

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2018
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday December 3, 2018 at the Gilford Elementary School Library. Present were board members Rae Mello-Andrews, Jeanin Onos, Karen Thurston, and Gretchen Gandini. Representing Gilmanton were Frank Weeks and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Scott Isabelle, Peter Sawyer, Danielle Bolduc, and Steve Tucker. Also present was Student Council Representative Greg Madore.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Rae Mello-Andrews 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 October 22, 2018 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Corrections were made. The motion was then voted in the affirmative.

Frank Weeks made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the October 23, 2018 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Corrections were made. Motion to accept was voted unanimous, with Frank Weeks and Michelle Heyman abstaining.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. Corrections were made. Motion to accept was voted unanimous, with Frank Weeks and Michelle Heyman abstaining.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion. Corrections were made. Motion to accept was voted unanimous, with Frank Weeks, Michelle Heyman, and Rae Mello-Andrews abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

REPORTS

Student Council Update

Greg Madore reported that the craft fair was a success. For the first time a donation was made to the Children's Auction from donations received from the crafters. The senior class earned funds to offset senior expenses. All seniors participated. Mr. Madore announced that the Student Council Blood Drive will be held on January 31, 2019. Interact treated 100 seniors to a dinner before Les Miserables, which was a tremendous success. All advisories are being asked by the student council to create personal holiday cards for the Veteran's Home in Tilton.

Student Presentation

The Middle School Robotics First Team, coached by Andrea Damato and Sean Walsh, demonstrated their team's recent competition theme, which was space, at the First Robotics/LEGO League competition held at GMS. Focusing on severe isolation caused by extended voyages, they worked to find a better and faster means of transportation. The group won the Core Values Award by demonstrating their ability to work together as a team. GMS's Second Team focused on the problem of exercising in space. They created a compact exercise

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machine. Team members represented grades 6 through 8. Mrs. Damato thanked the Board for their support, both in time and financially. Mr. Sawyer congratulated Mrs. Damato on a well-run event. Gretchen Gandini also complimented her work and the students' core values.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beitler reviewed his written report as follows:

Student Learning - Mr. Beitler provided the Board with the results from the survey on starting school after Labor Day. 72.8% of parents and 54.4% of the staff would like to have the students start school after Labor Day. Gilmanton will survey their parents and Mr. Beitler will wait for Mr. Fauci's reports, which he will share with the Board when they arrive. Karen Thurston noted the possibility of childcare hardship for parents. Gretchen Gandini asked if the school camp program would be as longer if the start date is changed.

Mr. Beitler noted that staff will work on our Portrait of a Learner at the December 5, 2018 early release. Parents and community members have been invited. Rae Mello-Andrews asked if the District could offer it in the evening as well. Mr. Beitler said yes, but it has not been mapped out yet.

Families and Communities – Speaker Rob Hackenson will speak in March of 2019 on the dangers of vaping. Three different sessions will be held for students during the day and one evening session for parents, students and community. Tim Goggin has worked to put this presentation together. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee has continued its work, coming together as a committee to agree on values and beliefs, as well as continuing to work on our mission/vision statements.

Resource Management – The budget process is continuing. Subcommittee meetings are all scheduled, and the meetings are going well. The Budget Committee would like to change the wording on the warrant articles in two places; one on the world language warrant article and on the three capital improvement saving accounts.

Safety and Facilities – Mr. Beitler noted that the GES building project is complete. We are currently updating safety assessments from the Dept. of Safety. He informed the Board that Silver Lining Farm would like the horse stalls and mats from the Meadows be donated to them. Karen Thurston explained that two camp horses have been rescued. She made the request for the donation. Mrs. Thurston said that Tim Bartlett said the materials would be scrapped. The rescue group will salvage it at no cost to the District. Gretchen Gandini made the motion to donate the stall lumber; Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Rae Mello-Andrews questions the safety assessment. She asked if we can coordinate it with the police department. Mr. Beitler stated that the safety department will make recommendations, referring back to the local police department as we share our report with them. (Note: this is not a public document for safety reasons.) SRO Dan O'Neill was present during the assessment at the high school.

Principals' Reports

Gilford Elementary School

Danielle Bolduc reviewed her report.

Gretchen Gandini asked for an explanation of the GIFT program. Mrs. Bolduc explained that it is run through the guidance department; staff members will be matched up with the child in need. GES readers are completing reading benchmark assessments. The GES showcase will be on December 14, 2018. Mrs. Bolduc said that the

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School District will host a Coffee and Conversation discussion to ask parents to discuss their visions for the future of our School District.

Gilford Middle School

Peter Sawyer reviewed his report.

He reiterated the extensive work that Andrea Damato does with the students on the robotics team. Mr. Sawyer said that visiting schools commented repeatedly on how they enjoyed the event and how well organized/run it was.

The math team, led by Mr. Bowler, took second place during last week's Math Meet held in Plymouth. Mr. Sawyer also reported that Jesse Powers had successfully made it to the Middle Level Honors Festival with his mallet audition. The festival takes place in Salem, New Hampshire on March 15, 2019. This is quite an achievement.

Gilford High School

Anthony Sperazzo reviewed his report.

He stated that he has received many positive comments on the Les Miserables production. The production was a huge success. Rae Mello-Andrews asked if complimentary passes are given to all staff, and has this been done in the past. Mr. Sperazzo stated that it had.

Mr. Sperazzo noted that the staff workshop during early release covered an overview of blizzard bags. The Freshmen Community Service Day saw the freshmen class painting fences, raking leaves, working with learners at GES and many other activities that benefited the community. Gretchen Gandini commented on the incredible job done on the nature trail. The improvements make the trail much easier to utilize.

Business Administrator Report

Scott Isabelle reviewed his report as follows.

The following grants have been submitted by the Gilford School District and have been approved:

- IDEA Grant \$244,216.41
- Preschool Consolidated Grant\$ 2,936.71
- Title I Grant \$192,411.22
- Title II Grant \$ 67,656.45

REPORTS

Mr. Isabelle asked that the grants be accepted by the Board. Karen Thurston made the motion to accept all four. Jeanin Onos second. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Isabelle noted that the Title IV Grant is coming in January. It is still in process.

Chair Report

Rae Mello-Andrews complimented the members of the Budget Committee on how well the meetings have been flowing with a nice, positive change. The work is being accomplished with respect on everyone's part.

Policy – First Reading

Mr. Beitler brought forth the following policies for the first reading.

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AC – Non-Discrimination - add school board’s recommended policy; move forward with new, recommended policy.

AC-R – Non-Discrimination: Title IX Grievances (We currently do not have this; guideline for grievances is based on discrimination - gives them a pathway and what administration will need to do.)

GBA – Equal Opportunity Employment - currently do not have; recommended by New Hampshire School Board Association; policy committee is recommending it.

JIA – Right to Due Process – this is more about special education; due process for disciplinary matters; capture changes; our is covered in special education procedural handbook; policy committee of School Board is to change it out for the New Hampshire School Board Association’s recommended policy.

JIC – Student Conduct - policy from New Hampshire School Board Association is recommended; capture changes in new policy; school board policy committee recommending changes from New Hampshire School Board Association.

JICD – Student Discipline and Due Process – previously revised by us; September of 2018 new changes were made by New Hampshire School Board Association; incorporate their recommended policy.

JICDD – Student Discipline: Out of School Actions - ours is similar to that of the school board association.

- Gretchen noted that changes are made based on RSA changes, not just School Board recommendations.

JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying - some RSA changes which is why we are recommending our policy change to that of New Hampshire School Board Association’s policy.

Policy – Second Reading

Mr. Beitler brought forth the following policies for the second reading.

IHBAAA – Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities - suggesting that we do away with these two policies and institute policy IHBAA by our attorney.

IHBAAB – Evaluation and Determination of Educational Disabilities - do away with this one; redundant.

IHBAA – Establishing Criteria for Special Education Evaluations Conducted in the Gilford School District - replace IHBAAA and IHBAAB with this one; Gretchen Gandini made the motion to approve; Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

IHBAB – Child Find - change the numbering from IHBAA to IHBAB to be consistent with codes that come from New Hampshire School Board Association; Jeanin Onos moved to accept; Gretchen Gandini second. Motion approved unanimously

IHBG – Home Education Instruction – Karen Thurston made motion to accept; Gretchen Gandini seconded; motion approved unanimously.

IHBG-R – Participation in Public School Activities by Home Educated, Charter and Non-Public Pupils - we do not have this on file; Jeanin Onos made motion to accept; Gretchen Gandini seconded. Motion approved unanimously

GBEA – Staff Ethics – Mr. Beitler has talked to GEA presidents. They approve of the language as written. Jeanin Onos moved to accept; Karen Thurston seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

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GBEBE – Employment of Relatives or Persons with Romantic Personal Relationships – work on policy started in November of 2017; returned to us on 11/6/18. Mr. Beitler met with one of the presidents of GEA, followed by a request via e-mail about possible language changes; received feedback after packets were printed. We can either revisit the language or submit it for approval; Gretchen Gandini suggested we bring back the policy and bring it to the table with them so that it is done face-to-face as a group. She suggested we not approve the policy without meeting with them; Board agreed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Non-Public Session

Non-Public – RSA 91-A:3II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.

At 7:13 p.m., Karen Thurston made a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Non-public session exited at 7:33 p.m.

Public Session

Superintendent Beitler offered updated language to the warrant articles based on feedback from the Budget Committee. Discussion ensued. Karen Thurston motioned to approve updated warrant article language. Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Adjournment

Motion was made at 7:45 p.m. by Karen Thurston to adjourn the meeting; Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gretchen Gandini
School Board Secretary**