

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday January 8, 2018 at the Gilford Elementary School Tocci Library. Present were board members Sue Allen, Gretchen Gandini, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Karen Thurston. Representing Gilmanton were Michele Heyman and Frank Weeks. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Scott Isabelle, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo and Steve Tucker. Student representative was Greg Madore

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed posting of the meeting.

Gretchen Gandini made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting. Sue Allen seconded the motion and after discussion of corrections it was voted in the affirmative. Michelle Heyman and Rae Mello-Andrews abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

REPORTS

Superintendent Report

Kirk Beitler reviewed his written report. He brought forward the draft 2018-2019 school calendar which has been reviewed with GEA and with Gilmanton. It tracks closely with the Huot Center and Laconia School District.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With reference to Mr. Beitler's report concerning fingerprinting, Gretchen Gandini noted that the town likewise requires background checks for volunteers working with the Park and Recreation department. Considering the number of persons volunteering for both the town and the school, she suggested exploration of ways to prevent duplication of effort regarding background checks. Karen Thurston pointed out that a background check represents a "snapshot" of any applicant's record at a given time.

Gilford Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc reviewed her written report. She prefaced her remarks by noting that the Grade 2 classes are learning about persuasive writing and had, in observance of National School Boards Week, written a letter and poster to the school board, thanking members for their work.

With respect to the GES Staff section of the report, Gretchen Gandini inquired as to the meaning of "norming student work." Ms. Bolduc explained that two teachers can grade the same student's work differently; 'norming' refers to defining the parameters used to evaluate student work "so we get on the same page."

Ms. Bolduc drew the board's attention to the maple sugaring program begun last year at GES. She presented sample drawings and plans for a proposed outdoor education structure with a pavilion to be erected behind the school. Last year five maple trees were tapped and the sap boiled (in the parking lot) to make syrup. This year the school hopes to expand to 20 trees and has reached out to Gilmanton to help their Grade 4 students learn about the sugaring process. Future years will include other nearby districts. It is envisioned to become a community activity. The proposed structure will not be limited to wintertime use but will be available year-round and will be built using private funds. After discussion, board members reached consensus to grant the school permission to make further investigation about developing the structure and program.

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REPORTS

Gilford Middle School

Peter Sawyer reviewed his written report. He added that the school play on January 26, 27, and 28 is *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. There are two casts and one tech crew. Mr. Sawyer was impressed at the enrollment for the foreign language program: with 30 available seats in each language, every student who applied was offered a seat in at least one language.

Mr. Sawyer brought forward a donation from the Meredith Heart and Hands Thrift Shop in the amount of \$2,094 to be applied to the middle school's Legosmiths and robotics programs. Sue Allen moved that the board accept the donation. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Gilford High School

Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his written report. He added that he and Tim Goggin are developing a mechanism for the school's website to for reporting instances of bullying.

Frank Weeks inquired about a "derogatory article in the paper" regarding bullying. Mr. Sperazzo responded that in discussions with the *Laconia Daily Sun* it was revealed that the individual who brought the allegation was deceased five years ago; further the telephone number left is a non-working number. A full report to the board regarding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results will be presented in February.

Gretchen Gandini inquired about a change in grading practices and suggested a public forum to help parents understand the change. Brief discussion ensued about grades and how colleges manipulate grade data to ensure that all applicants are considered equally.

Student Council Report

Greg Madore related that LEADers, students who represent the Gilford High School motto of Learn, Excel, Achieve, and Dream will be chosen this week.

He also noted that Ms. Soucy and Ms. Sessler invite any female Grade 7 and 8 student to join a new group called Girls Can Code. The group will meet several times per month after school with a focus on coding and work on engineering products to be made with the 3-D printer donated by the PTA. High school students will act as mentors. Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Sperazzo are asked to send letters to parents describing the group and encouraging students to participate "and make this a fun way to learn 21st century skills."

The Drama department is hard at work preparing to present Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the New England Drama Festival on March 10. The spring production of *A Few Good Men* will take the stage on March 22, 23, and 24.

Business Administrator Report

Scott Isabelle provided a copy of the Independent Auditor's Report for year ending June 30, 2017. Noting that it is "overall a good report", he highlighted that the "Adverse Opinion" on Government Activities concerns GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board)-45 which requires districts to record post-employment health insurance benefits. To do so will involve the services of an actuary at \$6,000 to \$8,000 and must be repeated every three years, which effort and expenditure the district has historically declined to undertake. While the district does take adverse opinions seriously, the district's non-compliance with GASB-45 has had no effect on the district's ability to borrow funds. New, stricter GASB requirements are anticipated in the next two to three years; at that time Mr. Isabelle will suggest that the district bring its practices into compliance with the higher standards.

REPORTS

Worker's Compensation Insurance Agreement Renewal

Mr. Isabelle reviewed that the district had entered a program with insurance provider Primex to cap potential increases for property and liability insurance. He brought forward a similar cap program for Workers Compensation Insurance, which will cap potential increases at eight percent, down from ten percent.

After discussion, Sue Allen moved that the board renew the Contribution Assurance Program – Worker's Compensation Program with Primex for three years. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Federal Grants

Mr. Isabelle brought forward a Title IV A grant titled "State of NH Student Support and Academic Enrichment" at 26,423.000. The funds are earmarked to start or expand robotics programs. Kirk Beitler elaborated that Andrea Damato had applied for the grant, which provides approximately \$8,000 to the middle school and \$16,000 to the high school.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept the Title IV A enrichment grant. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Calendar

Rae Mello-Andrews presented the latest meeting schedule. Mr. Beitler confirmed that the January 9 budget committee meeting will not concern the school district, however the January 11 budget committee meeting will be all-school district related. Mr. Beitler further noted that the last day to accept petition warrant articles is January 9 at 5:00 p.m. and the filing period opens January 24 and closes February 2 at 5:00 pm.

Coffee with Teachers

Rae Mello-Andrews proposed that the board revive this practice as an opportunity for board members and staff to get to know each other. She asked for available dates from board members and proposed meeting in the elementary school library from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Sue Allen reminded that in the past, the board had similar meetings with teachers annually. They will be posted as a "meet and greet."

Karen Thurston remarked that she will be unable to attend this year's NHSBA Delegates Assembly as she has in the past with Sue Allen. She noted that the sessions are "very informative, there's a lot to learn. It's important that we have representation." This year's assembly is Saturday January 20 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Discussion revealed the possibility of Rae Mello-Andrews attending in the morning and Gretchen Gandini attending in the afternoon.

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

Second Reading

Kirk Beitler reviewed that the new policies had been submitted to GEA; no response has been received. He further noted that, upon the board's approval, existing policies

- JBAA, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence.
- ACA, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, and Unlawful Harassment
- ACA-P, Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

will be replaced with

- GBAA, Sexual Harassment - Employees and Staff
- GBAA-R, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form

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**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

- JBAA, Sexual Harassment – Students
- JBAA-R, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form.

Mr. Beitler also brought forward for second reading Policies JLCJ—Concussions and Head Injuries and BCB—Board Member Conflict of Interest

With minor changes, the proposed policies follow language suggested by NHSBA.

Sue Allen moved that the board eliminate policies JBAA, ACA, and ACA-P. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy GBAA, Sexual Harassment—Employees/Staff. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy GBAA-R, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy JBAA, Sexual Harassment—Students. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy JBAA-R, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy JLCJ—Concussions and Head Injuries. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Karen Thurston moved that the board accept Policy BCB—Board Member Conflict of Interest. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which was voted in the affirmative. Sue Allen abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION
RSA 91-A:3 II**

At 7:08 p.m., Karen Thurston made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(c). Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**