

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2020  
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**The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday February 3, 2020 at the Gilford High School Library. Present were Board members Chris McDonough, Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Karen Thurston. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Scott Isabelle, Anthony Sperazzo, Peter Sawyer, and Danielle Bolduc. Gilmanton Board members present were Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod.**

**Opening**

School Board Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 Public Hearing. Rae Mello-Andrews seconded the motion. Corrections were made. Minutes were unanimously approved. Chris McDonough abstained.

Karen Thurston made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 regular meeting. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion. Minutes were approved following corrections. Chris McDonough abstained.

Rae Mello-Andrews made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 SAU office meeting. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. Motion approved with corrections. Rae Mello-Andrews and Michelle Heyman abstained.

Gretchen Gandini made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020 Gilford High School Administrative Conference Room meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Motion approved with corrections. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained.

**Public Comment**

Public comments - none

**Public comment closed**

**Superintendent's Report**

Kirk Beitler read his report as written. Amy Lee was introduced as the new Gilford School District Business Administrator, pending Scott Isabelle's retirement.

Following Mr. Beitler's reading of the District Strategic Plan for 2019-2024, discussion ensued.

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Mr. Beitler noted that the Leadership Team does not have an assigned leader at present. Chris McDonough acknowledged the amount of work the plan required and thanked Board members for their time.

**Student Learning**

Mr. Beitler noted that the district is making progress on Portrait of a Learner. The three principals are doing this work in the schools and Anthony Sperazzo is the lead for the District committee. Work is continuing on the performance assessment development work with teachers. Twenty (20) teachers are currently involved in this work. We have started the transition for the new student information system.

**Families and Communities**

Mr. Beitler stated that we have moved forward with our AREA agreement with Gilmanton with a proposed twelve (12) year extension of the current agreement. Information is being put out to parents in weekly updates and other informational platforms. Mr. Beitler continued, saying that the development of a plan needs to be a focus area.

**Resource Management**

Mr. Beitler stated that we have put forward a proposed budget that was under level funded to the School Board this fall. We have collaborated with the School Board and Budget Committee and have agreed on a proposed budget for 2020-2021. An engineering study has been proposed for the Meadows facility in next year's budget giving us information and direction for that property. This study will lead to the development of a plan for the Meadows property.

**Safety and Facilities**

Mr. Beitler said that the Emergency Planning Committee continues to meet monthly with the leadership of Sean Walsh and Tim Goggin. Mr. Beitler commented that during those meetings the Homeland Security report was reviewed. He noted that Mr. Goggin and Mr. Walsh are planning for an off-site evacuation in the spring of 2020. The off-site evacuation destination would be the Gilford Community Center.

**Principals' Reports**

**Gilford Elementary School** – Danielle Bolduc submitted her report as written, noting that during showcase we will hear our learners describe our One School, One Book *Bob*. Mrs. Bolduc continued with the news that Suzie LaFlamme has applied for a Lowe's Hero Grant for installation of drainage around the sugar shack and staining the beams. Lowe's has approved the application and also gave us five (5) picnic tables. The PTA will be at the next meeting to accept the grant.

**Gilford Middle School** – Peter Sawyer submitted his report as written. He commented on the PTA sponsoring a family fun night, "STEAM and Ice Cream." The company, Subzero Nitrogen Ice Cream, will be doing a science presentation that will end with serving free ice cream. Mr. Sawyer congratulated all the grade level winners of the National Geographic Bee, noting that Haukur Karlsson was the overall winner. Mr. Sawyer updated the information on the middle school's transition to Competency Based Education. Mr. Sawyer stated that a more comprehensive report will be released in the future, and they are looking at various report cards from ALMA, the new student information system.

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Mr. Sawyer stated that he is seeking permission for two items.

1. A 3-day, 2-night field trip to Outdoor Classroom in either Freedom, NH or Yarmouth, MA. Yarmouth, MA is the first choice. It is the same cost for both. The cost is \$225 per student. He is asking permission to seek grant requests from the PTA and TangerKids.
2. Grants from the “TangerKids Grants for Children” and the Gilford PTA totaling \$10, 250.00 to cover the trip.
  - a. The remaining \$8,200.00 would come from the students and Class of 2025 fundraising. (The remaining cost per student is \$100.00.)

Gretchen Gandini asked if it was similar to the senior class trip. Mr. Sawyer said that it was, and there will be scholarships for those who cannot afford to fundraise.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade would attend one day in Freedom this year with the idea of attending the full program next year. 6<sup>th</sup> grade would like to do the one day event each fall as a team building event in the future.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to give conditional approval to both events; Karen Thurston seconded. Chris McDonough stated that he is a huge advocate of field studies work and that our middle school field studies is weak. He recommended that Mr. Sawyer put more money into his budget next year for field studies. The motion was unanimously approved. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained.

Mr. Sawyer concluded his report noting that the middle school play, *Little Mermaid*, was a huge hit. He said that attendance averaged about 300 people for each performance.

**Gilford High School** – Anthony Sperazzo submitted his report as written. He brought to the Board’s attention the event where eleven GHS students assisted the Gilmanton School on their ski day at Gunstock Mountain. The freshman community service day went so well that the younger skiers have asked to have their ski buddies return next week for the final session and again next year.

Mr. Sperazzo stated that GHS has scheduled over 25 professionals from the area to speak to students about their careers during the three weeks of February. The aim is to beef up the internship program.

Mr. Sperazzo said that the New England Association for Schools and Colleges will be at GHS on March 29, 30, 31, and April 1, 2020 for the decennial visit. They have requested a meeting with the School Board on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> around 5:00 pm. He stated that a more detailed invitation will be sent as soon as the exact times are finalized.

Mr. Sperazzo stated that he is seeking Board approval for the following:

1. A donation of \$4,000.00 from the Meadowbrook Charitable Foundation to the Performing Arts Department. He noted that the Foundation is being dissolved because of the change in ownership. Rae Mello-Andrews made a motion to accept the donation; Jeanin Onos seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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2. An anonymous survey by Julie Andrews, Health teacher, regarding vaping. The program is called, “Catch My Breath,” and is offered by CVS. It is a Youth E-Cigarette Prevention Program that outlines four lessons that Mrs. Andrews will use with her students.
  - a. Mr. Sperazzo stated that the District’s policy ILD states that consent of a parent/guardian must be obtained, as well as from the Superintendent and the School Board, before a student participates in a non-educational survey or questionnaire.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to approve the survey being distributed to the students; Karen Thurston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Gretchen Gandini asked Anthony Sperazzo if there would be a candidates’ night put on by the Student Council. Mr. Sperazzo replied that there will be, that invitations will be sent to candidates shortly, and the date is yet to be determined.

Concluding, Mr. Sperazzo said that he is hoping to offer an engineering program during Lead block that will be for enrichment and not as part of the curriculum.

**Business Administrator’s Report**

Mr. Isabelle stated the current financial report is uploaded on the website. See the report at the following link: <https://www.sau73.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=24915713> Mr. Isabelle said that we are watching the budget due to unforeseen expenditures, especially for the fire suppression/alarm system and new paraprofessional hires. He said costs for out of district student placement is down in the Special Education budget, but in-district costs are up. Mr. Isabelle also stated the elimination of the Curriculum Coordinator eliminated that expense, but stipends for staff members assuming those duties are taking up a portion of the former budget allotment.

**Policy – First Reading**

**ACE – Procedural Safeguards Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability** – NHSBA sample policy; suggest replacing current GSD policy to redirect interested person to the NHDOE’s Procedural Safeguard Handbook.

**IJO – Community Resources** – Current GSD policy; this policy is required by law. Suggest the Board reaffirm. The Policy Committee has reviewed and recommended this.

**KA – School, Community and Home Relations** – Current GSD policy; this policy is required by law. Suggest reaffirming the policy.

**IKB – Homework** – NHSBA sample; suggest replacing GSD policy with this policy to comply with ED 306.141(a).

Chris McDonough asked about the amount of homework assigned and guidance on what one course could expect on a daily basis. Jeanin Onos said it would be hard to gauge, based on individual learning styles. Kirk Beitler said that it could be looked at by the Policy Committee.

**JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response** – NHSBA sample policy; we do not have this policy. This is a new policy and is required by law.

Gretchen Gandini asked if this would be reviewed by Guidance. Mr. Beitler replied that it would be.

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**Policy– Second Reading**

**JFA – Admissions Procedures** – Current GSD policy; suggest replacing with NHSBA sample policy.

**Admissions of Resident Students** – NHSBA sample policy; suggest replacing current GSD policy with this sample

Rae Mello-Andrews asked if this had gone to the GEA and if the teachers had input in it.

Rae Mello-Andrews made a motion that the Board not pass these until they had gone through the GEA process; Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Motion failed. Gretchen Gandini made a motion to approve, seconded by Jeanin Onos. Motion passed 5-2.

**JFABD – Education of Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth** – NHSBA sample policy; suggest replacing current GSD policy with this sample.

Following discussion, motion was made to table the policy until Mr. Beitler has a chance to speak with Esther Kennedy and revisit the law.

**Public Comment**

Public comment – none

**Public comment closed**

**Non-Public – RSA 91-A:3II (c)** *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

At 7:00 p.m., Gretchen Gandini made the motion to go into non-public session; Jeanin Onos seconded. Voting was unanimous; motion passed 7-0.

**Adjournment**

Rae Mello-Andrews made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. seconded by Karen Thurston. Motion passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jeanin Onos  
School Board Secretary**