

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. 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 August 31, 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 Scott Vachon, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Mal Murray, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2015. The vote was unanimous with Barbara Luther abstaining.

PRESENTATION

Academic Progress at LHS: LHS Principal, Jim McCollum, Present to the School Board on Academic Progress at Laconia High School. He started the presentation discussing data on academics from 2014-2015 school year, informing the School Board that the number of AP exams taken in 2014-2015 is the largest taken while he has been Principal. He then went on to show the Academic Outlook for the 2015-2016 school year, showing there is an increase in all registrations in AP courses, Project Running Start Programs, Stats and Probability and Honors Chemistry. Principal McCollum showed the School Board a 3 year comparison on attendance including truancies, tardy's excused and absences. All three areas have decreased. He went on to show the Board SWIS data on behavior issues. The data presented was discussed with teachers and they agreed on ways to lower problem behaviors, discussing they need to engage students even more to lessen these behaviors. Academic Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, Steve Tucker, addressed the School Board on the i3 Grant Laconia High School received for the past five years and the benefits received from this grant. He also informed the Board on the curriculum work teachers have been doing through their Departments and PLCs. Mr. McCollum and Mr. Tucker informed the Board on the Academic Mission LHS has which is related to Content Knowledge, Communication and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. They also updated the Board on College and Career Readiness showing the School Board National Data and projections on the Top Job Openings and the Median Annual Wage. Lastly, they informed the Board on LHS Culture and Climate. They praised Athletic Director/Dean of Students Craig Kozens for his focus on this area and how impressed they were that parent engagement has improve and how PBIS is working at LHS.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: This group has not met.

Facilities/CIP: This group has not met. Mal Murray discussed the tour of the SAU building he received on Monday, September 1st and the progress at the SAU. Ed Emond updated the Board that they had the final JBC meeting August 17th and JBC is disbanded and closed due to the LHS project being finished.

Policy: This group has not met.

Strategic Planning: This group met on August 17th. They talked about next steps in the planning process. It was decided that hat before the next School Board meeting on September 15th they will have a work session with members of the Board and Administration. They will also have a meeting in October where they will invite all participants of the prior two Strategic Planning sessions. This October session will kick off the formation of the committees. The goal is to have these committees meet regularly and report to the Board regularly.

Legislative Update: Scott Vachon mentioned there is a city in NH suing the State of NH for not receiving all of their adequacy aid.

Board Member Input: Stacie Sirois informed the Board that the Alumni Reunion will take place on September 25th. It was discussed that the proceeds from Homecoming Football game will be put towards the Alumni Scholarship, they will also increase the admission of the Homecoming game to \$5.00 per person.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

Joe Cormier informed the Board that he has spoken with the LEA president. The LEA is putting together a team for negotiations and will get back in touch once the committee has been formed. He also informed the Board that he received a letter from the EAL to begin negotiations and they will confirm a meeting and respond with a letter.

CALENDAR

Superintendent Search Committee	Tuesday, September 8, 2015	6:15 @ SAU
Strategic Planning	Tuesday, September 15, 2015	6:00 @ SAU
School Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 15, 2015	7:00pm @ SAU

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent, Phil McCormack, addressed the School Board on Summer Professional Learning, informing them that 68% of staff participated in Summer Professional Learning opportunities. He also updated the Board on Opening Days of Schools, starting on August 24th with New Staff Induction, where 28 new Staff were introduced to the Laconia School District. He also updated the School Board on the District Opening on August 26th, where a district wide conference on PBIS was held. Experienced speakers were brought in to address all Staff on PBIS. This aligned with our District goals on PBIS. The staff enjoyed this conference and Dr. McCormack shared some of their comments on the conference.

Dr. McCormack informed the Board that he and Assistant Superintendent, Kirk Beitler, went to all five schools on the first day of school, August 31st. He commented that it looked like students were gone for a long weekend, they are right back at it. He thanked the Laconia Police Department for help on the opening day, they had great visibility and assisted with the traffic. He mentioned that there are still Paraeducator openings and that we have substitutes covering for while we wait to fill the openings. He also informed the Board that at the last meeting they informed the Board they will be going to 3 sections of Kindergarten at Woodland Heights, but due to registrations they kept all 4 Kindergarten sections. Scott Vachon asked why we are having trouble finding Paraeducators. It was discussed maybe reaching out to the EAL and engage their leadership to figure out options.

Kirk Beitler presented to the School Board on the Teacher Evaluation. He discussed the background of the work the committee had done last year and this summer and the NHDOE ESEA Flexibility Waiver. He discussed how the New Evaluation system includes Rubrics and are based on Kim Marshalls work, amending some Rubrics to suit Laconia. He informed the Board that they are piloting this new system on the new staff during the 15-16 School year. They have already informed the new educators of this and will collect information from them at the end of the year. The goal is to implement this to all staff in the 2016-2017 School Year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Nomination/Election of Staff: Dr. McCormack informed the Board that we are fully staff. He recommends they approve the final hire for a one year long-term substitute position. This teacher was at induction and is knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Scott informed the Board that he remembers her from induction and she was energetic.

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if the Board if after non-public there would be any other business. Joe Cormier informed Mr. Coggon there would be no non-public meeting. Dick Coggon asked if there would be a non-meeting. Joe Cormier said they would not be having non-meeting. Mr. Coggon asked why the School Board Meetings have not been on LRPTV. He was informed the DVD's have been sent over to LRPTV, but they will check on why they have not been aired. Mr. Coggon was informed that LRPTV has gone through leadership changes and they are working hard to get everything back on tract. Mr. Coggon also informed the Board to be careful on hiring new Paraeducators for more money or incentives, the district would find themselves in front of the Labor Relations Board. HE was informed that the intent was not to hire the new Paraeductors for more money but to seek guidance from the EAL.

There will be a Superintendent Search Committee meeting on September 8, 2015 at 6:15 to meet with the consultant to start the process. Joe, Scott and Stacie will continue on the Sub-Committee. They will discuss the advertisement and qualifications and bring the information to the next School Board meeting for approval if the Committee feels that is appropriate. This will be a posted public meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Nomination/Election of Staff: A motion was made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Mike Persson, to approve the nomination and election of one new staff members. The vote was unanimous.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

None

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Scott Vachon seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk