

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Mal Murray, Stacie Sirois, Mike Persson, Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Heather Lounsbury, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Superintendent Phil McCormack and Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler. Absent: Barbara Luther.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Stacie Sirois called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on November 23, 2015, at the SAU office and on the district's website, along with being sent to each of our schools, "The Citizen", Laconia Library, and City Hall, in accordance with RSA 91-A.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Scott Vachon, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Persson amended the minutes of November 17, 2015 to reflect the motion and vote to indefinitely seal the non-public minutes and to add under presentations the discussion with Board Members on concerns over Smarter Balanced scores and the Superintendents response that after talking with district leaders, no one finds the results acceptable and are working hard to improve results. Motion made by Mal Murray to approve the minutes with above amendments seconded by Scott Vachon, to approve the minutes of November 17, 2015, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: This group has not met.

Facilities/CIP: This group has not met.

Policy: This group has not met.

Strategic Planning: This group has not met.

Legislative Update: None

Board Member Input: Mike Persson mentioned he is happy to have the open forum on assessment results at the Laconia High School on December 9 at 6:00. He hopes parents attend and think the presentation is a good move.

Scott Vachon mentioned he has heard from several parents they do not like the digital voice on the new one call now system. He finds it impersonal. Phil said he will talk to Principals about not using the automated voice.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Laconia School District Alumni Fund update: Board Chair, Stacie Sirois updated the School Board that between admissions at the Homecoming game and T-Shirt sales the Alumni Fund received \$2,623.00. That money will go toward \$300.00 to running star, 2-\$500.00 scholarships awarded at the end of the 15-16 and the remainder of the balance will be invested.

Committee Assignments: Board Chair, Stacie Sirois, updated the School Board on the new committee: Policy – Chair Chris Guilmett, Barbara Luther and Heather Lounsbury; Facilities – Chair Mal Murray, Barbara Luther and Heather Lounsbury; Budget and Personnel – Chair Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett and Mike Persson; Strategic Planning – Chair Mike Persson, Stacie Sirois and Mal Murray.

Superintendent Search Update: Board Chair, Stacie Sirois, updated on the Board on the Superintendent Search process. She informed the School Board that the Screening Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates. On December 7, 2015 the School Board will receive the recommendations of Screening Committee on who they should interview. Interviews with the School Board will start the Week of December 14th.

CALENDAR

School Board Search Committee	Monday, December 7, 2015	6:30pm @ SAU
LHS PTO Assessment Presentation	Wednesday, December 9, 2015	6:00 pm @ LHS
Superintendent Interviews	Week of December 14, 2015	SAU
School Board Meeting	Tuesday, December 15, 2015	7:00pm @ SAU

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Field Trip Request: Superintendent, Phil McCormack, presented the School Board with a Field Trip request to Spain in April 2017. He understood these requests do not regularly go before the School Board, but he felt a responsibility to bring this request to the Board. He mentioned that this is a wonderful opportunity for students although he did have reservations. Stacie Sirois mentioned that the organizations/groups keep an eye on the political turmoil as well, and have in the past changed locations of trips due to political unrest. It was also mentioned that the Policy Committee should look to have a policy surrounding international travel so there is consistency on how the requests are handled.

Superintendent McCormack, updated the Board with legislation that has been passed and implemented over the summer on videotaping in the classroom. The law requires the School Board to have a Public Hearing, which will occur during the next School Board meeting on December 15, 2015. Dr. McCormack explained even after the hearing, all students in the class that is taped need to have permission to be videotaped. It was asked if this already a state law. Dr. McCormack explained that it is, but there is already draft legislation started with respect to videotaping being permissible for IEP or 504 accommodations. Dr. McCormack explained we have started drafting a Policy for the Policy Committee to review. He also explained that the only school this impact at the moment is the Huot Technical Center. They develop a promotional video annually where they interview students and show classes. It was explained that students interviewed always have signed parent permission to be on the video.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Gail Ober asked School Board Chair, Stacie Sirois, how many names the Superintendent Search Committee would bring forward to the School Board. Board Chair Sirois said they would not know this information until interviews are completed, this information will be brought to the Board by the consultant, Ken DiBenedictis in a non-public session.

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be taking any action after coming out of non-public and Stacie Sirois said there would be no action. Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting and, if so, if they would be taking any action. Stacie Sirois said the Board would not be having a non-meeting. Mr. Coggon asked how many applicants had been received, Board Chair Sirois, informed Mr. Coggon we have been advised by the consultant not to release this information at this time. Mr. Coggon asked Board Chair Sirois the percentage of students in state versus out of state said she is not aware of the percentages and at this point in the process it is not public information. Mr. Coggon asked how many candidates are being interviewed. School Board Chair Sirois said we are not releasing any information until we are further in the process.

Ed Pierce suggested to Dr. McCormack that we should talk to Pleasant Street School Principal, Dave Levesque, it is Ed's understanding that videotaping classrooms is a key component in Instructional Rounds. Dr. McCormack mentioned he talked to all principals and they all said they do not videotape classrooms but will follow up with Mr. Levesque.

Gail Ober asked if the law extends to students taping other students with cell phones. It was explained that the law does not include this, it is intended to limit school districts from videotaping in classrooms without the written permission from teachers and students.

Ed Pierce requested the committee assignments be read again. He was given a written list of the assignments.

ACTION ITEMS

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Scott Vachon, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II letter c. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 7:31 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non Public Session by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Mike Persson. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 9:05 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion made by Scott Vachon, seconded by Mike Persson, to seal the non-public minutes for an indefinite period of time, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. Roll Call vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Scott Vachon, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk