

Raymond School Board Meeting
October 17, 2012
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved November 14, 2012

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

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: Peter Buckingham approached the Board to discuss his interest regarding the education of Raymond students and the possibility for the Board to consider tuition from Candia students as a source of revenue. He noted that Raymond High School, having been built for a capacity of 750 students, as well as its AP classes and technical classes, can support the addition of Candia students.

Adam Maxwell, student at Raymond High School, spoke with the Board about student dissatisfaction with the cell phone and the Bring-Your-Own-Device policies. He noted that the pilot was now an ongoing program at the middle school. He stated that students feel that personal devices should be permitted for use during hallway time and lunch, and that the ability to do so should not be restricted from all based on the actions of a few. He suggested another meeting among students and the School Board. Mr. Titcomb asked Mr. Beitler for more information on the matter.

Our Students/Our Schools: John McDaniels, of the Raymond High School Alumni Association, and Raymond High School Teacher Deirdre Doyle spoke with the Board about the Reach High Scholars Program, which was founded five years ago to help students reach high academic achievements after high school. Students are provided with supplemental resources beyond traditional district offerings. Some highlights of the program: it is at no cost to Raymond School District; summer enrichment offerings including a boarding program at Dartmouth and Roundtables at the middle school; and a support system for graduating seniors.

8th Grade Overnight Field Trip Request: Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Class Advisors Tracey Norris and Karen Franco and Acting Principal Mike Chouinard presented the request from the 8th grade for an overnight field trip to Washington D.C. They reviewed with the Board the agenda, accommodations, and safety precautions. MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C. as presented for May 20-23, 2013. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

RCTV Contract: The Board reviewed the draft proposed contract with Raymond Community Television for continued use of studio space in Raymond High School. The contract has not yet been approved by the Town. The Board asked for a list of RCTV volunteers authorized to use the space at Raymond High School. The Board also expressed concern for specific rooms being

named in the contract, as this might limit the ability to move the studio if necessary during the term of the contract. The Board discussed the possibility of defining the school hours in the contract. A revised contract will be brought back to the Board for further discussion and approval after it has been submitted to an attorney for review.

Trimester Update: Mr. Beitler spoke with the Board about the trimester scheduling anticipated to begin in 2013-14. Teachers will be participating in a training “Teaching in the Block” and are working on fitting all classes and students into a trimester schedule. Mr. Beitler has spoken with Gilford and Winnacunnet, who shared their experiences with their move to a trimester schedule. The Program of Studies will be coming before the Board at a January School Board meeting. The Guidance Department is building a shell of the schedule in the computer system beginning in November. Course registration presentations for parents are expected to take place in December. As a result of a role call vote with all voting in the affirmative, it was the consensus of the Board that they support the trimester schedule beginning 2013-14.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Brickett reviewed the financial report for months ending September 30, 2012. The district has received notices from five employees that they intend to retire at the end of the year. Propane/electric/oil is under budget by about \$24,500 and salaries are about \$75,000 over budget. A general fund transfer has been made to food service in the amount of \$1,353. Food service workers are being paid an hourly rate when they work due to the Department of Labor. The manifest total for Accounts Payable was \$400,880.34 and for Payroll was \$334,158.01.

Committee Reports: Mr. Stewart reported that Dan Chouinard has been appointed to fill Richard Clark’s seat on the Budget Committee until March, 2013. He also reported on the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Committee.

Superintendent’s Report: Mrs. Small reported that at the recent administrative team meeting, dates were set for Benchmark testing at each school, using NWEA and USA test prep.

She stated that she will be visiting schools to visit classrooms and keep all updated on good things happening in the schools. At the elementary school, she attended a special education meeting to discuss Common Core, and at the high school she observed three classes. She found that students were very supportive of one another during their activities.

The phone line at the SAU office has been set up to ring at several different desks when dialing “0” to reduce the possibility of a missed call.

There has not appeared to be a shortage of devices for students to use in the Bring Your Own Device program as of yet. BYOD is in widest use in grades 5-7.

Correspondence/Other: Mr. Stewart read email correspondence regarding a code red alert regarding a missing cat that was thought to be initiated by the School District, transportation to

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Seacoast School of Technology for GBECS students, and a flag for the Raymond High School Media Center as per the Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Kelly Lehman, to approve the minutes of October 21, 2011 as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with John Stewart, Maurice Titcomb, and Tina Thomas abstaining.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the minutes of June 28, 2012 with the following amendment: to remove “vote to seal minutes” from the second roll call. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the minutes of July 18, 2012 with the following amendment: to remove “vote to seal minutes” from second roll call. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Kelly Lehman, to approve the minutes of August 16, 2012 as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the public minutes of August 22, 2012 with the following amendments: to change the meeting location to the media center; to add Maurice Titcomb as a “Yes” vote on the roll call to enter non-public session and the roll call to seal minute and leave non-public session; and to remove “vote to seal minutes” from the second roll call. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the minutes of September 6, 2012 with the following amendment: to remove “vote to seal minutes” from second roll call. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Tina Thomas, to approve the public minutes of October 3, 2012 with the following amendment: capitalize “District” on page 2; remove extra period on page 3. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest.

Non-Public Session: Tina Thomas moved, seconded by John Harmon, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) – “The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted,” (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,” and (e) – “Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her

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membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.” 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 8:41 PM and resumed public session at 9:08 PM. Other than the vote to terminate non-public session and seal the minutes (which was moved by Kelly Lehman, seconded by John Harmon, 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), one motion was voted during this non-public session.

Adjournment: MOTION: John Harmon moved, seconded by Maurice Titcomb, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Thomas,
Raymond School Board Secretary