

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY MAY 7, 2018
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday May 7, 2018 at the Gilford Elementary School Tocci Library. Present were board members Gretchen Gandini, Rae Mello-Andrews, Jeanin Onos, and Karen Thurston. Representing Gilmanton was Frank Weeks. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Tim Goggin, Scott Isabelle, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo, Steve Tucker, and Sean Walsh. Student representative was Greg Madore.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 April 2, 2018 meeting. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion which was voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mariah Gardener, a junior at Gilford High School, asked that the board consider an exception to its policy and allow her 20-year old boyfriend to accompany her to the upcoming prom. She noted that her research indicated that Gilford is the only district in Belknap County with a policy that restricts attendance to individuals 19 and under.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Champion for Children

Kirk Beitler presented 2018 Champion for Children to Sharyn Sasserson. He noted that Ms. Sasserson is president of the Gilford PTA and POPS (Parents of Performing Arts Students) and is extensively involved in the community. Attendees applauded Ms. Sasserson.

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Student Council Report

Greg Madore related another successful senior class trip to Adventure Bound in Caratunk, Maine. Students had the opportunity to interact with classmates they might not otherwise have. Students returned "wondering why we wait until now to do this."

This Friday May 11 the band and chorus will travel to Massachusetts to compete and then enjoy Six Flags amusement park while awaiting results of the competition.

Next Friday May 18 is the prom, held at Pheasant Ridge. The march is in the school gym at 7:00 and the prom begins at 8:00. Approximately 220 students and their dates will attend.

The blood drive has been rescheduled to Monday June 4 with only high school students donating.

A/P exams occur during the next two weeks.

Superintendent Report

Kirk Beitler began his presentation by outlining a proposed application to NHDOE for "Blizzard Bags," instructional materials to be used by students on days when school is closed due to inclement weather. Four schools visited Gilford to discuss their experiences with Blizzard Bags: Kingswood High School, Pembroke High School, Barnstead Elementary School and representatives from the Merrimack Valley School District.

Karen Thurston inquired about power outages. Mr. Beitler responded that the proposal contemplates using Blizzard Bags during the second trimester of school and would not be implemented during severe storms, only when volumes of light, fluffy snow are forecast. The bags would not be used if power outages are anticipated.

Gretchen Gandini inquired how working parents would be expected to manage

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three to four hours of schoolwork per student after a work day. Mr. Beitler responded that it is anticipated that students can do some work at the babysitter's, at daycare, or at home. Mr. Tucker interjected that the students will have 48 hours to complete a blizzard bag assignment. Jeanin Onos voiced her view that the assignments could be achieved within the 48 hours allotted.

Ms. Gandini inquired about how much teacher preparation time the bags would require, and whether that time would be taken from other ongoing staff development work. Mr. Tucker responded the teachers would prepare the bag assignments to align with their current curriculum. Feedback received from the teachers indicates they are supportive of the initiative.

Mr. Beitler added that although up to five blizzard bag days are proposed, it is not anticipated that the full five days will be used in a given year. Teachers will not use five days of in-service training to develop and prepare the blizzard bag assignments.

Danielle Bolduc reminded that there are already a number of on-line products in use with which the students are already familiar. Some teachers use Google Classrooms; students can also take home "browser books."

Karen Thurston inquired about meeting the needs of special education students. Ms. Bolduc advised that an entire section of the proposal sets out procedures for special education students. Mr. Beitler described that the student would communicate with the teacher, parent, or case manager based on the student's particular need.

Frank Weeks inquired about teacher availability on-line, noting that the proposal seems to anticipate teachers being available for three to four hours during the day and at 15-minute intervals throughout the remainder of the day. After discussion it was agreed to rephrase that sentence in the proposal.

After further discussion, Karen Thurston moved that the board approve the application for Blizzard Bags, as amended. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Beitler then reviewed the remainder of his written report. He thanked the Lakes Region Lacrosse organization who donated paint to line the lacrosse fields.

Gilford Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc reviewed her written report.

Sean Walsh reviewed changes to the 2018-2019 GES handbook.

Gretchen Gandini moved that the board approve the handbook changes as presented. Karen Thurston seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Frank Weeks abstained.

Gilford Middle School

Sean Walsh reviewed proposed changes to the 2018-2019 Gilford Middle School handbook. He emphasized the prohibition against use of "vaping" and recording devices.

Jeanin Onos moved that the board approve the handbook changes as presented. Karen Thurston seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Frank Weeks abstained.

Peter Sawyer reviewed his written report. He noted that the testing schedule for May is extensive and students are well engaged.

Jeanin Onos inquired about ALICE training for incoming Grade 5 students. Mr. Sawyer responded that there has been discussion about the need to increase ALICE drills, and that "we will have to do them very early in the school year, especially addressing the student concerns about what to do in the three common areas [cafeteria, gym, hallways]." Mr. Beitler advised that Grade 5 training will

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be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting.

Gilford High School

Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his written report. In response to a question from Ms. Gandini he and Mr. Beitler described the NEASC process.

Rae Mello-Andrews inquired about an inspection of the facility and how those results may differ from those of the Fire Department's inspection.

Mr. Sperazzo related that the subject inspection was performed by the NH DOE to ensure that schools meet state standards. Mr. Beitler added that the DOE inspection may be somewhat more extensive than that of the Fire Department. He reviewed that the Fire Department approves occupancy for the town whereas the DOE gives state approval.

Tim Goggin reviewed proposed handbook changes for 2018-2019. He emphasized that a nationwide concern is "vapes" or electronic smoking devices. The district classifies them as drug paraphernalia and the cartridges used to operate them as unauthorized inhalants; possession of these materials is considered a violation of the district's drug policies and violators are subject to the same penalties.

Gretchen Gandini moved that the board approve the handbook changes as presented. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Curriculum Report

Steve Tucker opened a presentation on the World Language program at the elementary and middle schools.

Danielle Bolduc spoke of the district's efforts to expand world language to date, including the PTA's sponsorship of the present after-school world language program for Grades 1 through 7, its structure, and its "sold-out" participation.

Peter Sawyer spoke of the benefits of learning a language at an early age: students become better students; test scores improve; new pathways open in the brain; confidence increases; and learning a language translates to other areas. Learning about other cultures is important; likewise, such learning often brings reflection about one's own culture and encourages consideration of tolerance and inclusion. Language study also aids in college acceptance: 60 percent of students accepted at UNH took at least three years of a foreign language.

Mr. Tucker noted that the brain is more ready to learn language at a younger age. Learning a second language can increase memory, improve problem-solving abilities, develop more positive attitudes, open doors in arts, music, dance, fashion, and cuisine. Many new jobs will likely have some component of international perspectives.

Frank Weeks related that his son took Arabic at his school and in college, which proved beneficial when he applied for an internship at Homeland Security. He added that Spanish is likewise an increasingly prevalent language. Mr. Tucker concurred, noting that the number of Hispanic persons is expected to increase by 50 percent in the next 25 years.

Mr. Sawyer outlined some objectives that must first be met: scheduling at the elementary and middle schools; staffing and budgetary considerations; curriculum definition; and the overall goal of the program, whether it be to introduce different languages at early grade levels or fluency.

Mr. Beitler reminded that the PTA has agreed to fund the program for another year as a pilot in Grades 1 through 7. "As we build the budget for the 2019-2020 school year this is a discussion topic." Meanwhile the program has been very successful: "there are a lot of students and people engaged in the process."

Business Administrator Report

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Scott Isabelle identified an estimated general fund balance of approximately \$1.8 million. He reviewed the details of how that figure was developed from the levels of each building, special education, buildings and grounds, and district-wide accounts. After receiving final figures from the state he will return to the board to seek its decision on whether to return all the unused funds to the taxpayers or retain a certain amount for unanticipated costs. Mr. Beitler reminded that the voters had agreed to designate some unspent general fund balances to capital improvement projects.

Mr. Isabelle next reviewed special projects slated to begin this summer, including refinishing and painting in the high school gym, repair of the hydraulic elevator system, repair or replacement of the domestic water booster pumps, replacement of stage curtains, roof replacement and repair, exterior painting, and window replacement at the SAU office. All were submitted to competitive bids and many will cost less than the budgeted amounts for a total projected savings of approximately \$28,000.

Meadows Report

Karen Thurston described an impressive tour of the barn facility. She noted that there are a number of unused sheep feeders on site and that Mr. Bartlett had suggested donating them to the 4-H club rather than paying for their removal.

Gretchen Gandini moved that the sheep feeders be donated. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion.

Rae Mello-Andrews suggested that the Ramblin Vewe Farm could likewise be a potential recipient. Ms. Gandini's motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report

After discussion, the board reached consensus on to the following meeting schedule:

- Regular meeting Monday June 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM
- Joint meeting at Gilmanton Tuesday June 12 at 6:00 PM
- Work session Monday July 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM
- Regular meeting Monday August 20, 2018 at 6:00 PM
- Regular meeting Monday September 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM

POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

First Reading:

Kirk Beitler brought forward the following policies for first reading.

- JH—Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy: language about blizzard bags was added per DOE requirements
- EBCA—Emergency Plans: the suggested sample from NHSBA conforms to the requirements of HB 233 that the district submit such plans to the Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Management, the Department of Safety, and the Department of Education.
- GBCD—Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check: contains recommended language from SBA based on RSA 189:13a.

Second Reading:

Mr. Beitler brought forward the following policies for second reading:

- IHAM—Health Education and Exemption from Instruction: this policy was recommended in response to HB 103. No input was received from GEA. Gretchen Gandini moved that the new version of Policy IHAM replace the former version of IHAM. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- IHAM-R—Health and Sex Education Exemption: Opt-Out Form: this

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

policy is again recommended in response to HB 103. No input was received from GEA. Gretchen Gandini moved that the new version of Policy IHAM-R replace the former version of IHAM-R. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- JICD—Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process: changes to this policy are in response to changes in the administrative rules at DOE. GEA inquired whether administrators other than building principals may assign students detention under the same standards. Discussion yielded the solution of the added term “or designee.” Karen Thurston moved that the board approve Policy JICD with the added term “or designee.” Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- IHCD—Advanced Coursework/Advanced Placement Courses and STEM Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program: this policy added the STEM dual concurrent enrollment program offered through the community college system and would allow students to receive coursework and credit from the community college system. With the enactment of this policy students may receive reimbursement for such courses. If approved, the policy will be included in the high school handbook as well. Jeanin Onos moved that the board replace existing Policy IHCD with the proposed Policy IHCD. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jen Coapland spoke in support of the World Language program at the elementary and middle schools. As one who grew up in a bilingual household and community, she related first-hand the benefits of learning a second language. She noted that the PTA has invested considerable resources, time, and effort on the extracurricular pilot program. As a parent she spoke of the scheduling difficulties involved in arranging for her two children to participate, however the effort yielded “an incredible value to teaching kids at this age. They are sponges. It might be a skill they can go on and use in the community at large.” She urged the board to consider funding world language programs in its future budget discussions.

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

At 8:18 p.m., Gretchen Gandini made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**RE-ENTER PUBLIC
SESSION**

At 9:14 p.m., the board re-entered public session. On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Karen Thurston, the board voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes of the April 2, 2018 8:55 p.m. section. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Rae Mello-Andrews, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Nin Onos, yes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m., on a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Nin Onos, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**