, and Seniors only have to have 5 courses. Mr. Harmon feels that study halls are valuable to students when used productively, and it is up to the the staff to make sure the study hall blocks are managed and used productively. Mrs. Paris addressed the personal comments; in regards to attendance, there were extenuating circumstances due to urgent family needs. In regards to a course being a joke, Mrs. Paris was specifically referring to one honors class as it related to her student. Students in that honors course were receiving less challenging work than the non-honors course, and she was suggesting that those situations should be evaluated. Mrs. Paris commented that they don't want this to be a "black and white" process for class size minimum, but that there should be discussion around it. Mr. Harmon commented that though there may be an appeals process, there may still be classes that don't run even after the appeals process. Mr. Titcomb commented that his absences were attributed to personal and family medical matters, and stated that it will never happen again.

Our Students/Our Schools: LRES Counselor Laura Milner and students Paisley Guarino, Vincent Rothwell, Ava Hill, Hope Laflamme, Jasmine Saulnier, Donovan Rothwell, Jacob Mensinger, Brooke Guarino, and Mercedes Laflamme spoke with the Board about this first year of including LRES social emotional learning as part of the curriculum. Laura Milner commented on the curriculum that Mike Whaland was able to secure through a grant for her to use including some anti-bullying lessons that have been very age appropriate and useful in the classroom. First graders Paisley and Vince shared what they had learned about Whole Body listening. Ava and Hope from second grade shared what they have learned about recognizing and stopping bullying. Third graders Jasmine and Van shared what they have learned about the unthinkableables (doing things without thinking about them) and superflex to take on the unthinkableables. Fourth graders Mercedes, Brooke and Jacob shared what they have learned about how to recognize and react to bullying.

Technology Update: Mr. Federico presented a Technology Update to the board including: completing the registrations content review; improving the report cards at each school; House Bill 1612 regarding security; transitioning Munis to Software as a Service (SaaS) and upgrading; preparation for statewide testing (NHSAS and E-SATs); and E-Rate submissions have been completed. Joe Saulnier asked what has broken beyond repair over the last year. Mr. Federico

reported that we have lost 8 switches, UPS have also been lost, desktops have been lost to age. Joe Saulnier reported that we have received a complaint from a parent that their child was not able to take a computer course due to the technology in the classroom not being compatible with the software needed. Joe Saulnier mentioned that we have learned that the PowerSchool App can not correctly inform parents about competency grades, but that parents will need to log into their browser on their phone or computer to accurately see this information.

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to amend the agenda to talk about the default budget, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Default Budget: Joe Saulnier spoke of the strong need to put money into technology in the district to help us move forward. If the town does choose to vote in the default budget, there will be consequences. Beth Paris feels that the technology is important. Mrs. Paris is concerned about the default budget being passed; things will just get worse. Joe Saulnier mentioned all of the cuts that were made in the process to keep the budget down.

Curriculum Update: Mr. Whaland presented the Board with a Curriculum Update including: the a review of the January in-service day which consisted of Competency Based Education(CBE) and Professional Learning Community (PLC) initiatives; District Vertical Team meetings that took place; ESEA/Title 1 Conference; second meeting with MindSparks Problems of Practice Professional Development; the Project Lead the Way meeting took place January 22nd; the March 12th professional development day will offer sessions on creating CBE Rubrics/scope and sequence documents; Rtl work with Shannon Harkin; and Vertical Meetings follow up. Joe Saulnier asked about the STEM program, and commented on the technology that would be needed to run that program. Mike Whaland confirmed that we would need to invest in the technology to run Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses. Janice Arsenault asked if we would need teachers trained in PLTW. Mr. Whaland confirmed that we would need to send a teacher to be trained, though that teacher could still teach other courses.

RHS Schedule Follow Up: Tina McCoy reported that though the District is coming forward with a possible schedule solution, they are not advocating that we changed the schedule now. Steve Woodward informed the Board that he witnessed the CAD program being run today with students sharing machines, which is not ideal. Steve Woodward invited Board members into the building to see what RAM really looks like in the classroom. Mr. Woodward presented a draft of a potential 2019-2020 RHS Bell Schedule. In the newly proposed schedule RAP (30 minutes daily) has been eliminated on Tuesdays - Fridays. It has shortened Ram Time from 83 minutes and made it more frequent during the week. Additionally, it has added an 8th period. This will create more flexibility in the schedule. However, more students will likely have a study hall, but it will not be in addition to an 83 minute Ram Time. Mr. Woodward reminded the Board that RAM

time has been valued, and that failures have dropped in double digit percentages with the current schedules. This newly proposed schedule could allow for Professional Learning Communities in balance with teacher duties during that 8th added block. Beth Paris thinks it is important to have a committee to look at this and gather valuable feedback. Mrs. Paris also agrees that the data shows that it is helping our students. Mrs. Paris read a comment from Jeff Rivard; he felt that it seems like a new schedule will create an issue with block 3 and 4 being split up by a lunch. Mr. Woodward clarified that there would be no lunch in the middle of a class- one would have lunch before the class and one after the class. Mrs. Paris thinks it's important that students and teachers gather more feedback. Janice Arsenault thanked Mr. Woodward for how quickly he was to offer a solution, but knows that that this may not be created in 2 weeks. Mrs. Arsenault is not ready to accept the schedule as is, and would like to leave some time to come up for something next year. Janice Arsenault will accept the invitation to come in to visit a RAP time. Joe Saulnier does not like that the schedule has students eating lunch at 10:20. Mr. Saulnier also noted that the Monday schedule has 36 minutes of walking time. Mr. Woodward had suggested green days vs white days running to alternate days instead of the Monday schedule. Randy LaCasse stated that when the Monday schedule was developed it was intended to model after White Mountain Regional High School- building community spirit. Mr. LaCasse also mentioned that Monday sets up everything for the week- a quick meeting with each class, sets the tone for the week. Steve Woodward also confirmed that most teachers use Monday to set the tone for the week. Beth Paris commented that the students she has spoken to request that Mondays do not change, as it is a great use of time. Janice Arsenault would like to leave the schedule as is, though it is not alleviating the concern of all the unstructured time. Mrs. Arsenault needs to be convinced that RAM time is being used constructively. Joe Saulnier agreed. Janice Arsenault would like an action plan for how to make changes in the future.

Survey Approval: The Department of Education requires a youth survey for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. Pat Arsenault stated that is is required by the State, though the district policy requires approval from the School Board. Pat Arsenault also mentioned that by law they would need to collect opt-in forms. MOTION: Beth Paris moved to accept the survey as written from the NH Department of Education: 21st CCLC Young and Older Youth Survey, seconded by Joe Saunier. 3-0-1, Janice Arsenault abstained.

2019-2020 School Meal Prices: Tina McCoy reported that we have not yet received the information from the government about school meal price guidelines. Marjorie Whitmore explained that at this time the annual guidance that is usually received from the National School Lunch Program (Paid Lunch Equity) is not yet available, due to the shutdown. There was an increase of \$0.15 in lunch and breakfast prices last year. Tina McCoy expressed concern of an increase again after such a high increase was implemented last year. Judy DiNatale gave a report previously that the \$0.15 increase from last year was over the suggested increase by

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USDA, Judy DiNatale and Ron Bricket's recommendations. MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to table this discussion, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in favor.

New/Revised Policies- Second Reading:

There were no changes to the policy: JRA Access to Student Records - FERPA as a result of the first reading. MOTION: Janice motioned to accept policy JRA Access to Student Records - FERPA, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports at this time.

Superintendent's Report: Tina McCoy reported that there was a bus accident this morning, though no students were hurt and an alternate bus was only delayed by 15 minutes. Dr. McCoy was thankful that they were offered the Stop the Bleed Program by Elliot Hospital for staff members on the next professional development day. Reminder that voting day is coming up on March 12 at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. There is useful voter information on the District website (sau33.com) as well as on the RCTV website. Dr. McCoy reiterated that AP classes do not have a Board-set minimum class size. She also addressed a social media post using the term 'slow learners', and that it was not a term educators should be using. They are not looking to cut 3.5 high school teachers in different departments, but to see how the schedule will be spinning out moving forward. Joe Saulnier reiterated that 12 is not a hard number, but a number to start discussions. Tomorrow is the fantasy animal project presentations at the middle school. Dr. McCoy reported that the maintenance department was able to complete many projects over the course of the school vacation.

Correspondence/Other: Joe Saulnier expressed that if residents have any questions or concerns, Board members would be happy to address when contacted.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Payroll total \$ 419896.75
Accounts Payable total \$968,487.00.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Janice Arsenault motioned to approve the January 3, 2019 meeting minutes, Beth Paris seconded, Moe abstained, 3-0-1.

MOTION: Janice motioned to approved the February 13, 2019 meeting minutes, Beth Paris seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative .

Adjournment:

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MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved, seconded by Joe Saulnier, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany L'Heureux,
Raymond School Board Clerk