

Raymond School Board Meeting
November 14, 2012
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved December 19, 2012

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Stewart, John Harmon, Tina Thomas, Kelly Lehman, and Maurice Titcomb; Student Representative to the School Board Adam Maxwell; Acting Superintendent Ellen Small; Business Administrator Ron Brickett; Curriculum Coordinator Lisa Desruisseaux; Lamprey River Elementary School Assistant Principal Alice Jette; Raymond High School Principal Kirk Beitler; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Acting Principal Mike Chouinard.

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 approached the Board to publicly thank the Board for listening to public input at their budget meetings and for ensuring as best they can that programs stay intact. He thanked them for their support and for listening.

Arlene French approached the Board to state that she's noticed that at some School Board meetings, some Board members aren't giving their full attention to people who are speaking or presenting. Mrs. Thomas asked if that's the case would Mrs. French like to wait until she's done looking at the manifest. Mrs. French added that she hopes that Board members won't feel bullied to change their views tonight during their budget discussion.

Gary Williams approached the Board. He asked about the status of the lawsuit that's going against the district. Mr. Stewart replied that it is going before the court system in 2013 but the date hasn't yet been determined. Mr. Williams asked the status of the superintendent's position. Mr. Stewart stated he is unable to comment. Mr. Williams directed a comment to Mrs. Thomas and asked that there not be any "childish comments" or walking out of the meeting. He directed a second comment to Mr. Stewart's statement that there wouldn't be any athletes in Raymond going on to college. Mr. Williams feels that Mr. Stewart owes those children an apology. The kids that are playing sports should be encouraged to get scholarships. To pay for these sports is money well spent.

Our Students/Our Schools: 21st CCLC Program Directors Pat Arseneault, Mona Dunphy, Emily Conrad, and Lisa Rusch talked with the Board about the 21st Century Community Learning Center's After School Program.

- Cost of the program is \$65 per student or \$32, as well as family rates; programs are free at the high school level
- Late busses run every evening for a one-time fee of \$25; free at the high school level
- Enrichments classes are offered by the quarter, so offerings are changed
- All programs are free at the high school level
- 53 students are enrolled in the program at LRES, 46 at IHGMS, and 21 at RHS
- Started a school newspaper at LRES called 21st Century Times
- Youth Beatz is a rhythm and fitness program to teach community responsibility while bucket drumming

- Students at IHGMS are working on a holiday parade float for the district with a Dr. Seuss theme.
- High school offerings include Holiday Cooking, Personal Finance, and a Glee Club.

RHS Graduation Gowns – Petition: Raymond High School Senior Class President Megan Delaney and Class Treasurer Ginny Harmon talked with the Board about a petition that had been distributed and signed by 97% of the senior class supporting the use of green (for boys) and white (for girls) graduation gowns. Current practice is that all students wear green gowns at graduation. The students polled the class as to whether the class preferred white and green gowns and 97% wanted the white and green. Mrs. Small noted that there has been a case of a transgendered student who felt singled out, which is why some schools opt for one color. There was some discussion to alternative options for choosing color other than gender, such as height. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to amend the agenda to include action for this agenda item. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MOTION: Maurice Titcomb moved, seconded by John Harmon for discussion, to approve that the choice be given to students in the 2013 graduating class as to whether they would like to wear green or white gowns and to defer further dress code decisions to administration. The intent of the motion is to review during the next school year how things went with this graduating class before making determination for future years. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Request for Inclusion on School Board Agenda: Rachel Roderick reviewed her request to the Board to allow children attending Great Bay E-Charter Schools (GBECS) to use the same high school buses that transport Seacoast School of Technology students from Raymond High School. The morning schedule aligns. The afternoon schedule is close enough that it would be helpful in an emergency, though afternoon transportation as a rule would need to be provided by the parents. There is a 20-minute difference in schedule in the afternoon. Mrs. Small noted that the law does not require the district to transport charter school students. Mr. Brickett confirmed that the district does not pay tuition for charter school students (unless placed there by an IEP). MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas for discussion, to keep the current practice of SST buses being used for SST students only. Mrs. Small stated her concern for how to work through discipline needed of behavior of charter school students. Mrs. Thomas questioned the liability of the district regarding charter school students. Mr. Harmon expressed concern for opening transportation services up for other institutions if GBECS students were provided the opportunity. Ms. Lehman questioned what would happen if enrollment increases and the bus becomes full. Mrs. Roderick and other parents in attendance asked the Board to reconsider. Motion passed with John Harmon, John Stewart, Kelly Lehman, and Tina Thomas voting in the affirmative and Maurice Titcomb voting in opposition.

Request for Inclusion on School Board Agenda: Pat Webb reviewed her request for an afternoon bus stop at the corner of John and Oak Drives for the high school. The bus does go into the development in the morning, but her request for the stop to be re-established in the afternoon was denied by the Transportation Committee. It was the consensus of the Board to take a tour of the bus stop to be scheduled at a later date.

Science NECAP Results: The Data Team reviewed the results of the Science NECAP taken in the Spring, including the following:

- In 8th and 11th grade progress is a straight line across over a number of years, but in 4th grade progress has gone up and then down again. The district is working on analyzing curriculum and the alignment and beginning to benchmark in grades 3 and 4. They've starting looking at the instructional calendar and the FOSS kits and how they're used and spread out. Those kits are ten years old and so they are looking at whether they need to be updated.
- It was noted that the middle school had to establish another advanced class to accommodate all the students eligible to take it.
- At the high school, preliminary conversations about a more blended approach are taking place. Three years of science are still required, though it doesn't have to be taken during junior year (which is when NECAPS are taken). Though making science mandatory in the junior year would be beneficial to test-taking, it would also limit the choice in schedule and electives that students could take. Mr. Harmon stated he would like to know what the scores are for students who took science the year they took NECAP versus those that did not.

RCTV Contract: Mr. Brickett reviewed the main changes from the Board's previous review of the RCTV contract. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to approve the RCTV contract as presented at tonight's meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

2013-14 Budget Approval: Mr. Brickett and Mrs. Small reviewed the proposed 2013-14 budget with the Board. There was some discussion about why the RHS media aide position was not removed from the budget while the media aide positions in the other schools were. MOTION: John Harmon moved to approve the 2013-14 operating budget at \$21,822,604. Mr. Stewart stated he can't allow that motion. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to override Mr. Stewart's decision. Mr. Harmon stated he didn't understand how his motion was inappropriate, and that if a Board member chooses to vote against the budget, he/she can do so. Motion failed with John Harmon and Kelly Lehman voting in the affirmative and Tina Thomas, Maurice Titcomb, and John Stewart voting in opposition.

During discussion with the Board, Mr. Brickett confirmed that the district has not yet met with Town Manager Craig Wheeler regarding the possible combining of services. The meeting between the town and district was originally planned, but was cancelled at the town's request to reschedule. The Board discussed several changes, including adding back in a 5th grade teacher and eliminating a case manager position in the middle school. With changes discussed at tonight's meeting, the proposed 2013-14 operating budget would be \$21,800,318. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Kelly Lehman, to approve the operating budget for 2013-14 at \$21,800,318. Mr. Harmon noted that the consumer price index in Nashua, Brockton, and Boston has risen 9.5% and cost of living from 2007 adjustments for social security over that

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same period was just over 11%, and that over that same time period (2007-2012) the District appropriations from taxpayers was 5%. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Tina Thomas abstaining.

Legal Services RFP Recommendation: Mrs. Small suggested a committee interview those legal firms that submitted proposals for services. The Committee would be comprised of the Business Administrator, the Superintendent, the Special Education Director, and two Board members.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to form a committee as recommended to interview firms that submitted bids. Mr. Harmon and Mr. Titcomb volunteered to serve on the committee. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Monthly Financial Update: Mr. Brickett reviewed the financial update for months ending October 31, 2012. The largest variances were in salaries, dental insurance, professional services for students, insurance, and propane/electricity/oil. He did note that he doesn't foresee a large surplus this year.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the LRES Building Committee continues to meet. Bonnette, Page, and Stone brought in their civil engineer and there was some discussion about the uniqueness of the plot. He also stated that the Energy/Utilities Reduction Committee met and they will be asking for one day a week to provide staff reminders about energy efficiencies.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Small thanked the Raymond Police and Emergency crews, the road crews, and Facilities Director Todd Ledoux for their work during Hurricane Sandy.

Mrs. Small has been having meetings with teachers at the schools and visiting classrooms. Ms. Zabahonski put up a wall of thanks to recognize family members and friends who are veterans. The in-service day was successful, with work being done on performance-based assessments and standards-based report cards. Several meetings with Phillips Exeter have taken place to discuss the continuation of the summer program and possibly to expand the yearly offering.

Mrs. Small explained that the PowerSchool server had crashed and that grades were lost over the weekend. Teachers are in the process of putting grades back in.

Correspondence: Mr. Stewart read the invitation to the Board from Raymond Recreation to participate in the annual holiday parade. A commendation from the Board of Selectmen to the Superintendent and the Facilities Director for their work during Hurricane Sandy was also read.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the public minutes of October 17, 2012 as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Kelly Lehman, to approve the October 30, 2012 minutes with the following amendments: correct the date to October 30, correct semicolon at end

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of “Call to Order section; correct extra period on first page. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Total for Accounts Payable - \$628,833.99. Total for payroll: \$845,216.69.

Non-Public Session: Tina Thomas moved, seconded by John Harmon, 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 John Stewart, John Harmon, Tina Thomas, Maurice Titcomb, and Kelly Lehman. The Board entered into non-public session at 9:25 PM and resumed public session at 10:07 PM. Other than the vote to terminate non-public session and seal the minutes (which was moved by John Harmon, seconded by Tina Thomas, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by John Stewart, John Harmon, Tina Thomas, Maurice Titcomb, and Kelly Lehman), three motions were voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gillespie,
School Board Clerk

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Approved and voted to be unsealed February 20, 2013

D. Superintendent Matter

Present: School Board Members John Stewart, Tina Thomas, Kelly Lehman, Maurice Titcomb, and John Harmon.

Board continued discussion on the Dr. Richards matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Thomas
Raymond School Board Secretary