

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 1**

**The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday April 1, 2019 at the Gilford High School Library. Present were board members Jeanin Onos, Karen Thurston, Gretchen Gandini, and Chris McDonough. Representing Gilmanton were Frank Weeks and Malcolm MacLeod. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Scott Isabelle, Anthony Sperazzo, Peter Sawyer, Danielle Bolduc, and Steve Tucker. Also present were Student Representatives Alex Cheek, Elena Uicker, and Hannah Waite.**

**OPENING**

School Board Vice-Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Gretchen Gandini made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion. Corrections were made. The motion was then accepted in the affirmative. Frank Weeks and Malcolm MacLeod abstained. Gretchen Gandini made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion. The motion was then accepted in the affirmative. Frank Weeks and Malcolm MacLeod abstained.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following elections were held:

- Gretchen Gandini nominated Chris McDonough for Chairperson; Karen Thurston seconded the nomination. Voting was unanimous, with Frank Weeks and Chris McDonough abstaining.
- Karen Thurston nominated Gretchen Gandini for Vice-Chairperson; Chris McDonough seconded the nomination. Voting was unanimous, with Frank Weeks and Gretchen Gandini abstaining.
- Karen Thurston nominated Jeanin Onos for Secretary; Chris McDonough seconded; Voting was unanimous, with Frank Weeks and Jeanin Onos abstaining.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

- Policy Committee Nominees: Rae Mello-Andrews and Jeanin Onos.
- Gilford Budget Committee representative: Chris McDonough nominated Gretchen Gandini; Karen Thurston seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- Meadows Committee representative: Karen Thurston will remain in the position.
- Wellness Committee: Karen Thurston will remain in the position.
- Warrant Approval Committee: Gretchen Gandini, Karen Thurston, and Chris McDonough.
- CIP Representative: Chris McDonough
- Negotiations Committee: Karen Thurston and Jeanin Onos
- Gilmanton HS Options Committee: Chris McDonough and Gretchen Gandini

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 2**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Katie Bryant spoke to the concern for no posting of the Curriculum and Assessment position. She commented on the importance of the position and work done by that individual. She stated that she wants to be sure the position is filled to keep with mission of the school intact.

Dick Dumais also spoke about the lack of a posting for the position. Citing the position was key to the Gilford-Gilmanton alignment of courses between the two towns' schools/programs, the fostering of growth of curriculum and instruction, and the position being key to understanding test scores, application of results, discussion, etc., he requested the position be retained.

**REPORTS**

**Student Council Update**

Students Alex Cheek, Elena Uicker, and Hannah Waite presented the following information.

The Pie-a-Teacher fund raising event will be Friday, April 19th. This year's charity recipient is The Doorway at Lakes Region General Hospital. LRGHealthcare has been selected as one of nine recipients of a grant through the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as part of an initiative to curb opioid abuse. The Doorway will help individuals in need immediately.

Our robotics team competed in their final competition this past weekend at UNH. Final results are not available at this time. Working with an upgraded, enhanced robot, they are hoping to finish well.

The state drama festival is taking place April 5th and 6th at Kingswood Regional High School. Gilford is presenting the Seussification of a Midsummer's Night Dream. Chelsea Sasserson and Anna Cook won excellence awards in acting, while Meredith Ellis won an excellence award in costume design. The awards were by the NH Educational Theater Guild following the production there.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Beitler reviewed his written report.

**Student Learning:** Superintendent Beitler reported that the first Blizzard Bag Day was a success with 83% of students participating. The second Blizzard Bag Day was more successful and more manageable as learners had more of a sense of the expectations. It was agreed that the practice will continue next year. Suggestions were made to reinforce communications to parents next year to ensure continued success, especially for those students who need additional assistance. Mr. Beitler asked for the Board's stance on the number of days for possible use of Blizzard Bags next year. The consensus was three days.

**Families and Communities:** Superintendent Beitler was approached by the Superintendent of Schools in Belmont about graduation. Shaker Regional has requested that we alternate every other year for the start time of graduation. Gilford High School traditionally holds their graduation at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Shaker Regional graduation. Discussion followed, with Gretchen Gandini suggesting we keep the GHS graduation at 10:00 a.m. this year, but start alternating for the year 2020.

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 3**

**Position of Curriculum Director:** Following discussion, it was agreed that any decision should be made when the complete Board is present. This will require a special Board meeting, which Mr. Beitler will organize.

**Safety and Facilities:** A sub-group of the Meadows Committee has met with a parent who has volunteered to put drawings together for possible bathrooms and locker rooms at the Meadows property. The same parent volunteered to design and draw what an athletic facility may look like. Mr. Beitler is hopeful to have more information to share regarding both at the next meeting.

Andy Howe, owner of Beans and Greens, met with Superintendent Beitler requesting permission to hook up to the sewer line that ends on the Meadows' property. It was agreed that we would want an agreement that specified our access to the facility at all times, and for putting everything back to its existing condition. Also, no cost should be incurred by the District if this is approved. Mr. Beitler asked for permission from the Board to continue investigation of this request, to which the Board agreed.

## **Principals' Reports**

### **Gilford Elementary School**

Principal Danielle Bolduc reviewed her report as written.

Tuition for the summer camp at GES will increase from \$120 to \$130 per week. Katie Bryant said we do have some students from outside, but most are within the District. The Pancake Breakfast will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the maple sugaring season at Gilford Elementary School.

### **Gilford Middle School**

Principal Peter Sawyer reviewed his report as written.

Led by Mr. Bowler and Ms. Hanf, the Gilford Middle School Math Team won their recent 13-team Math Meet. The Annual Lakes Region Junior High Music Festival that took place on March 8, 2019 was attended by 13 GMS students.

### **Gilford High School**

Principal Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his report as written.

Mr. Sperazzo invited all to graduation on June 16 at 10 a.m. He will email all when the Bank of NH Pavilion confirms on/after April 16<sup>th</sup>. Gretchen Gandini made motion to accept the graduation date pending confirmation; Karen Thurston seconded. All approved; the motion carried. He continued with information that he is investigating a flex enrichment intervention block for next year for student support. It would last 35-45 minutes; he's surveying schools around state to see what intervention blocks looks like. He will survey students as well. This would take 10 minutes from each block, during which students could use the time for enrichment, for a stress-relief break time, or for a club meeting as long as the advisor is not paid. Not all students would need the time, but students have expressed concern with the current schedule that does not include any study time.

Principal Sperazzo sought approval for Monica Sawyer to accept a \$2,000.00 donation from the Gilford PTA for the Wellness Center; Gretchen Gandini made the motion to accept the grant, Karen Thurston seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 4**

The senior class asked for approval to order a display case in memory of Ava Doris. The case would be donated by the Doris family and would contain some of Ava's artwork. It would be located in art wing. Gretchen Gandini made the motion to accept, Frank Weeks seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Thurston reported on the Wellness Committee – Monica Sawyer has set up a yoga class which is increasing in enrollment. Students have commented on the increase stress of the school day without any breaks; mindfulness relaxation is making a big difference to these students and lowering their anxiety. Gretchen Gandini commented on sending out more information on anxiety to parents given data she has seen.

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report**

Steve Tucker reviewed his report as written.

Mr. Tucker reported that the new Eureka math program is a success, based on the improvement in students' current test results. The Performance-Assessment Work Group (PAWG) continues to meet to create and revise assessments that meet a validation criteria. Gilford-Gilmanton Committees continue to focus maintaining a smooth transition for 8<sup>th</sup> graders from GMS and Gilmanton. Frank Weeks asked about Gilmanton students and their transition. Mr. Tucker reported that overall it is a good, positive experience for the students.

Portrait of a Learner Assessment Committee – After considering feedback, the committee has decided that there will be six (6) 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and dispositions that we believe will support learners being college, career, and life ready. These are: Communicate, Collaborate, Creatively Innovate, Critically Think, Self-Direct, and Persevere.

**Business Administrator's Report**

Scott Isabelle reviewed his report as written.

Mr. Isabelle reported the results of the water tests for lead in drinking water in the schools. After receiving an estimate from Rowell's Services in the amount of \$10,326.96, Mr. Isabelle requested acceptance up to that amount for replacement of the affected faucets. He will request more quotes that will hopefully come in under that amount.

Johanna McKenna, the new board member from Gilmanton, spoke on the subject as she also works for DES, specifically in the Drinking Water and Ground Water Bureau. She is also part of the lead in drinking water remediation team. Ms. McKenna offered grant information that would help offset our costs; grant will fund anything over 5 ppm (covers 50% of total remediation cost.) There is 1.6 million dollars approved by the legislature for this remediation. This is a competitive grant based on first come, first serve. She left data on which faucet replacements would fall under the grant. He also reported that the affected faucets will be retested before returning to use. Chris McDonough asked if water coming into the building is the issue and if it could be tested before we change the faucets. Mr. Isabelle stated he would get more information on that and will report back to the Board.

Chris McDonough made the motion to authorize up to \$10,326.96 provided there are three (3) competitive quotes for the project. Karen Thurston seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 5**

**Policy – First Reading**

**JHIB** – Search of Student Automobiles on School Property – current GSD policy for review. The question was asked if a minor student is involved, are parents contacted, especially if vehicle is owned by the parent. Mr. Beitler will look into this.

**JHIB-R** – Student Operated Vehicle Search Report – we do not have a current GSD policy; acceptance would put this into place.

**Policy – Second Reading**

**JIH** – Student Searches and Their Property – current GSD policy for review. This was sent back to the policy committee on the 12<sup>th</sup>, who recommended it move forward. Jeanin Onos made the motion to move the policy, Gretchen Gandini seconded. All approved. Karen Thurston made a motion to rescind the vote, based on several areas of concern. Frank Weeks seconded. All approved; JIH will go back to the policy committee for clarification on the pat down process. Karen Thurston suggested Mr. Beitler ask legal input from NHSBA.

**JIH-R** – Search of Students – new policy; we do not have a current GSD policy. This was sent back to committee for review. It was reviewed on March 12, 2019, then sent to the GEA on March 14, 2019. Jeanin Onos moved to accept, Gretchen Gandini seconded. Frank Weeks asked about having two people (both female) if a female student is being searched. Mr. Sawyer clarified that no touching is involved. Students are asked to empty pockets, remove a sweatshirt and/or shoes. Locker or backpacks are searched. Clarification was request. The motion to accept was opposed – motion failed. JIH-R will go back to policy committee.

**JFAB** – Non-Resident Tuition – Current GSD policy; suggest changing the letter of the code to conform with NHSBA policy. Jeanin Onos made motion to accept, Karen Thurston seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Carol Podmore-Young spoke in favor of keeping the Curriculum Coordinator position. She also spoke regarding blizzard bags for identified learners, stating that teachers work with case managers to ensure that modified assignments are arranged for students in need.

Kristin Snow spoke about need for substitute teachers in the schools. She questioned need for substitutes to have bachelor's degree. She asked if years of experience could be considered in lieu of a degree.

Carol Podmore-Young also spoke to the low rate of pay for substitutes. She asked if the pay rate could be raised. Ms. Podmore-Young reported that local comments indicate we lose substitutes to towns who pay more.

Jessica Wallace spoke in favor of keeping the curriculum position, especially given its importance to literacy groups.

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
PAGE 6**

**Non Public Session**

Non-Public – RSA 91-A:3II (a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.*

At 7:51 p.m. Jeanin Onos made the motion to go into non-public session; Gretchen Gandini seconded. Motion passes 4-0.

At 9:24 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board voted to seal the minutes of the 7:55 p.m. session of the March 4, 2019 non-public minutes. It was a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted to seal the minutes of the 8:00 p.m. session of the March 4, 2019 non-public minutes. It was a unanimous vote.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made at 9:25 p.m. by Karen Thurston to adjourn the meeting; Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jeanin Onos  
School Board Secretary**