

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at the Laconia High School, Media Center. Present: Mal Murray, Stacie Sirois, Barbara Luther, Mike Persson, Scott Vachon, Chris Guilmett, Joe Cormier, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler and Superintendent Phil McCormack.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Joe Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on October 15, 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

Joe Cormier amended the agenda moving Discussion Items after Approval of Minutes. Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of October 6, 2015 minutes have been postponed until next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

School Board Member, Scott Vachon, thanked School Board Chair, Joe Cormier, for years of service and dedication to the Laconia School Board and the Laconia School District. Mr. Vachon read a resolution written for Joe Cormier and also presented Joe with a podium dedicated in his honor.

PRESENTATION

Community Awareness at Pleasant Street School: Pleasant Street School Principal Dave Levesque informed the Board that on October 2, 2015 all of Pleasant Street School took a school-wide walking field trip to local community businesses. He explained the idea of this event emerged from a discussion that occurred on his way back from a conference. During the discussion, they decided they wanted the entire school to do something with and for the community. He presented the idea to the faculty and the faculty picked and contacted local businesses for their grade levels to assist at. He mentioned how this event aligned with the Laconia School District Strategic Plan on Community Based Education and Community Relations. Mr. Levesque said all the feedback he heard was positive and they hope to be able to do this again in the spring. He played a short video, which included clips of every grade and the location they visited.

1:1 Computing at Laconia Middle School: Laconia Middle School Academic Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, Alison Bryant, presented to the Board on the 1:1 Computing initiative occurring with 8th graders at the Laconia Middle School. She informed the Board that this has been on the Technology Plan and the former Strategic Plan for several years. All 8th grade teachers have received a significant amount of professional development, to assist them in the shift in instruction. The night before the first day of school, all 8th grade parents and students met with Administrator. It was at this time that the computers were distributed to the students. Ms. Bryant discussed several of the ways the students have been using the computers. Alison Bryant also thanked Karen Switzer for her time and work in supporting the teachers to make this initiative as successful as it has been. They are looking at Professional Development for teachers at the High School who work with 9th grade students as these students will bring the computers to the High School next year. School Board member Chris Guilmett, commented on how he thinks the flipped classroom is a great way for students to learn, and hopes in the spring teachers and students can present to the School Board. Mike Persson, mentioned they used the flipped classroom last year at the High School in some classes and it gives more of an opportunity for a more meaningful exchange. He also asked if the computers are augmenting textbooks or replacing textbooks. It was reported that in some classes it has replaced textbooks and in others they are still using textbooks.

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 met October 14, 2015, where they formed the Strategic Planning groups and will meet again in December.

Legislative Update: None

Board Member Input: Scott Vachon thanks Joe Cormier again for his years of service.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Joe Cormier says he was humbled by the presentation to him tonight. He mentioned he firmly believes he was a placeholder and that all that was accomplished, would have been done if he was not here, but he is proud to be a part of a team that has accomplished so much. He is privileged to work with both the current School Board and past School Board members, and is glad they have established a solid core in the City that will be sustainable for the future.

Superintendent Search Update: Joe Cormier updated the School Board that there have been two focus groups that have occurred, one with Administrators and the other with School Board and two more that will occur with Staff and Community. The Superintendent Search Committee has been formed with 13 members, which include, school board members, administrators, staff, community members, and a parent. They hope to have a decision made by the end of December.

CALENDAR

Budget and Personnel
School Board Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2015
Wednesday, November 4, 2015

6:15pm @ SAU
7:00pm @ SAU

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent, Phil McCormack updated the Board with October 1, 2015 enrollment numbers. He said as we work toward budget they will get breakdowns of class size numbers. The Laconia School District has 74 fewer students this year or 3.6% as a district. At the secondary level we are down 6.8%, at the Middle School Level we are down 2%, at the Elementary Level we are up 2.2%. He also mentioned the Huot Technical Center is down 6% or 30 students this year and in a 3 year period they are down 10.5%. District Wide we have 100 homeschool students which is normal for a district this size.

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Pierce asked Joe Cormier if with winter coming and the snow days that will occur, if the school district has mentioned scheduling students to attend school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Joe Cormier said there has been no discussion

ACTION ITEMS

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION– RSA 91-A: 3, II(a)

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Stacie Sirois, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3II(a). Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board went into Non-Public Session at 7:48 PM.

Motion made to come out of Non Public Session by Mike Persson, seconded by Scott Vachon. Roll call vote was unanimous. The Board came out of Non Public Session at 9:45 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Scott Vachon seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk