

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday September 5, 2017 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, Scott Isabelle, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo and Ken Tucker. Student representatives was Greg Madore.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed posting of the meeting. She then announced a change in the agenda, moving approval of minutes to precede the reports in order to accommodate other attendees.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT

Rae Mello-Andrews introduced Gilford PTA President Sharon Sasserson and Hannaford Manager Brian Burns. Mr. Burns outlined how Hannaford had been approached to become a sponsor for repairs to the track. He described learning of the “many ways the Gilford PTA has supported Gilford school fundraising,” describing the PTA as “embodying the adage ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’” On behalf of Hannaford he presented Ms. Sasserson a check for \$20,000 to “help jump-start funding for much needed repairs to the track.” Ms. Sasserson thanked Mr. Burns. Attendees applauded.

**PUBLIC HEARING:
ACCEPTANCE OF PTA
CASH DONATION**

Rae Mello-Andrews opened a public hearing pursuant to Policy KCD to discuss acceptance of a donation of \$5,000 from the Gilford PTA.

Virginia “Gigi” Johnson remarked that the funds were earmarked to purchase new draperies in the Elementary School Gym, replacing those that are now “being held up with chip clips. We are excited to have new drapes that open and close for the next 20 years.”

Sue Allen moved that the board accept the \$5,000 donation from the PTA to purchase new draperies for the elementary school gym. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAMPIONS FOR
CHILDREN AWARD**

Kirk Beitler reviewed that the Champions for Children award was established by the New Hampshire School Boards Association as “a meaningful way to recognize New Hampshire citizens who have given distinguished and voluntary public service to benefit children. Winners must embody, through action, the guiding principles to champion efforts designed to successfully provide for the needs of all children. Their recognition reflects unique and special service above and beyond their normal duties.” The Gilford leadership team this year recognizes Joe Wernig. Mr. Beitler related that “Joe just does what needs to be done for kids in this district.” He presented Mr. Wernig a plaque bearing his name which will hang in the SAU office. Attendees applauded and Mr. Wernig thanked the district for the recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 24, 2017

After discussion of corrections, Sue Allen moved that the minutes for the meeting of May 24, 2017 be approved as amended. Karen Thurston seconded the motion which passed unanimously, with Michelle Heyman abstaining.

July 10, 2017

Michelle Heyman requested that “it be read into the minutes that Gilmanton was not invited to this meeting. It was noted as being a regular meeting but we were

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES told it was going to be a goal-setting meeting. Now to our taxpayers it looks like we dropped the ball, especially where there were other items we would like to have voted on, such as policy revision and fund transfers.” Sue Allen noted “It was even billed to the board that we were coming to a goal-setting meeting; when we got here we didn’t do goal-setting.” Gretchen Gandini concurred. After discussion of corrections Karen Thurston moved that the board approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting as amended. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion which passed unanimously with Michelle Heyman and Frank Weeks abstaining.

August 9, 2017

Sue Allen moved that the board approve the minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting as presented. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Michelle Heyman and Frank Weeks abstaining.

August 21, 2017

Michelle Heyman commented that “Gilmanton wasn’t invited again. We were told this was a work session and that the first regular meeting would be in September. It should be read into the minutes as well that we were not invited.” Sue Allen remarked “I would say you’re always invited;” further, “It’s a public meeting so anybody is welcome.” Ms. Heyman responded that Gilmanton “sought out and contacted the Superintendent’s office and asked for the schedule. We were told that it was a work session and that Gilmanton typically did not attend. We should have received our board packets beforehand regardless, to know if there would be items that would need action.”

After discussion of corrections, Gretchen Gandini moved that the board approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting as amended. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Michelle Heyman and Frank weeks abstaining.

REPORTS

Student Council Report

Greg Madore pointed out that as the school year had just started “there’s not too much for me to report.” InterAct and the Honors Society are holding a collection of needed items for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Auditions will open for the fall play, *Oliver*. The tech crew will begin set designing and building this week. Homecoming is the week of September 16 with the dance on Friday night and game on Saturday. Competition for gym decoration marks another opportunity for freshmen to work together as a grade and get to know each other. Anthony Sperazzo added that the items collected for hurricane victims has already filled two trucks and the district is now in charge of filling a third truck. Rae Mello-Andrews noted that “there will be more coming from the Rotary Club.”

Superintendent Report

Kirk Beitler reviewed his written report. Board members gave input as to the draft goals statement. To the bussing issue he added that new drivers are now in training and First Student anticipates they will begin testing soon. “We are hopeful that we’ll have new drivers in the next couple of weeks but right now we’re feeling the pinch.” Discussion ensued about the possibility of a partial refund due to non-fulfillment of the contract. Mr. Isabelle noted that First Student has been very flexible in the past and that it would be appropriate for the district to offer some flexibility as well. At present the restrictions are temporary but should they become more permanent then the district may seek a refund due to non-fulfillment of the contract.

Mr. Beitler added to his report that the elementary school building project is

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nearing its end. Punchlist completion is ongoing without interrupting instruction or learning. He will return to the board in December for a decision on battery back-up emergency lighting and a reconfigured entrance at the elementary school. The Department of Safety advises that volunteer fingerprinting is already done at a \$10 discount.

Mr. Beitler distributed a draft for an advertisement soliciting members to participate in the next phase of the Meadows Committee.

Brief discussion was held in reference to changing the location of school board meetings. Those voicing an opinion prefer to keep it at the elementary school library, as it offers more controlled entrance, can accommodate larger groups of the public, is acoustically superior to the multi-purpose room, and lacks the parking and handicap accessibility difficulties of the SAU board room.

Gilford Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc reviewed her written report. She thanked the custodial staff, the technical crew and administrators for their assistance in making the school ready to open. She further thanked the PTA for their “meet up” event.

Gilford Middle School

Peter Sawyer reviewed his written report. He remarked that the second jump-start program enjoyed a 90-percent attendance rate which lessened the anxiety of Grade 5 students (and their parents) about to begin middle school. Open House will move from September 13 so as not to interfere with sporting events.

Gilford High School

Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his written report. He sought the board’s approval concerning two clubs, one new and one already in existence.

- Technical Student Association, a Career and Technical Student Organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For the first four years the club will be self-funded. At year five the club may seek 25 percent funding from the board and 25 percent additional for three years thereafter, such that by year eight the board will fully fund the club. Tech Ed teacher Dan Caron outlined the club’s undertakings, chiefly the state conference in March. The club will meet weekly and work on various activities held at the conference, from leadership and public speaking to manufacturing, construction, power distribution, medical technology, or early childhood education to name a few.

Following discussion Sue Allen moved that the board approve the request to begin a Technical Students Association Club with Dan Caron as its leader, following the new club guidelines policy. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously,

- National Art Honor Society, to be comprised of current Art Club members and leaders. Membership offers participants scholarship opportunities and is a welcome addition on transcripts and college applications.

Sue Allen moved that the board approve the request to establish a chapter of the National Arts Honors Society in conformance with student club policy. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Following further discussion that established that the present faculty adviser receives a stipend pursuant to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, Ms. Allen modified her motion to approve a name change of the existing art club to the National Art Honors Society. Her motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Report

Steve Tucker narrated his comprehensive power point presentation on Gilford School District Student Performance Data which focused on assessment results from the last four years. Principals Bolduc, Sawyer, and Sperazzo added their comments throughout.

Students are assessed a number of times per year, a number of times in their school career, by a number of assessment instruments in a number of different disciplines. Those instruments currently include Aimsweb, Smarter Balanced, NWEA, SAT, and Advanced Placement, which are all designed by outside agencies and used as multiple measurements of how students are progressing at Gilford School District. Internal analysis tends to revolve around the following questions: what does the data say; what are the possible explanations that arise from that data; and what will the district do? Other pivotal questions are: is it being taught, and is it being taught well?

Assessment results inform instruction and identify students who need intervention. They also can be used to identify how well students perform compared to students in other districts and statewide. Overall, Gilford students are showing improvement and growth compared to themselves and statewide. Staff analyze this data to determine how to continue or improve test results and instruction.

Mr. Tucker closed his presentation by underlining the critical importance of using multiple measures to assess the academic program. However “It is more important to look at it at a student- and class-level. Our emphasis is on growth.”

Chris McDonough joined the meeting in the latter half of Mr. Tucker’s report.

Business Administrator Report

Scott Isabelle reviewed his written report.

Based on the experience of last year the administration is recommending a presentation of the budget to the public before making its presentation to the budget committee, which will allow the opportunity to make any changes to the budget based on public input. Sue Allen suggested that work sessions begin at 5:30 rather than 5:00 pm to accommodate those members in the workforce.

Mr. Isabelle requested approval for two grants: a Title I Consolidated Grant at \$166,665.35 and a Title VI Rural and Low-Income Grant at \$24,621.25. Mr. Isabelle elaborated that the Title VI grant supports rural and low-income schools and will be used to purchase approximately 120 Chromebook laptop computers. This purchase will allow the high school to provide a Chromebook to each and every student.

Chris McDonough moved that the board accept both grants as presented. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Rae Mello-Andrews identified the 2017-2018 School Board Meeting Schedule. The board’s next scheduled meeting will be a joint Gilford-Gilmanton meeting at 6:00 PM in the Gilford High School Library.

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

Kirk Beitler brought forward the following policies for first reading:
BHAA—School Board Member Authority, which is a recommended policy that

the policy committee reviewed back in June.

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

BEDH—Public Participation at Board Meetings

Sue Allen noted that the new policy seems to be contrary to the board's current practice of not engaging in question-and-answer during public comment. Chris McDonough observed that the proposed policy gives the chair the option of permitting a board member to answer a brief question "just to put this to bed" rather than have a member of the public leave disgruntled.

Rae Mello-Andrews added that the proposed policy gives the chair the authority to say "if you know it's a hot topic, that there will be no questions on this topic."

Mr. Beitler announced that Policies BHAA and BEDH will go to GEA for their review and input.

ILD—Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research

In July of this year Senate Bill 43 was passed which changed the requirements of this policy. The New Hampshire School Boards Association has drafted a sample policy. Mr. Beitler suggested that the policy committee review SB 43 and the draft policy with a view to revising Policy ILD accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

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

At 8:32 p.m., Karen Thurston made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Chris McDonough seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**