

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 5, 2018
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
PAGE 1**

The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday March 5, 2018 at the Gilford Elementary School Tocci Library. Present were board members Sue Allen, Gretchen Gandini, Chris McDonough, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Karen Thurston. Representing Gilmanton were Michelle Heyman and Frank Weeks. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Tim Goggin, Esther Kennedy, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo, and Steve Tucker. Student representatives was Greg Madore.

OPENING School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed posting of the meeting.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting. Sue Allen seconded the motion and after discussion of corrections it was voted in the affirmative. Michelle Heyman abstained.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 meeting. Sue Allen seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative. Frank Weeks and Michelle Heyman abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT No public comment was offered.

STUDENT RECOGNITION Gilford Got Lunch
Kirk Beitler introduced Gilford Got Lunch representative Tracy Blandford who in turn recognized students Addison Guyer and Norah Lee. These students, on their own initiative, raised \$80 “for students who were hungry” and presented them to the school nurse. These funds were then turned over to Gilford Got Lunch. Ms. Blandford presented Addison and Norah each with a Gilford Got Lunch t-shirt and a framed Certificate of Appreciation. Attendees applauded.

STUDENT PRESENTATION Lego/Robotics
Middle School Computer Education instructor Andrea Damato briefly described that the middle school’s “Legosmiths” robotics team consists of student leaders who would present the program to the board.

17 students introduced themselves. Each narrated a portion of their PowerPoint presentation titled “From Flush to Finish,” a study of sewer systems. They described that they were divided into two sub-teams: the researchers and the builders.

The research team investigated the water cycle, visiting the Franklin hydroelectric dam and the wastewater treatment plant. The build team designed and coded the robot to perform various “missions” autonomously. The presenters showed a video of the build process, the coding process, and the robot in action performing its tasks at a miniature wastewater treatment plant. Attendees applauded the team.

Gretchen Gandini thanked Ms. Damato for her grant-writing efforts. Ms. Damato described four grants, three of which yielded further funding for the high school and middle school robotics programs. She expressed optimism that next year the middle school would field two teams for competition.

REPORTS Student Council Report
Greg Madore reported that the senior class were the winners of the Winter Carnival. Pictures will be presented at the April meeting.
Students participating in the Spanish Club’s trip to Costa Rica should return tonight. “It was a great experience for all the kids.”
The student council will sponsor the Gilford Candidate’s night on March 6 at

REPORTS

7:30. All town and school candidates will be invited to explain their platform and positions, and to take questions.

The blood drive originally scheduled for March 7 will be postponed due to weather considerations. Red Cross personnel will advise of the rescheduled date. The goal is still to obtain 42 pints of blood.

Mr. Madore took the opportunity “to personally thank you, Mrs. Allen, for all of your years of hard work for the education of the students at Gilford.”

Superintendent Report

Kirk Beitler reviewed his written report. The following topics engendered discussion:

- With six snow days used, the proposed last day of school for students will be June 21 and the last day for teachers will be June 22. Those dates will apply even if up to three more snow days are declared, because the minimum number of instructional hours will have been met.
- At present graduation is proposed for June 16 or 17. However Meadowbrook will not commit earlier than 60 days prior to any proposed date. Tim Goggin and Anthony Sperazzo outlined various restrictions on the use of Meadowbrook and noted that the facility is booking acts rather quickly at present. They were not optimistic that the facility would be available for graduation. Subsequent to discussion the board reached consensus that the most likely option is to have graduation on school grounds. An outdoor ceremony would enable more guests to attend; an indoor ceremony would limit the number of guests but eliminate weather considerations. Administration was authorized to begin investigating the cost of renting chairs for an outdoor ceremony. Staff will also begin to alert parents to the possibility of a venue change. Tim Goggin will remain in touch with Meadowbrook and will advise if that venue becomes available.
- More snow days could change the last day of school for teachers. Input from GEA is mixed, however there are summer programs and a number of construction projects that need to start on time. Options include adding time to each school day, either every day or selected days. Sue Allen supported the notion of adding time each week so as not to impact teacher vacation time. “If you do an hour a week through the rest of the school year so they can all get done by the 22nd, I think that makes more sense.” Karen Thurston and Rae Mello-Andrews concurred. Mr. Beitler indicated he would have further discussions with the teachers.
- Grant funds have become available for virtual reality computers and equipment. After brief discussion the board reached consensus to pursue these funds.
- Gilford Police Sergeant Dustin Parent and School Resource Officer Dan O’Neill gave a brief presentation on the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) active shooter response program being implemented in local communities and schools. Statistical analysis suggests that former methods are lacking and this improvement can keep more students and staff safe in an active shooter situation. The ALICE method focuses more on the aspects of barricading and evacuation. Given a national response time for law enforcement of five to six minutes, barricading “buys us time to get there.” It has been shown that most shooters will move to another target if presented with a locked or barricaded door. ALICE also represents “a big shift in thinking: as educators you want to be accountable for every child in your class, you want to know where they are. ALICE opens the door to escaping and

REPORTS

leaving it up to law enforcement to locate those individuals afterwards.” Rae Mello-Andrews closed the discussion with the observation that “given the state of the times, we [police, fire departments, and facilities management] need to collaborate more than ever before.”

Gilford Elementary School
Danielle Bolduc reviewed her written report.

Gilford Middle School
Peter Sawyer reviewed his written report.

Gilford High School
Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his written report.
Brief discussion occurred about the minimum number of enrollees required to offer an A/P course and the options available to students if a particular class is not offered.
Mr. Sperazzo and Mr. Goggin presented the school’s mid-year discipline report. The “big ticket” items (those that create disruption) resulting in detentions have reduced drastically. Mr. Sperazzo attributes that reduction chiefly to Mr. Goggin’s practice of “getting students and families involved in attendance before it gets out of hand.”

A growing area of concern is the increase of “vape” (inhaled vapor) occurrences. These small, easily-concealable devices, also known as “dabs,” use heat and a small amount of liquid to create an odorless, nearly invisible vapor to be inhaled by the user. Among the liquids available are synthetic drugs, some approaching 90 percent pure cannabis. (A common marijuana cigarette contains 30 percent pure cannabis.) With the changing nature of marijuana laws and the arrival of three “vape shops” nearby, the school and local law enforcement are “fearful that it’s not going to get any better.” Teachers are advised to be on the lookout for unusual behavior from students returning from bathroom visits. Students are being encouraged, “if you see something, report it.” He noted that all of the 5-day Out of School Suspensions were ‘vape’ related “and all came from somebody coming into my office” to report an observation.

Mr. Goggin also described the often confusing and misunderstood differences between bullying and harassment. He noted that “we’re doing the best we can to teach students what bullying is, how to report it, and who to go to.” The staff also provides education about what students can do to self-advocate “before coming to my office and saying ‘I’m being bullied.’” Often, students’ social development skills are so weak that “we need to help them through that process.”

Mr. Sperazzo noted that for students have been bullied or teased, Mr. Goggin has implemented an educational reflection component. He meets with the families and gives them assignments to help improve their skills. For some of the ‘big-ticket’ infractions the district will employ crisis counselors to mediate with the family. “We’re trying to provide supports outside of school as well.”

Mr. Goggin observed that “it’s also important to educate the perpetrator. Often the bully is the one with the most emotional strife, the one that needs support. I think we’ve been doing a decent job to provide support to the bully as well.” He related that he is working with the Tech Coordinator to develop a web-based “hot line” mechanism whereby students can report concerning behaviors directly to him. He anticipates that the mechanism will “open up that communication that much more” and hopes to pilot it by the third trimester of this year.

Michelle Heyman commented on the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), particularly that on average students felt unsafe in school one day per

REPORTS

month. She remarked that students may be reluctant to disclose certain events because they perceive that disclosure “becomes a slightly public event. The biggest hurdle is students finding comfort and feeling they can report.”

Mr. Goggin responded that “the key will be for our students to advocate for their needs, also to take a leadership role and stand up for their peers.” Further, students need to be impressed that “this is your school: you should feel safe and take pride in it. If you see something, report it. You’re all leaders; this is your school.” He reasserted that the “hotline” above will play a big part.

Further discussion ensued regarding release of the YRBS results. Mr. Sperazzo indicated that the school typically awaits state-wide results before releasing to the board. Ms. Gandini, Ms. Heyman and Mr. McDonough voiced their support of the release of the data without awaiting state-wide results for comparison. Mr. Sperazzo agreed to present the full survey results at the April meeting.

About the “redos and retakes” initiative Chris McDonough inquired how a student is re-taught the material prior to reassessment. Mr. Sperazzo described that the student and teacher enter a carefully designed plan which may entail more practice, working online at home, morning or afternoon meetings with the teacher, working at a study hall, or in the math and writing center. “It’s a very specific, laid-out plan. The teacher needs to feel confident that the student will perform better that second time” required before the reassessment occurs.

Chair Report

Ms. Mello-Andrews reminded that individuals are needed to help count ballots after the election. Sue Allen volunteered.

Ms. Mello-Andrews reminded that Candidate’s Night is March 6 at the high school and the Budget Committee is holding a special meeting on March 8 at 7:00 PM in the town hall.

POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

First Reading:

KCD—Accepting Donations/Gifts: the applicable RSA directs that notice of a public hearing regarding acceptance of a donation or gift shall be published in a newspaper for general circulation. That language has been added to the policy.

JLJ—Student Wellness Policy: some language has been replaced with suggested language from the DOE. The policy will undergo its regular three-year review at the next policy committee meeting.

IGE—Parental Objections to Specific Course Material: NHSBA has offered an update that reflects changes brought about by HB 103.

Second Reading:

ILDA—Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research

ILD—Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires

NHSBA suggests that current policy ILDA be replaced with the proposed ILD to reflect changes in law brought about by SB 43, effective September 16, 2017

Sue Allen moved that the board replace Policy ILDA with new Policy ILD. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

GBEA—Staff Ethics

GBEBE—Employment of Relatives or Persons with Romantic Personal Relationships

After receiving considerable input from GEA, Mr. Beitler advised that the policy committee will revisit both Policies GBEA and GBEBE.

POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 5, 2018
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
PAGE 5**

ECAF—Video and Audio Recording Devices on School Buses and Video Surveillance on School Property

The policy committee suggests separating this policy into Policies ECAF—Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses and Policy EEAA—Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property.

Karen Thurston moved that current Policy ECAF be separated into new policies ECAF and EEAA. Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

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

At 8:01p.m., Karen Thurston made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(c). Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RE-ENTER PUBLIC
SESSION**

At 9:51 the board re-entered public session.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Sue Allen the board voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes of the February 5, 2018 session. A roll call vote was conducted as follows Rae Mello-Andrews, yes; Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Sue Allen, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**