

Raymond School Board Meeting
September 7, 2022
Raymond High School Media Center
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Approved October 5, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Dawn Leamer, Cindy Bennett (6:01 PM), Tony Clements (6:03 PM); Student Representative to the School Board Alyson Miller; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman; Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore; Raymond High School Principal Sharon Wilson; Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Principal Bob Bickford; Lamprey River Elementary School Principal Laura Yacek; Safety & Facilities Director Todd Ledoux.

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.

Meeting Recess for Superintendent Meet & Greet: The School Board meeting recessed at 6:01 PM for the Superintendent Meet & Greet.

Reconvene Meeting: The meeting reconvened at 6:16 PM

Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (b)(c): MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) "The hiring of any person as a public employee;" and (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 Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements. The Board entered into non-public session at 6:17 PM and resumed public session at 6:39 PM. Other than the vote to exit this non-public session (which was moved by Joseph Saulnier, seconded by Tony Clements, and upon the Board members being individually polled, was voted in the affirmative by Joseph Saulnier, John Harmon, Cindy Bennett, Dawn Leamer, and Tony Clements), no motions were voted during this non-public session.

Public Input: Public Input was opened at 6:40 PM. Mr. Harmon noted that public input would be open for 30 minutes. If anyone arrives within that timeframe and would like to speak, they will be allowed to do so. There was no public input forthcoming at this time.

Welcome: Incoming Board Member: The School Board welcomed incoming School Board Member Dawn Leamer. Ms. Leamer was appointed to the School Board to fill the position left vacant by a former Board member's resignation until the election in March 2023.

Student Representative to the School Board Report: Ms. Miller stated that the opening of school has gone well, and she thanked Mr. Leatherman for being a presence in the schools at various activities and events.

Principals' Opening Day Reports: Mrs. Yacek reviewed the Lamprey River Elementary School Opening Day Report with the Board, including the following: thanks to the LRES PTO, LEAP, and community volunteers for the LRES Garden; new additions to the playground; a new schoolwide positive behavior incentive program; kindergarten screening; welcome to new staff; and upcoming events.

Mr. Saulnier asked that the School Board be sent invites to attend principal coffee hours virtually.

Mr. Clements asked that administration review the process for notification of bus delays to parents, as notification of an elementary school bus breakdown was delayed for some time before reaching parents. Mr. Leatherman noted that the bus was run by Durham School Services, so there may have been a delay because they would notify Dail Transportation. He also noted that when the District goes out for bid for transportation, two-way radios being supplied for direct communication between bus drivers and the school can be a requirement.

Mr. Harmon asked why the elementary school Open House is being held in October this year rather than September. Mrs. Yacek stated that since kindergarten starts later in the year, a later Open House allows more time for teachers. They also try to time their Open House with the Book Fair. Mr. Harmon stated that it's his preference that the Open House is offered during September to support the establishment of relationships with parents and guardians as soon as possible.

Mr. Harmon asked Mrs. Yacek to discuss the difference between iReady and Acadience. Mrs. Yacek stated that Acadience focuses more on foundational skills and iReady tests all skills. Mr. Harmon stated he is concerned that there may be too much testing and suggested discussing it further when the Board discusses curriculum with the Superintendent. Ms. Bennett asked how Mrs. Yacek feels about having both of the tests versus just iReady. Mrs. Yacek stated that iReady is computer-based and Acadience is paper and pencil with more one-on-one time. Acadience assessments are one-minute assessments, some a few minutes longer in older grades, and are used for progress monitoring. They're administered about every six weeks and iReady is three times a year.

Mr. Bickford reviewed the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School Opening Day Report, including the following: a smooth opening day; open positions; upcoming events; and enrollment.

Mr. Saulnier asked about having some additional handicapped parking spots on voting day. Mr. Bickford stated he can talk with Mr. Ledoux.

Mr. Harmon asked if the middle school is meeting state requirements for Unified Arts with the current plan. Mr. Bickford stated that the school is offering all of the required Unified Arts courses, and that the State doesn't specifically say what has to be included in that instruction.

Sharon Wilson reviewed the opening day report for Raymond High School, including: a great start to the year, a new parent support group, all teaching positions have been filled, and upcoming events. She noted that after some discussion about some teachers allowing the use of cell phones in class as part of their instruction, they have adopted the use of a red or green card system to indicate if cell phone use is allowed, or not allowed, in class.

Mr. Saulnier asked if the Board could receive the enrollment numbers of where students are relative to how many years they've been in school, not solely related to their credits. Ms. Wilson stated that she understands and that it plays into a question they have going on right now regarding diplomas. After some discussion about diplomas, Mr. Harmon asked that Mr. Leatherman look into it to be sure that the default diploma in the student information system is for 24 credits.

Mr. Harmon asked why it took three days for all students to receive Chromebooks. Ms. Wilson stated that the first days were skinny blocks and teachers didn't feel the students necessarily needed them on the first day. Mr. Harmon stated he hopes that delay doesn't happen again.

Mr. Harmon referenced a notice about a schedule change on Monday that went out on Sunday night, and that he feels it should have gone out earlier. Ms. Wilson noted that things were evolving as feedback came in from parents and teachers.

Mr. Harmon stated that Durham School Services has been dropping off identified students at the gymnasium doors and in the past that has not been allowed. Ms. Wilson stated she will look into it. Ms. Leamer brought up some concerns about the traffic pattern at the high school for dropoff and pickup. Mr. Harmon stated that can be put on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Bickford stated, regarding Chromebooks at the middle school, students whose parents had completed the online registration all had Chromebooks on the first day of school. The Internet Acceptance Use Policy is part of the online registration and parents need to sign off. Mr. Harmon stated that not providing a computer would be like not giving a student a textbook.

Student Services Update: Mr. Leatherman reviewed the update on Student Services prepared by Executive Director of Student Support Services Michael Hatfield. During discussion, Mr. Harmon asked how much of an impact behavioral health has had on reducing the number of students being identified. Mr. Leatherman stated that Director of Health and Wellness Jessica Caron will have better data during her presentation on October 19th, but that the goal is to make sure students stay in Tier I and don't get to Tier II or Tier III, and to support Tier II and Tier III students to get back to Tier I.

LRES Building: Mr. Harmon stated that this item has been placed on the agenda for discussion about what, if anything, the Board would like to do about the elementary school building. He noted that the April 2021 Building Committee report was to build an elementary school on a piece of land yet to be determined.

Mr. Saulnier stated that he feels the moves of the 4th grade to the middle school and the preschool to the high school building were both meant to be temporary measures. He feels that we would have to look at replacing the elementary school within the next ten years.

Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Bickford how it's gone with the 4th grade at the middle school. Mr. Bickford replied that the impact of having the 4th grade in the middle school has been fine, primarily because they are able to use the space that used to be computer labs. With numbers coming up higher, the building will reach 100% capacity for classroom use, which would be ideal.

Ms. Bennett stated that if things are going good now, we should stay in a holding pattern rather than overextend right now. There are other projects that need to be worked on such as the well at the middle school.

Mr. Clements stated his concern is that the building is in a flood plain. Mr. Harmon stated that the last proposal for the elementary school included a plan to put dry floodproofing around it. He asked Mr. Ledoux if that's still a viable option. Mr. Ledoux said at the time it was a viable option through FEMA but no longer with the removal of the portables, as it didn't go around the whole building.

Ms. Leamer stated that LRES functions a little better now that fourth grade is not housed there. Mr. Ledoux stated that taking out the fourth grade didn't help because classrooms were taken out as well. Ms. Leamer stated that

the school is old, there are a lot of issues with ventilation, space, and structure. She stated that the elementary building is not working.

Mr. Saulnier stated that we have to start planning now because there are funds out there to help. He noted that perhaps Fremont students may attend Raymond High School. Mr. Harmon stated that numbers now are significantly lower than in the past. The middle school is being used well and the elementary school needs to be addressed. He stated that he feels we should be looking at things differently.

Mr. Clements stated he is also concerned that there is no gymnasium in the school.

Ms. Leamer asked if there is some money or grants available to offset the costs of a new building or to bring the elementary school now up to a higher standard? Mr. Ledoux stated that the building is from 1976 and the portables are from the 1980's. The building looks and functions much better than it did twenty years ago with the upgrades, but there are still significant issues. The reality is we'd need to start working now to find property and submit something by July 2024, which would be a cost of \$100,000 for plans. Mrs. Whitmore stated the plans could cost \$200,000.

After some discussion, Mr. Harmon suggested continuing to look at short term solutions and to set some sort of a direction.

Mr. Saulnier stated that he feels they need to start moving forward. Mr. Harmon stated to do so, they need to find a piece of land first.

Ms. Leamer asked if she can make a motion to put in place someone or some team to find property to build a school on and then once we find that we can come back as a Board to decide if that property is viable and then move forward with looking at architectural drawings. Mrs. Whitmore stated that we don't have the money to purchase property. Mr. Harmon stated a purchase and sale agreement could be contingent upon approval of a warrant article.

It was agreed that this topic will be put on the next agenda. In the meantime, the Superintendent will research the suggested course of action moving forward, relative to due dates and timelines, etc.

Nominations/Resignations: MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Joseph Saulier, to accept the nomination of Joann McCann at Raymond High School as Assistant Principal. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to accept the nomination of Christine Doherty as SAP Counselor at Raymond High School. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to accept the resignation of Mike Hatfield effective October 7, 2022. Motion passed with Tony Clements, Cindy Bennett, John Harmon, and Joseph Saulnier voting in the affirmative and Dawn Leamer voting in opposition.

New/Revised Policies - First Reading: The School Board reviewed the following policies for the first of two readings:

BBBC Board Member or District Officer Resignation
BGD Board Review of Administrative Regulations
BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings
IHCD Advanced Coursework/Advanced Placement Courses and STEM Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment Program
IKFG Career Readiness Pathways & Credential

There was some discussion about policy IKFG, during which Mr. Harmon stated that discussion of career interests with students is statutorily required. He had recommended that the conversation with students happen before they sign up for classes at the high school so that if a student does know they'd like to pursue one of those options, we can start supporting that.

Regarding policy BGD, Mr. Saulnier suggested using a term other than "administrative regulations." It was agreed to add the definition of administrative regulations to the policy.

New/Revised Policies - Second Reading: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept policy EEAE [School Bus Safety Program]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept policy EEAEA [Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Dawn Leamer, to accept policy EEAE-R [Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Commercial Vehicle Drivers]. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

School Board Committee Assignments: The Board reviewed vacant committee assignments. Ms. Leamer volunteered to serve on the Sick Leave Bank Committee.

Search Committee: Executive Director of Student Support Services: It was the general consensus of the Board to ask for volunteers for this committee by noon on September 21st, and that there will be two parents, two teachers/REA members, and two support staff. The Board will appoint parent members, and will choose a School Board member at the meeting on the 21st.

Committee Reports: Mr. Harmon stated that the Strategic Planning Committee met and they are continuing to work on a Portrait of a Graduate. The Transportation Committee has received only a few requests, and they are still working with Dail Transportation regarding the Blueberry Hill bus route.

Mr. Saulnier stated that the District provided their year-end review to the Budget Committee. One question was how special education went up so much this year. The Budget Committee and the Town are having a dual meeting on September 26th to discuss the budget. The Budget committee looked at having the School District's budget proposal ready for the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Ms. Bennett stated that through the Cable Committee a request was put through for the Library Trustees Meetings to be filmed and they will now be available on RCTV.

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Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leatherman stated that it was an excellent opening day at which all staff who have been here 15+ years were recognized for their years of service. Last Friday, schools started curriculum work and on an upcoming staff in-service day, every school will be in iReady training, suicide prevention trainings, and doing curriculum work. He noted that Dail Transportation has some drivers in the queue for training.

Correspondence/Other: There was some discussion about the transportation bid and putting the bid out earlier than in the past in order to have those numbers for budget work. Mr. Clements asked about the fee for buses from Dail Transportation. Mr. Leatherman stated he's discussed that with the attorney, and Mr. Harmon asked for any attorney correspondence to be put in the Friday Memo.

Manifest Signing: A quorum of the Board signed the manifest. Accounts Payable: \$287,590.14, Payroll: \$418,240.48.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Dawn Leamer moved, seconded by Joseph Saulnier, to approve the minutes of August 24, 2022 with the following amendments: correct the spelling of John Harmon's and Cindy Bennett's name on the first page. Voted unanimously in the affirmative with Dawn Leamer abstaining.

Adjournment: MOTION: Joseph Saulnier moved, seconded by Tony Clements, to adjourn the meeting. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk

Raymond School Board Non-Public Session
September 7, 2022

Not voted to be kept confidential.

Present: School Board Members John Harmon, Joseph Saulnier, Dawn Leamer, Cindy Bennett, Tony Clements; Superintendent of Schools Terry Leatherman.

The Superintendent reviewed this evening's nominations and resignation with the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heywood,
Raymond School Board Clerk