

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 2, 2017
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOCCI LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday October 2, 2017 directly following the joint Gilford-Gilmanton meeting at the Gilford High School Library. Present were board members Sue Allen, Gretchen Gandini, Chris McDonough, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Karen Thurston.

Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Tim Goggin, Scott Isabelle, and Peter Sawyer. Gilmanton representatives were Michelle Heyman, Malcolm MacDonald Adam Mini, and Frank Weeks.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m., and confirmed posting of the meeting.

At 6:56 p.m., Chris McDonough 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

At 7:19 p.m. the regular meeting resumed. Gilmanton representatives remaining were Adam Mini and Frank Weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

Kirk Beitler added the following to his written report.

- A potential conflict has arisen concerning the board meeting and public presentation of the budget scheduled for November 6. Last year the meeting and presentation was held in the elementary school gym which was less than ideal so this year it was hoped to hold it in the high school auditorium. There will be a performing arts rehearsal in the auditorium until 7:00. Mr. Beitler proposed that the board meet in the high school library at 5:30 for the November meeting then move to the high school auditorium at 7:00 for the budget presentation. After discussion, consensus was reached to follow that suggestion.
- Mr. Beitler sought confirmation that it remains the board's wish to present budget figures at one percent and two percent projected increases. Chris McDonough voiced his preference that the presentation begin with a flat, zero-percent projected increase followed by a one percent and two percent projected increase. Following discussion, consensus was reached to follow Mr. McDonough's proposal.
- At the September meeting the board requested further data on the bus schedule issue. Mr. Beitler gave that overview. He related that he and Scott Isabelle had spoken with principals of First Student transportation who indicated that they are expanding their search for drivers to include out-of-state individuals who will be given temporary living quarters in the area and begin to supplement the current driver staff. New drivers are still being trained, however that process is lengthy. Board members expressed their concern about the impact of long and late bus rides on young schoolchildren. Mr. Isabelle reminded that First Student provides a number of out-of-contract, uncharged bus routes that significantly offset the doubling of routes in the afternoon. For example, the contract calls for two busses for athletic events yet often, many more are used. The situation is being closely monitored. "If it tips the other way, then absolutely they owe us money."
- Volunteer fingerprinting continues. Approximately 190 individuals have participated, and to date approximately 100 have been validated. There will be another event at the town library next week to accommodate more

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**SUPERINTENDENT
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participants.

- Adjustments to air handlers at the elementary school continues, primarily off-site. Proper balancing will require a complete cold cycle; teachers and principals will have direct contact information should the need arise to address local conditions.
- Planning for renovation of the secured entry at the elementary school will require a meeting with board members to finalize the interior and exterior design. Consensus was reached for two board members to meet on Tuesday October 17, 2017 at 8:00 at the SAU office. A cost to perform the work should be brought to the board for its November meeting.
- Mr. Beitler presented cost estimates for repair of the air conditioner at the SAU office, which has been out of service. Estimates include repair and replacement options. Because the system was installed in the mid-1980s, parts are becoming difficult to obtain. The repair option at \$2700 does not bear the permanency offered by replacement. Adam Mini suggested delaying the decision until closer to the warm season. Chris McDonough remarked that if it were his building he would likely replace the system. Gretchen suggested the board could “wait to hear more from Kim about the state of affairs in the office.”

REPORTS

Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc submitted her report as written.

Chris McDonough requested that enrollment information include “same time last year” figures.

Middle School

Peter Sawyer submitted his report as written. The PTA has changed their monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of the month.

Chris McDonough related concerns brought to him by parents of Grade 7 students that math classes are no longer tiered. He inquired whether that was the case; whether non-tiered classes are unique to that grade level; and if non-tiered classes is a trial.

Peter Sawyer responded that last year all grades at the middle school had three tiers. This year Grade 5 has two; Grades 6 and 8 have three; and Grade 7 has no tiers. Grade 7 math teacher Liz Kovar has students working in groups, sometimes students at different levels working with each other, sometimes with students working with students at an equal level.

Mr. Sawyer related that there is substantial data supporting the notion that students should be grouped heterogeneously vs homogeneously. Even within a tier there is a range of abilities. He gave an example of the Air Force attempt to create a cockpit based on the average size of pilots. Unfortunately no pilots are of average size, so no pilots could fit into the cockpit.

Mr. McDonough questioned what makes the non-tiered model better than traditional models. Parents who approached him related that their students felt they wasted too much time waiting for others to catch up.

Mr. Sawyer responded that the situation related by the students occurs in tiered classes as well. Further he encouraged the parents to contact Ms. Kovar directly with their concerns. If they remain unsatisfied they can contact him directly.

REPORTS

Board Chair Report

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Rae Mello-Andrews presented the board meeting calendar for 2017-2018. She related a potential conflict for the budget work session presently set for October 25. After discussion, consensus was reached to move the meeting to October 30. Work sessions will occur on October 23, 24 and 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the SAU office.

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

First Reading:

Kirk Beitler brought forward Policy BCB-Board Member Conflict of Interest. It includes new language from NHSBA and will be sent to GEA then return to the board for its second reading in November.

Second Reading:

BBAA—School Board Member Authority

Mr. Beitler related that this policy was sent to GEA on September 7.

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

BEDH—Public Participation at Board meetings

Mr. Beitler related that this policy likewise was sent to GEA on September 7.

Following discussion Mr. McDonough moved that the board approve the policy as amended. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Scott Isabelle presented a list of budget transfers. He reviewed that at the September meeting other transfers were approved to “change the voted budget to reflect what the proposed school board budget was. Now we’re starting with the budget proposed to the voters.” He added that it reflects staffing changes including turnover and hiring in-house speech specialists.

After discussion, Sue Allen moved that the board accept the budget transfers as presented. Chris McDonough seconded the motion which passed in the affirmative. Adam Mini abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

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

At 8:13 p.m., Chris McDonough made the motion to re-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.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**