

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 2, 2020
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on March 2, 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, Sean Walsh, and Danielle Bolduc. Gilmanton Board members present were Johnna McKenna and Malcolm MacLeod. Student Council Representative present was Alex Cheek.

Opening

School Board Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Jeanin Onos made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 regular meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Corrections were made. Minutes were unanimously approved. Johnna McKenna abstained.

Jeanin Onos made the motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 Board meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. Johnna McKenna and Malcolm MacLeod abstained.

Student Report

Alex Cheek read his report as written, noting the following:

- Winter Carnival was the week before February break and was a huge success; the Seniors won.
- Mr. O’Riordan’s business management class is sponsoring a Mr. GHS competition/fundraiser on March 20, 2020. All proceeds go toward building flag cases for the Veteran’s Home.
- Juniors will be taking SATs on March 25, 2020.
- The spring show will be March 27-28, 2020. One cast will put on *Snow Angels*, and the other will be *These Shining Lives*.
- Members of the Student Athletic Leadership will again be attending the leadership conference put on by the NHIAA.

Public Comment

Public comments - none

Public comment closed

Superintendent’s Report

Kirk Beitler read his report as written following his recognition of Rae Mello-Andrews for her nine years of service on the Board. Chris McDonough added his appreciation as well, commenting on her years on the Board as well as her years on the Board of the Parents of the Performing Arts. Mr. McDonough stated that she has

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served with distinction and will be missed. Rae Mello-Andrews commented that she is the first graduate from GHS to serve on the Board, that she has enjoyed serving her community, and will continue to serve as a Cemetery Trustee.

Student Learning

Mr. Beitler noted that our teachers will continue to participate in math professional development. Next year they will not be involved in as intensive math professional development as we have been over the past three years. He stated that it is important for us as a District to recognize as new teachers are hired to replace retirees or transitioning staff we (administrators) must ensure we offer training to the new teachers.

Families and Communities

Mr. Beitler stated that we have had four Blizzard Bag days. The target set by the New Hampshire Department of Education is 80%, which we exceeded on all four days. Discussion ensued.

- Gretchen Gandini asked if having the Blizzard Bags back-to-back was too much.
 - Mr. Beitler responded that having them back-to-back was a struggle, but percentages required were met.
- The question was raised if they should only be done once per three days of school.
 - Mr. Beitler commented that the question is open to conversation.
- Karen Thurston asked about special education students receiving proper assistance on a Blizzard Bag day.
 - Mr. Beitler replied that he is hearing from case managers and paras that they are.
- Rae Mello-Andrews noted that they are getting the same comments from students at the college level.
- Malcolm MacLeod asked if the work was reviewed before the bags went out. Mr. Beitler replied that they are not. They are based on the curriculum.
- The amount of work has been addressed based on concerns by some parents. Principals have addressed this at each school, making sure that each is not more than 45 minutes per subject.
- Malcolm MacLeod asked if it was new material. Mr. Beitler said it is usually based on current curriculum, not new material.
- Chris McDonough expressed his concern that some of it seems to be “busy work.” He also commented that back-to-back days needs to be revisited, and that he feels that there is some misinformation in the letter that went home. He asked Mr. Beitler to revisit the information/directions sent home.
- Karen Thurston commented that perhaps the parents are frustrated because they are not familiar with the curriculum.
- Gretchen Gandini asked for clarification on the 48 hour window for completion, if it falls on a weekend.
- Johnna McKenna asked if in Gilford there was time to do the work ahead of time (there is a chance for that in Gilmanton.) She asked if that would be something we could consider in the future. (It was an after-school work session opportunity for their students.)
- Gretchen Gandini suggested Homework Group could be utilized in this manner.
- Chris McDonough asked about having the students do the work in the class the next day so that the teacher could move forward with the curriculum.
- Mr. Beitler stated that we should strive to get the students to have the work done on the Blizzard Bag day itself as it is a school day and not use the next day to get the work done. That defeats the purpose.

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- Gretchen Gandini commented that there is no perfect solution but we should get support for those who need the extra help to get the work done.

Resource Management

Mr. Beitler stated that we have started to advertise for our open teaching positions for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as other open positions in the District. He also stated that the audit of our Federal grants went very well, with the New Hampshire Department of Education compliance auditor saying, "It was the cleanest audit" he has had in the schools.

Safety and Facilities

Superintendent Beitler said the Emergency Planning Committee continues to engage the police and fire departments in our meetings. We are in the process of planning an off-site evacuation. Included at this time was a discussion on parking issues at GES during dismissal. This relates to the vehicles blocking the flow of traffic on Belknap Mountain Road while waiting to pick up their students, and those same vehicles blocking the school buses trying to enter the bus circle. Following a discussion of the situation, the Board will continue to evaluate the issue.

Principals' Reports

Gilford Elementary School – Danielle Bolduc read her report as written.

Gilford Middle School – Sean Walsh read Peter Sawyer's report as written. Rae Mello-Andrews asked if the dance was the 5th / 6th grade social or something else. Mr. Walsh reported that it was a 7th / 8th grade dance.

Gilford High School – Anthony Sperazzo read his report as written.

Business Administrator's Report

Scott Isabelle reported that the current financial statement is on the internal website. The link is here: <https://www.sau73.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=25689013>

School Board Chair's Report

Mr. McDonough submitted his report as written. Mr. McDonough asked for the Board's input on whether the project is viable or not. This was in reference to the formation of a Turf Field Committee for the Turf Field Project. The following discussion ensued.

- Regarding Part 1, Sections a.-e., Mr. McDonough asked if everyone on the Board agrees with the scope of the project.
- Regarding Part 2, Sections a.-c. (Commercialization of the project), Mr. McDonough stated that he has seen this as left to the discretion of the School Board in current policy KCD.
- Regarding Part 3, Board reaction to vocal minority; Gretchen Gandini stated the Board already does this at every meeting.
- Karen Thurston asked if part of the thought process (bathroom/locker room that we already have) included whether or not the septic system could handle the additional bathrooms.
- Mr. McDonough stated that the additional facilities would be more for the public than the athletes.

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- Rae Mello-Andrews asked if it had been brought before the Historic District Commission; Mr. McDonough replied that it had not.
- Scott Isabelle commented that GHS is not in the Historic District, but the project does need to go before the NHDES before anything can be done.
- Gretchen Gandini asked if the project would be privately funded. Mr. McDonough said yes, it would.
- Malcolm MacLeod said that Gilmanton is concerned about the tax implication and if a Board member from Gilmanton would be in an awkward position if on the committee. He stated that he would prefer a volunteer, not a Board member, be on the committee.
- Karen Thurston said that it is a good plan to go the route proposed by Mr. McDonough.
- Gretchen Gandini asked if input with all parties might include discussion of long-term maintenance funding. She also has questions about parking.
- Chris McDonough stated that getting the engineering donated would be the start of the process.

The motion was made by Gretchen Gandini, with following up with the Gilmanton School Board, to form the Turf Field Committee to investigate the possibility of the Turf Field Project. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. All approved; Rae Mello-Andrews abstained.

POLICY – FIRST READING

DJE – Bidding Requirements – Current GSD policy for review. Following discussion, the policy will go back to the Policy Committee.

DJE-R – Bidding Procedures – Current GSD policy for review.

JFABE – Education of Children in Foster Care – NHSBA sample policy. We do not have a current GSD policy.

POLICY – SECOND READING

DAF – Administration of Federal Grant Funds – NHSBA sample policy. This policy is required by law. We do not have this policy.

ACE – Procedural Safeguards Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability – Current GSD policy. Suggest replacing with NHSBA sample policy to redirect interested persons to the NHDOE’s Procedural Safeguard Handbook.

IJO – Community Resources – Current GSD policy. This policy is required by law. Suggest the Board reaffirm.

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).

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

JFA – Admission Procedures – NHSBA sample policy. Suggest replacing current GSD policy with this sample.

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

Following review of all of the policies brought forth for a second reading, Rae Mello-Andrews made a motion to accept Policies DAF, ACE, IJO, KA, IKB, JLDBB, JFA, and JFABD. Gretchen Gandini seconded. Chris McDonough commented that three policies noted require duties be assigned; Mr. Beitler said personnel currently in the District will cover those duties. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

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 7:27 p.m., Jeanin Onos made the motion to go into non-public session. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Adjournment

Karen Thurston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Jeanin Onos. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary**