

The Laconia School Board held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at the Harvard Street, SAU Board Room. Present: Chris Guilmett, Mal Murray, Stacie Sirois, Barbara Luther, Joe Cormier, Business Administrator Ed Emond, Assistant Superintendent Kirk Beitler and Superintendent Terri Forsten. Absent: Mike Persson and Scott Vachon.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Joe Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The agenda was posted on March 2, 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 to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Stacie Sirois. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Chris Guilmett, seconded by Barbara Luther, to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015 as presented. The vote unanimous.

PRESENTATION

LMS Unified Team

Laconia Middle School Assistant Principal shared a presentation on the LMS Unified Basketball Team. Unified Sports is inclusive sports that provide youth with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and play together as teammates. Students develop exceptional athletic skills while forming friendships, fostering respect for each other, and becoming leaders on and off the court. Laconia Middle School just completed its first ever Unified Sports Season. They competed with schools around the Lakes Region (Gilford, Alton, and Winnisquam). The team is funded and supported by Special Olympics NH. They played a four game season and competed in a Unified Jamboree to wrap up the schedule. During PRIDE week they played (and defeated) the LMS faculty team during our PRIDE week finale. Athletes Sonya, Trevor and Tyler shared their experiences with the board.

LHS Future Planning

LHS Principal Jim McCollum and LHS Academic Coordinator of Teaching and Learning Steve Tucker presented the concept of freshman and Sophomore Houses – a new direction to benefit learning and college and career readiness. They are proposing to do a "four in the core" concept which would make LHS a NH Scholars School. Core classes (English, Social Studies, Science and Math) would be full year classes. They would suggest that the freshman year is a challenging transition year and the students' performance is a strong determiner of high school success. The high school setting is complex academically and socially. They would like to use 2015-16 as a year of planning and program development with implementation of Freshman Academy in 2016. Data shows that students self-report that more transition support in the freshman year would ease the transition into high school. Research indicates that freshman are more likely to disengage in large schools where they feel anonymity and report being less involved in school activities and report lower self-esteem and higher rates of depression. Freshman Academy would consist of 60 minute full year core academic classes with flexible scheduling to support Project Based Learning. There would be access to regular programs at the end of each day. They shared examples of schedules for freshman and sophomore Academies to the Board. Several Board members had questions and wanted more detailed information on scheduling and how it would fit with Huot classes. Superintendent Terri Forsten said that they would move forward in the planning stages and come back to the Board with sample student schedules.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment: Kirk Beitler shared information on the STEM Council and the Gateway Project that they have been working on. By the end of the 2015-2016 school year all grade levels will show evidence of using the five STEM guiding principles in one or more UbD units. Staff will participate in Summer UbD work in and also in the Summer LR-CIA STEM Institute. They will create a district STEM day or event with purpose of increasing STEM awareness among staff, students and community members. Planning is scheduled for March and a Huot Open House is set for March 24, 2015 with a District wide event in April. This Council will continue to add relevant stakeholders to STEM efforts with all grade levels represented. They will recruit relevant community partners and participate in LR-CIA administrator STEM training. Whitney McCallum, Sonya Roberts and Kirk will demonstrate technology in the Gateway Symposium at the Boston Museum of Science on March 19th in a district showcase. They will share this presentation with the Board when they return.

Facilities: Ed Emond attended the NE Facility Masters Conference last week in Portsmouth. He is looking into purchasing the Capital Planning module in School Dude that will assist in future capital projects. IT Director Jeff Twombly presented a proposal for improving the security at our schools. Presently the existing system is very complex and there is no room for additional cameras. We have several different brands of cameras and different systems that are independent of each other. He proposed that we simplify the system and phase in a new design. Phase 1 would include installing a surveillance server that could handle roughly 150 cameras that would create school views for authorized users with a video storage server with one month storage to hold surveillance data. Phase 2 would add additional cameras and phase out older cameras. There are funds in the current budget to begin this process now. Several security upgrades were completed over the past two years including new locks, cameras, safety glass and more secure entryways.

Public/Administrative Input:

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Personnel: This group has not met.

Facilities/CIP: This group has not met.

Policy: This group has not met. This group will be meeting on March 17th at 6:00 pm.

Strategic Planning: This committee will be meeting on March 5th to continue discussion on the action items that were discussed with the large group.

Legislative Update: None

Board Member Input: None

BOARD CHAIR REPORT/CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Strategic Planning Meeting	Thursday, March 5, 2015	6:00 pm @ MVSB Café
Policy Committee Meeting	Tuesday, March 17, 2015	6:00 pm @ SAU
School Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 17, 2015	7:00 pm @ SAU
Re-Imagine Laconia Community Forum	Thursday, March 18, 2015	4:00 pm @ Winnepesaukee Expo Center
Spring Technology Conference	Thursday, March 18, 2015	3:30 pm @ Laconia Middle School

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Terri Forsten updated the Board on the progress of the revising of the administrator and teacher evaluations committee work. She also reminded the Board about the Strategic Planning Work Session on March 5th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Coggon asked if the Board would be having a non-meeting. Joe Cormier said the Board would not be having a non-meeting. He also spoke on legislation regarding teacher continuing contracts.

ACTION ITEMS

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

None

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mal Murray, seconded by Chris Guilmett, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Beitler
Clerk