

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2017
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday November 6, 2017 at the Gilford High School Library. Present were board members Sue Allen, Gretchen Gandini, Chris McDonough, and Karen Thurston. Representing Gilmanton was Robert Carpenter and Frank Weeks (arrived 5:50 PM). Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Scott Isabelle, Peter Sawyer, and Anthony Sperazzo. Student representatives was Greg Madore.

OPENING

School Board Vice Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed posting of the meeting.

Gretchen Gandini made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the October 2, 2017 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion and after discussion of corrections it was voted in the affirmative. Robert Carpenter and Karen Thurston abstained.

Gretchen Gandini next made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative. Robert Carpenter abstained.

Gretchen Gandini next made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative. Robert Carpenter abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

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Student Report

Greg Madore reviewed that the Red Ribbon week sponsored by the National Honors Society began October 23, highlighting students' commitments to a drug- and alcohol-free life. Activities included trivia contests and a lunchtime activity wherein students either pledged to be drug and alcohol-free or wrote the name of a person close to them whose life had been affected by drugs or alcohol. The papers were made into a chain which surrounded the cafeteria.

Entries from the school-wide pumpkin carving contest were judged on Halloween, with the winner being a fairy house.

133 freshmen went to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to study how eastern cultures influenced the development of western Europe. "It gave a unique opportunity to bring the classroom to life."

The fall play *Oliver* will begin performances on Friday and Saturday nights beginning this weekend. "It's fun and lively and full of talented students."

Superintendent Report

Kirk Beitler introduced College and Career Readiness Coordinator Debra Laliberte who narrated a slide presentation about the freshmen class's recent community service day. A few weeks before, the freshmen attended an assembly that introduced them to the school's beliefs regarding community service, the school's mission statement, and the school's goals. They were shown a "very powerful and moving" video and Eagle ambassadors spoke to the freshmen about the importance of doing community service.

Different projects were designed for students with different styles of learning. For example students who have strong interpersonal strengths participated in activities where they could work with a large group; other, more introspective students were given activities that involved smaller groups of people and required some reflection.

At the end of the day all students returned to the gym for teambuilding games and

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bonding opportunities.

Anthony Sperazzo noted that in the springtime the sophomores will have a similar opportunity. He thanked Ms. Laliberte for her efforts.

Karen Thurston remarked that the selection of activities was well thought-out, offering opportunities for every student.

Mr. Beitler then reviewed his written report. He added that the School Boards Association is offering a workshop on November 8 on the topic of preparation for annual meetings.

Chris McDonough inquired whether any volunteers had been denied as a result of the fingerprinting initiative. Mr. Beitler related that he has brought to the board's attention a couple of volunteers and another was discovered to have a felony so that individual will not be asked to return.

Robert Carpenter inquired about the first meeting with the budget committee. Mr. Beitler replied that on November 30 at 6:30 p.m. he will make the board's first presentation to the budget committee. That committee has asked for the default budget first.

Gilford Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc reviewed her written report.

Chris McDonough inquired about the NECAP science results, whether "proficient" consists of Levels 3 and up. Ms. Bolduc replied affirmatively.

Gilford Middle School

Peter Sawyer reviewed his written report, adding that for Veterans' Day, Grade 8 students will be writing letters to service personnel overseas. The school is also collecting items for care packages to be sent to soldiers overseas.

Chris McDonough inquired whether the school's emphasis on STEM programs leave behind traditional science teaching. Steve Tucker gave examples of encouraging indicators in the latest assessment results. The school is among the first in the state to adopt the Next Generation science model, however the emphasis has been on SBAC, and this will be the last year SBAC is used. "It's hard to do all of them. We're working with the science department; we need to do better but there are some good signs." Mr. Beitler added that the state is moving to Next Generation science standards. There will be a new test for science this coming year, which will test grades 5, 8, and 11. "Inquiry-based testing is always the most problematic across the state."

Mr. Sawyer next introduced a proposal for a trip for the Grade 7 class next spring to Heifer Farms International in Rutland, Massachusetts. Heifer International raises money to help those in other countries feed themselves.

Grade 7 teachers Jessica Scudder and Josh Marzahl narrated a slide presentation and elaborated that Heifer International works to provide sustainable solutions for third-world people by providing livestock and education to support that livestock. They also do outreach for school groups with a primary focus on global economy and consumerism. The proposal is to take Grade 7 students for a three-day, two-night experience at Heifer Farms in Rutland, Massachusetts and participate in their Global Village program. Ms. Scudder and Mr. Marzahl outlined the various groups, activities, learning opportunities, sleeping, and chaperon arrangements. There will be an information night for parents.

Frank Weeks inquired as to cost. Mr. Sawyer replied that at present the cost is \$150 per person but fund-raising and scholarship opportunities may reduce that to zero. Ms. Scudder added "our goal is to have it be no cost to the students." To Ms. Gandini's question about extending the opportunity to all Grade 7 students,

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Mr. Sawyer replied that there are community funds available, not raised by taxes, that go toward student activity funds that can be used for this purpose.

Chris McDonough commented that the trip would be “a great wake-up call for our 7th graders.”

Sue Allen moved that the board approve the trip request. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Gilford High School

Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his written report.

Business Administrator

Scott Isabelle gave a brief overview of the revenue sheet handout. He cautioned that the final impact on the tax rate won't be known until the rates are set in the spring; the figure used was from tax year 2016-2017.

The unassigned fund balance is anticipated to reduce the tax rate by \$1.1 million. A portion of this balance can, by statute, be retained by the district. It arises chiefly from anticipated federal funds (Title I and AREA), and a savings from a reduction in the maximum health insurance rate increase. The administration recommends retaining this amount which will help prevent against large spikes in tax rates from year to year. Even with the reductions in this budget, the tax rate is anticipated to increase.

Chris McDonough inquired whether using the retained balance will “set us on a course of using that every year to keep the tax rate flat.” Mr. Isabelle replied that it would not. However there were significant decreases in this year's expenses which would likely not occur again. “We don't know what will happen with our education grants or building aid. If there's a big drop, it could offset that also.”

Mr. Beitler inquired whether the district can keep all of the unassigned fund balance. Mr. Isabelle replied that statutorily the town can but the district cannot.

In the absence of Chair Rae Mello-Andrews Mr. Beitler reminded that a meeting on the default budget needs to occur and sought suggestions for date and time. Following discussion consensus was reached to meet at the high school library on Tuesday November 14 immediately following the National Honor Society induction ceremony. If needed an additional meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday November 20 at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Beitler reviewed a thank-you letter from Herb Greene of the Gilford Park & Recreation Department for the repainting of the dugouts at the village field by the freshmen volunteers. He reviewed another thank-you letter from Principal Danielle Bolduc for the clean-up of the nature trail by the freshmen volunteers.

**POLICY REVIEW AND
REVISION**

First Reading: Policy JH—Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy

Kirk Beitler noted that the policy had come to the policy committee in October. He reviewed some of the changes the committee proposes. The policy will return to the board in December for second reading.

Second Reading: Policy BCB—Board Member Conflict of Interest

Mr. Beitler reviewed that the policy had been sent to GEA for its input. GEA inquired as to any provision regarding board members who have children in the district. Following brief discussion Karen Thurston moved that the policy be returned to the policy committee for “further information and clarity.” Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

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

At 6:37 p.m., Karen Thurston made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Sue Allen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**RE-ENTER PUBLIC
SESSION**

At 7:57 the board re-entered public session.

Present: Rae Mello-Andrews, Chris McDonough, Gretchen Gandini, Sue Allen, Karen Thurston, Scott Isabelle and Kirk Beitler.

Budget conversation ensued.

Sue Allen put on record that she believed the gym ceiling and gym floor projects should be a separate warrant article. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued regarding possible busing increase of up to 20% included in the budget.

The addition and deletions from the Superintendent's recommended budget were discussed.

Chris McDonough moved to approve a budget of \$26,237,939 with the understanding that Scott Isabelle would send all board members a sheet of budget changes, account numbers, amount of change and budget line for each change. Scott Isabelle will also send a copy of the new General Fund Budget. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:53 p.m. on a motion from Sue Allen and a second by Karen Thurston, the board adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**