

**GILFORD-GILMANTON JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 2, 2017
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
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The Gilford and Gilmanton School Boards held a joint meeting on Monday October 2, 2017, at the Gilford High School Library. Present were Gilford board members Sue Allen, Gretchen Gandini, Chris McDonough and Rae Mello-Andrews and Gilmanton board members Michele Heyman, Malcolm MacLeod, Adam Mini, and Frank Weeks. Gilford Administrators present were Rick Acquilano, Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Tim Goggin, Peter Sawyer, and Steven Tucker. Gilmanton Administrators present were John Fauci, Nancy Fournier, and Carol Locke. Student representative was Greg Madore.

OPENING

Gilford 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.

Sue Allen made the motion that the boards approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 joint meeting. Chris McDonough seconded the motion and after discussion of corrections it was voted in the affirmative.

Chris McDonough made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion and after discussion of corrections it was voted in the affirmative with Malcolm MacDonald, Chris McDonough, and Adam Mini abstaining.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR
ACCEPTANCE OF
MONEY**

Rae Mello-Andrews announced the opening of a public hearing pursuant to Policy KCD in reference to receipt of a \$5,000 cash donation from Scott Everett of Supreme Lending, to be used for the Unified Fund. No public input was offered and the hearing was closed. Chris McDonough moved that the board accept the \$5,000 donation. Sue Allen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rae Mello-Andrews next announced the opening of a public hearing pursuant to Policy KCD in reference to receipt of a \$11,258.22 donation from the craft fair to the senior class Craft Fair account. No public input was offered and the hearing was closed. Sue Allen moved that the board accept the \$11,258.22 from the craft fair. Adam Mini seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Gretchen Gandini noted a cost to advertise the public hearings and requested review of the relevant policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

**STUDENT COUNCIL
REPORT**

Greg Madore noted that the Guidance Department sponsored a club fair for freshmen to give them an opportunity to see what activities might interest them. "Older students manned the table to answer questions and help encourage younger students to participate and get involved."

A college fair was held last Friday with New Hampshire colleges and universities in attendance. All junior and senior class members had "the opportunity to visit the fair, ask questions, collect information and consider their future."

The high school will again hold its pumpkin building competition, "focusing on 21st century skills such as collaboration, creativity, and community as we all strengthen our advisory community."

The council will partner with the National Honor Society to sponsor Red Ribbon week beginning October 23, the theme of which is "your future is key so stay drug-free." Greg described some of the week's planned activities including a drug and alcohol trivia contest and a paper chain to be made of written pledges to remain drug and alcohol-free.

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**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

Kirk Beitler reviewed his written report. He added that subsequent to receipt of a recent cash donation toward resurfacing the track, interest has grown in the possibility of grants and other fund-raising activities toward that effort. Two bids have been sought to assist in the grant-writing portion. Frank Weeks commented "It's imperative that we look at it. Belmont can't have track meets because of their track. They're going to spend between \$300,000 and \$500,000." Kirk clarified that the last operative figure for Gilford's track was "closer to \$120,000."

HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Assistant Principal Tim Goggin reviewed the High School written report. He sought the board's approval for two matters:

- Receipt of a \$2,000 cash donation from Kevin Shaw of Winnepesaukee Property Management for use by the Unified Club. Sue Allen moved that the board accept the \$2,000 donation. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- A trip to France by members of the French Club in April and May, 2019
Louise Jagusch gave a brief presentation on the proposed trip to France. She reminded that the previously planned trip to France had to be diverted to Quebec due to violence in France. The proposed trip will focus less on Paris and more on various regions of France, including the Loire Valley, Brittany, and Normandy. The trip is a two-year effort, with the first year consisting of research into the planned locations, fundraising, and orientation. She highlighted the emphasis on safety and security for attendees.
Gretchen Gandini moved that the board approve the trip to France. Frank Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adam Mini requested more information on the discipline statistics which Mr. Goggin agreed to provide.

Athletic Director Report

Rick Acquilano reviewed his written report. He spoke of his first year in the position and shared some positive observations.

- "I have been taken aback by this community and the kids on the field, the parents, and the coaching staff. It's been a very good experience for me, becoming part of this community."
- Approximately 65 percent of Gilford students participate in sports "which tells me that students re choosing to do this, they're getting something out of it."
- The longevity of the coaching staff speaks well for Gilford. "They keep coming back, we know they don't do this for pay; they're getting something out of this too so it's a win-win."
- He is a firm believer in "education-based athletics: we do this not for any banners but as a vehicle to teach life lessons. Our students win out on that."
- He and his staff work diligently to support any athlete who is struggling academically. He has arranged with a teacher who runs a writing lab two days per week. "I reserve the right to pull any student that is struggling and introduce them to that writing lab after school. It's a coordinated effort to keep them in play." There is so much value in participation "so I don't want to un-participate them."
- Gilford has partnered with Belmont to allow use of Gilford's track and co-host several track meets this spring. Further the Belmont teams have been invited to combined practices once per week "to facilitate doing what we can for their athletes and their program."
- The bus shortage affects sporting events significantly, and does so statewide. Districts have been creative and working collaboratively to address issues as they arise.

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HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS John Fauci inquired about the increase in unified soccer participants. Mr. Acquilano pointed out that Gilford middle school is one of few in the state with an active unified program “and we’re seeing some of those students coming into the high school and growing our numbers. One of the best things we do is our unified program.”

Chris McDonough noted that he had been approached by a number of parents inquiring about the selection of coaches. He asked Mr. Acquilano to describe the process. Mr. Acquilano related that it has grown more difficult to find candidates statewide. His approach includes placing of an ad, contacting NHTI and other proactive methods to spread the word of an available coaching position. He will include two students and an assistant coach to help identify the criteria “so it’s not Rick’s decision. I want an educator to come to the district; I’m seeking someone that sees the big picture.” Not all who apply may be selected for further interview.

**CURRICULUM,
INSTRUCTION AND
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Steve Tucker reviewed his written report. He emphasized that over the past two years almost 100 teachers have been involved in the work of different committees. He commended them for volunteering their time. “The fact that we have so many [volunteer] teachers from both says a lot about the teachers in both districts.”

**BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT**

Scott Isabelle outlined the district’s Investment Policy, and the requirement that the district review the policy and formally vote to reaffirm that policy.

Chris McDonough moved that the board approve Policy DFA. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adam Mini requested that Mr. Isabelle include a “baseline” in his monthly financial reports. Mr. Mini also inquired whether the board had considered advancing the track resurfacing project, currently slated for 2019-2010.

Kirk Beitler responded that from a capital improvement standpoint the middle school’s roof warranty expires in 2018 so that project will occur this year. It is unlikely that the track project will be advanced. If public interest is sufficient to pay for the project by fund-raising or grants, the board may well consider that option. Mr. Isabelle added that the track is current with its scheduled maintenance.

Malcolm MacDonald inquired about capital reserves: are they achieved with a “one-time warrant article or is there a capital reserve amount set aside for that?” Mr. Isabelle replied that this past year saw the establishment of a capital reserve fund. One such fund is established for the roof, another for general maintenance, and a third for technology. “The idea is to offset those as we go forward if there is a balance at the end of the year.” Mr. Mini observed that Gilmanton “tends to like to have flat-line budget expectations. If a tractor lasts 20 years, we put 1/20 of that amount aside each year.” Mr. Isabelle noted that Gilford’s municipal budget committee has undergone a philosophical change that supports a return to capital reserve funds.

CHAIR REPORT

Rae Mello-Andrews reviewed a thank-you note from former board member Kurt Webber for a floral arrangement the board sent following his father’s passing

**PUBLIC COMMENT
ADJOURNMENT**

No public comment was offered

At 6:52 p.m. Chris McDonough motioned to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Sue Allen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Chris McDonough
School Board Secretary**