

Raymond School Board Meeting
October 30, 2019
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved November 6, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members Joseph Saulnier, Beth Paris, Melissa Sytek, Michelle Couture and Janice Arsenault; Superintendent of Schools Tina McCoy; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Curriculum Coordinator Mike Whaland; Technology Director Kevin Federico; Safety and Facility Director Todd Ledoux; LRES Principal Laura Yacek; RHS Principal Steve Woodward; IHGMS Principal Bob Bickford; Director of Student Services Scott Riddell; Before and After School Program Coordinator Patrick Arsenault.

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.

2020-2021 School District Budget:

The Board reviewed the Summary of Budget Initiatives as found in the October 23, 2019 meeting agenda.

The LRES-Elementary Education additional classroom teacher will not be necessary.

The LRES-Preschool Coordinator Position: Janice Arsenault confirmed that since \$20,000 would be funded through a grant, this would leave \$29,030 covered through the general fund. This includes pro-rated benefits. Michelle Couture, Janice Arsenault and Melissa Sytek are in support of this position. Beth Paris stated that she is concerned that the special education budget is too high to begin with, so she would like to take out something else out in its place, specifically Adventurelore. Michelle Coutures understanding of Adventurelore is that since it is written into some IEPs, this is not something that they can get rid of. Scott Riddell confirmed that this is correct.

The District Curriculum initiative for the implementation of a K-12 STEM program: Janice Arsenault clarified that the initiative states that it is for a program, not necessarily Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Ms. Arsenault is in favor of that since it does not tie us to one specific program. Melissa Sytek and Beth Paris are both in favor.

The District Human Resources Assistant: Beth Paris and Melissa Sytek are in favor. Melissa Sytek stated that she feels it is important to have this point person for new teachers. Janice Arsenault is in favor due to the size of the district. Michelle Couture is in agreement based on the numbers of staff- 384 total including seasonal helpers.

The Technology Proposed Database Manager Position: Joe Saulnier clarified that this position would have a different title. This position will further the technology plan and also be responsible for helping teachers integrate the available technology into their classrooms. Janice Arsenault stated she feels this is a necessary position, Beth Paris, Michelle Couture, Melissa Sytek and Joe Saulnier agreed.

District-Technology to enhance safety and security: The Board would like to purchase School Gate Guardian.

The other two options are Gaggle and Go Guardian. Janice Arsenault asked to look at these separately. These both charge by student (\$5 per student).

Gaggle: Janice Arsenault explained that when the Board spoke last week about Gaggle, they did not feel ready due to the liability it would bring to the district. Michelle Couture agrees that the monitoring of students and legal implications are currently a concern; she is not in favor of Gaggle. Kevin Federico gave the Board some information for Gaggle so that as concerns are addressed, it can be rediscussed in the future. Beth Paris believes that it is a great idea but worries about implications. It will be looked at again next year.

Go Guardian: Janice Arsenault recalled the presentation from Mike Whaland at a past Board meeting where they reviewed the 4 "look fors" each school is currently working on with teachers. One of the "look fors" was to have teachers up and walking around as students are working. Ms. Arsenault believes that Go Guardian is counter productive to that. Beth Paris agrees that it would be counter productive. Kevin Federico explained that it is more than just a monitoring tool and can be used to direct students' attention to specific screens. Janice Arsenault believes that if the expectation is to have teachers walking around the room, this is not the tool we should be giving them. Joe Saulnier likes the tool. Michelle Couture asked if staff members brought this to Kevin Federico. Kevin Federico reported that staff requested to functionality, he knew of the tool. Sandra Gilbert has asked for the tool for her classroom. Michelle Couture asked if we could just buy it for certain students. Mr. Federico reported that yes, this could be purchased for a certain number of students. Michelle Couture is in favor of doing it on a smaller scale. Kevin Federico stated that we could give it to the computer teacher and have her follow up with the Board about the pros and cons of using the software. Michelle Couture is in support of funding for the number of the computer course students plus 10. Steve Woodward reported that 200 is a safer number based on her current enrollment. Therefore this would be \$1000 in the budget. Adding in the funding for each of the special initiatives brings the budget to \$26,338,279 so far.

The Board next discussed suggested cuts, by tab (listed in October 23, 2019 meeting agenda):

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment: No cuts.

Student Services: Janice Arsenault wishes to be careful because so much of this is dictated by law. Michelle Couture felt that this proposed budget was reasonable. Some costs that we don't have control over. The costs that we do have control over seems reasonable. Scott Riddell stated that he tried to make sure its fiscally responsible while building capacity. Tina McCoy stated that in special education, the bill will still come no matter what is budgeted for, and Mr. Riddell has done a nice job of making this budget realistic.

LRES: Joe Saulnier asked about purchasing new items. Laura Yacek confirmed that they would be purchasing teacher editions of the materials for K-2 this year, and grades 3-4 the following year. Joe Saulnier asked if asked if we could buy these this year with the surplus instead of next

year. Tina McCoy stated that she would want to provide training in advance to make sure it is used in the year that it is purchased. This would make sure that the program is ready to roll out in August. Michelle Couture clarified that the plan would be to purchase new ones this year, preliminary training for teachers, and roll out the program next year. This was confirmed by Laura Yacek.

Take out \$15,539 from the budget for teacher editions, these will be purchased with this year's surplus instead. The student consumables will remain in the budget for next year.

IHGMS: Janice Arsenault stated that she can not justify \$68,000 on a YEES worker that can have no more than 9 kids on caseload, since it is not connected to special ed in the middle school. Ms. Arsenault stated that she knows that he serves a purpose, but for that amount of money, there must be something else to do for those 9 kids. Michelle Couture is in favor and believes this position is important for prevention. She believes that if even if 1 of these student ends up in an out placement or court placement, the district is on the hook for even more money. Melissa Sytek is not in favor of cutting the position. Ms. Sytek stated that the district offers great programs to typical students, and they also need to offer programs to those that need it. She believes the cost of the YEES counselor far outweighs the cost of possible out placements. Joe Saulnier asked if when the program started, were the students in the program students with IEPs. Bob Bickford clarified that students end up in the YEES program through the intervention process; the student intervention team identifies supports to help the student. When they have run through multiple suggested interventions, they then assign the student to the YEES case load, regardless of being on the special ed caseload. The Program is not a special ed program; really about students in need of additional support. Right now, there are special ed students in the program, but it is not IEP driven. Janice Arsenault asked about IEPs. Currently the YEES worker has 7 on caseload, 4 of those 7 have IEPs, but he helps other students as well. There were 8 on his caseload, but one family has pulled to home school. SIT team meets Friday, and they may refer another student to that spot. The team intentionally doesn't fill the caseload with 9 right away so that there is a slot open in case of need. Janice Arsenault stated that this is a contracted position; it's great that the current YEES worker helps other students, but we may not have that same person every year. Melissa Sytek and Michelle Couture would like to keep the position. Joe Saulnier and Janice Arsenault wish to cut the position. Beth Paris stated that she had thought back to the teachers that have a hard time to give attention to other students due to these students classroom disruptions, and how this position could help cut costs coming by preventing outside placements. The YEES worker is already helping, as well as helping the whole class control disruptions. Therefore, Beth Paris is in favor of the position. Bob Bickford stated that the YEES worker also helps with other things such as covers bus duty, recess, etc. Joe Saulnier does not like the position. He stated that there is already the restriction room, councilors, and no one should be going to the house- the parents need to do it. Scott Riddell stated that it helps to have the right person between home and school to bridge that gap. Janice Arsenault stated that her main argument is a limitation on the amount of students. Scott

Riddell stated that he would like to get to the point where we have someone that can do this in district. Michelle Couture, Melissa Sytek and Beth Paris are in favor of keeping the position.

RHS: Michelle Couture is concerned about the out of date US History and Government textbooks. Under the October 23rd meeting, the document *Responses to October 21 questions*, a list was provided of what would be purchased for those two courses. Joe Saulnier would like to take \$25,000 out to purchase all of the new textbooks this year with the surplus. This would leave \$2,000 in the budget for replacement textbooks next year. Janice Arsenault agrees that they are outdated, but has a problem with spending \$27,000 on textbooks in this day and age. Steve Woodward is all for integrating more technology for teachers to use. Janice Arsenault stated that once you spend the money, you have the textbooks, no matter how much technology you put in. The request is for 100 textbooks, though there are fewer students than that taking the class. Ms. Arsenault would like to know if they can just use a classroom set of books as a resource instead of one for each student. Michelle Couture stated that she has taught with one set of textbooks and it is a nightmare; if a student is absent and needs the book, etc. Janice Arsenault stated that she believes they could buy a few extra, but doesn't think every student needs a book. Steve Woodward does not feel that sharing textbooks is acceptable. He is on board for phasing in online learning. Janice Arsenault believes that 20 years ago students couldn't share a book, but now there is so much material out there that teachers shouldn't be just teaching out of books. Steve Woodward stated that they are moving away and towards other resources. Mike Whaland stated that there are options such as OpenStacks which is an online textbook resource. There would still be costs with printing occasionally. Janice Arsenault believes that they should all be making that move as this is where education is going. Janice Arsenault would rather see the money going to buy another cart of Chromebooks for the high school. Michelle Couture stated that she respectfully disagrees, technology does not replace everything and there can be errors with technology on any given day. Joe Saulnier asked if the Gates foundation is something that we can get access to. Mr. Saulnier suggested that they get 3 Chromebook carts: \$21,150 to buy now, and get open stacks for books. Mike Whaland feels that this is where education is going, a book is a great supplemental resource. Janice Arsenault wants to keep the classroom set of books for each class in the budget, but not 100, so that students still have books to use for reference. Mike Whaland gave a word of caution: the textbook and online materials may not line up. Beth Paris agrees that we do need books, but she does like Open Stacks. Ms. Paris believes that some people just can not learn with online only, so she likes the idea of getting a set of books as well as using an online book. Are the teachers comfortable using an online book? Mr. Woodward stated that 2 of the 3 teachers would be fine with online materials, the other teacher may be, but he wouldn't want to make the assumption. Tina McCoy asked what the safe number for a classroom set of textbooks would be. Steve stated that 25 would be better. Janice Arsenault stated that she was ok with a class set of 25. Students and teachers can still print materials. Michelle Couture agrees with the classroom set of books, but would be interested in a cost analysis of printing things out instead

of buying textbooks. Dr. McCoy wished to point out that the teacher would have to select the appropriate resources to be diversifying.

In summary: Economics textbooks cost \$94.47 each and American Democracy Now books cost \$79.99 each. They will be getting 25 of each textbook this year, and taking the \$25,000 out of the budget for next year. The Board would also like to purchase 3 Chromebook carts for this year for the high school. There was \$7,500 for a cart was under the Social Studies New Equipment line (Page 8) that will be taken out of the budget as well.

HS Computer class is asking for 3D Printer, code HS program, 2 more laptops, software for the robotics class. Joe Saulnier and Michelle Couture would like to take out the \$4,239 (software) and \$16,561(new equipment) on page 8 and purchase these things this year.

Michelle Couture asked what the replace equipment in the computer class (page 9- 2986) was for. Steve Woodward stated that the largest chunk is for for a flatbed scanner and 2 laptop computers. Joe Saulnier would like to leave the 2986 line in case we have to replace this technology in the future.

Technology: Joe Saulnier asked how many Chromebooks we have at the Middle School. Mr. Federico reported that there are 997 in whole district. There is an overall middle school device number of 382, but some of these are Title 1 Chromebooks or are in staff hands and he would need time to prepare a more detailed report.

This year there are 6 carts filled with Chromebooks in the budget for the middle school, as the technology plan dictates. Some have been circulated out as broken. Bob Bickford reported that there are 6 carts in 8th grade, 7 more carts rotating through the other classes. Mr. Bickford reports that 2-3 per cart per year end up damaged. Kevin Federico reports that the damage is more than that. Janice Arseanult asked how many Chromebooks are on a cart. Kevin Federico wishes there to be 25 per cart, but more often there are 20 on the cart.

Joe Saulnier inquired about the 40 iPads. The \$47,040 is for iPads, rugged cases, and the physical carts for them. Michelle Couture asked if those could be purchased this year. This year's request for LRES is specifically for iPads based on requests. There are currently 4 carts of 20 Chromebooks each at LRES. Laura Yacek wishes to have one floater cart of Chromebooks.

The iPads will be purchased this year with surplus funds. The line item for iPads (\$47,040) will be changed to reflect two carts of Chromebooks for LRES for \$13,500. This is a decrease of \$33,540 from the ES Computer line.

Before and After School Program: Michelle Couture and Beth Paris suggest no changes. Michelle Couture wished to confirm that we changed all the appropriate titles. Marjorie Whitmore reported that they have, and they will make deposits tomorrow so November financials will show up to date numbers for the Program. Currently, they have received \$9,700 for the before school

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program. If you take those two months of income, divide by 2 and multiply by 10 months, the projected income for the before school program would be \$48,500.

Food Service: No changes

Facilities: Michelle Couture asked if they can offset the cost this year by purchasing the new mower this winter. On page 5, reduce New Equipment Grounds line by \$6,563 and purchase the mower this winter with surplus funds.

The Board discussed other projects that could be completed this year with surplus funds. Projects under the repair lines on page 3: Door to office in MS library is \$7,000. Fire alarm for SAU is \$5,000. Day tank at RHS is \$18,000. Stairs at the field are under MS Grounds for \$10,000. There is also Pod maintenance at the middle school for one pod at \$2,500 (This was listed in a repair line).

The following repairs will be taken out of next year's budget and purchased with this years surplus funds: MS Door, SAU Fire alarm, RHS day tank, MS field stairs, IHGMS pod work.

The total being taken out of the budget so far is \$152,042. This includes removing LRES math materials, RHS SS textbooks, RHS SS Chromecart (page 8), RHS Computer class new equipment, RHS computer software (page 8), RHS Technology Furniture & Fixtures, Elementary School Computers (while adding 2 Chrome carts), Facilities page 5, remove new equipment for Grounds, SAU fire alarm, IHGMS door addition, IHGMS pod repair, RHS day tank, IHGMS stairs.

District: Nothing to change.

This makes the new Proposed Budget \$26,186,237. This number is still without knowing the insurance rates which will come in November.

MOTION: Janice Arsenualt moved to accept the preliminary budget of \$26,186,237 seconded by Michelle Couture. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Janice Arsenault moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM, seconded by Beth Paris. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brittany LHeureux
School Board Clerk