

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 6, 2020
REMOTE MEETING
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The Gilford School Board held a remote meeting on April 6, 2020. Present were Board members Chris McDonough, Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, and Karen Thurston. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Scott Isabelle, Anthony Sperazzo, Peter Sawyer, Sean Walsh 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 6:12 p.m. and read the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 authorized the remote meeting, the ground rules and instructions on how the public could access the meeting to comply with the Right-to-Know law.

Attendance was taken through a roll call. Members present were Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Karen Thurston, Michelle Heyman, Malcolm MacLeod, Chris McDonough, Kyle Sanborn. All Board members stated that they were alone in the room.

Chair McDonough lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair McDonough welcomed Kyle Sanborn to the School Board.

Superintendent Beitler asked for nominations for the Gilford School Board Chair position. Gretchen Gandini nominated Chris McDonough. Jeanin Onos seconded the nomination. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Chris McDonough abstained.

Superintendent Beitler turned the meeting back over to Chair McDonough who asked for a nomination for vice-chair. Karen Thurston nominated Gretchen Gandini for vice-chair. Jeanin Onos seconded the nomination. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Gretchen Gandini abstained.

Chair McDonough asked for a motion for secretary. Karen Thurston nominated Jeanin Onos. Gretchen Gandini seconded the nomination. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Chris McDonough, yes. Jeanin Onos abstained.

Karen Thurston motioned to approve the March 2, 2020 minutes. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. No discussion. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Malcolm MacLeod and Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote.

March 16 minutes. Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the March 16, 2020 minutes. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. After a couple of corrections, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes via a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes. Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote.

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Chair McDonough asked for nominations for committee assignments. Discussion ensued regarding the Gilmanton High School Options Committee. Michelle Heyman thought the committee should continue. The Board agreed to the following assignments:

Policy – Kyle Sanborn & Jeanin Onos
Budget Committee – Gretchen Gandini
Meadows Committee – Karen Thurston
Wellness Committee – Karen Thurston
Gilmanton Options – Chris McDonough & Gretchen Gandini
Warrant Approval – Gretchen Gandini, Karen Thurston and Kyle Sanborn
CIP Representative – Chris McDonough
HUOT Liaison – Kyle Sanborn

Public Comment

Superintendent Beitler informed the public to dial *6 to unmute their phones should they wish to speak. There was no public comment

Superintendent's Report

Student Learning

Successfully launched Remote Learning K-12 across the district. We have found it may look a little different teacher to teacher but the Gilford teachers are working extremely hard to make this new environment the best it can be under extraordinarily challenging circumstances. In the first week of Remote Learning, Superintendent Beitler asked the Principals to connect with every family in the District to check in and make certain that learners and families have everything they needed.

Principal Sperazzo shared what is happening at Gilford High School for remote learning. He stated that parents support has been outstanding. People have texted, emailed and stopped him in the market to thank him for what teachers have done to get up and running and be flexible with students and families.

Two weeks ago, all of the staff members signed up and took anywhere from 5-15 students and called their families to see what they needed. They reached all 490 families and it started on a positive note. Teachers are posting assignments and giving students a couple days to complete the assignments with provided tutorials and live office hours.

Anthony shared the survey results:

According to the parent survey

- 10% of children are not engaging in the work
- 22% of children are some of the time
- 68% of children are engaged most or all the time.

Today's teacher survey showed that close to

- 70% of learners are engaged MOST of the time
- 30% of learners are engaged SOME of the time

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No one reported that learners are engaged NONE of the time

On the whole, I am pleased with how engaged my learners are...

80% AGREED

20% DISAGREED

GHS has implemented a tiered intervention list for staff to reach learners that are not fully engaged. This is part of the “remote learning expectations” that will go out tomorrow to all learners, staff, and families. We’ve been collecting feedback and implementing what we believe are best practices and will share that document tomorrow.

Staff continues to meet virtually with the administrative team, team leaders, and will be meeting with departments starting this week. They also have met with students to gain feedback on the student handbook through a virtual meeting. Administration are going to start meeting with students about what Prom, Graduation, Senior Awards Night, Yearbook dinner and what that can look like if we’re not returning to school.

Anthony has also been in communication with Forum, the travel agent, for the Spain trip. He was able to send a letter to Forum and enclosed a letter from the NH Commissioner of Education demanding full refunds. He will keep the Board updated on this process.

The NEASC visit has been postponed to next fall. Anthony asked for approval to expend the NEASC money that was budgeted in the 19-20 budget to purchase LCD projectors, which is in the 20-21 budget. In essence, he is requesting that we just switch the years as both lines were approved by the voters.

Scott Isabelle stated that the municipal budget law only allows you to spend the money in the year it was budgeted. If we entered into a contract this year, we cannot bring it forward to next year. In the budget this year, we have \$14,000 budgeted for NEASC but no money budgeted in next years budget. This year we have expended our equipment line. We would swap the equipment line for NEASC expenses. Both lines have already been vetted by the voters.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the request. Karen Thurston seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Anthony requested approval from the Board for \$2,000 donation from Heart and Hands (Trinity Episcopal Church in Meredith, to be spent on supplies. Gretchen Gandini inquired if this is money they want to use this school year. Anthony replied that it was for next school year.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to accept the \$2000 donation with gratitude. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Anthony gave an update on graduation. Meadowbrook cannot commit until 60 days out. We have a tentative date of Friday, June 12 for graduation with an anticipated 6:00 p.m. start. Once this is confirmed 60 days out, can he go ahead and publish this so he can notify parents as soon as possible. He is seeking approval to hold graduation at Meadowbrook on Friday, June 12, 2020. Karen Thurston motioned to allowed Principal Sperazzo

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to move forward with June 12 graduation. Kyle Sanborn asked if we move forward, is there a deposit and is it refundable. Anthony replied that there is no deposit. Gretchen seconded the motion. Chris McDonough asked if there was anything in Gilmanton that would conflict with the date. There being none, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request on a roll call vote: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Danielle Bolduc updated the Board on remote learning at Gilford Elementary School. Parents have been supportive. Teachers have been working around the clock to keep the connection with families. Teachers have shared several videos of themselves or of their on-line learning platforms, morning meetings and virtual field trips. They are keeping it positive. Any technical problems are being dealt with right away by Katie Bryant. Katie and Danielle meeting weekly with every grade level to make sure there are no concerns with learners or technology. We are being successful at this point.

Peter updated the Board on remote Learning at Gilford Middle School. Peter said much is the same as Anthony and Danielle had stated earlier. All three stakeholders, school, parents and students have bonded together and are working hard. Even at exasperating moments, communication remains positive. Parents and teachers are acknowledging that it is not easy and everyone is in the patient faze. We are not penalizing students for late work. We did a survey as far as engagement. Staff has been emailing and checking with students. Sean and Peter emailed parents and students who were falling behind to ask what they could do to help. GMS is using the remote learning to transition to competency based learning by piloting 3 of their 6 proficiency scales when assessing/reporting student progress. They are trying to keep normalcy in routine with Friday morning announcements. Over 2/3 of students are participating in the trivia. They are planning to do a virtual Silver Hawk Award Ceremony. Overall, it has been successful.

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that information was included in the Board packet regarding the elementary summer camp. Information on the GMS Drama Summer Camp is also being distributed. We are putting information out to families regarding summer camps to have people start signing up. We are not collecting money at this time, just waiting to see where we go with the Governor's stay at home order and how long that will be in place. Superintendent Beitler stated we are optimistic to get things going for late June, early July and we have put information out to parents. Chris McDonough inquired about the drop-dead date to make the decision. Superintendent Beitler replied that we have not talked about a date yet as we are taking our lead from the Governor. Gretchen Gandini asked if there was any guidance coming from the DOE or the Governor with regard to the May 4th go back date. Superintendent Beitler responded that May 4th is a date where they are going to revisit and possibly extend the stay at home order. Optimistically, we would like to think we will be back by May 4th but realistically, he didn't think so. Gretchen inquired if they have talked of a contingency plan for graduation requirements. Superintendent Beitler has not heard of any contingencies on graduation requirements nor special education requirements.

Families and Communities

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that a survey was sent out on Wednesday, April 1st to parents and staff regarding working through April Vacation. It seems that both parents (69%) and staff (67%) would like to keep remote learning going as they have a schedule and structure. Currently, our last day of school for students

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is scheduled for June 18th. If we work through April break, our last day of school for students would be June 11th and the teachers last day would be June 12th. This gives us 180 days of school for students and 186 days of school for teachers, their contract number. The Commissioner of Education has been holding statewide Zoom meetings twice a week and at one of the meetings, he did say that the March planning time would be counted as instructional time.

Michelle Heyman ask if lunch deliveries would continue if we had April break. Superintendent Beitler replied that we generally do not have people working in food service during vacation weeks but that does not mean we can't. We have not had the conversation yet with food service. We could probably figure out how to do it if that is what the board wanted.

Michelle Heyman asked how the teacher's union feels about it. Superintendent Beitler stated that he has been meeting regularly with them and their take was that they had surveyed their membership and they were at 68% to work through the break. Discussion ensued. Chair McDonough stated that although he would like to wait for Gilmanton's survey, timing is not going to work out and thought the Board should entertain a motion.

Karen Thurston made a motion to continue through April vacation as it appears the majority would like. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion.

Malcom MacLeod stated that he realizes Gilmanton has not done a survey but he supports the motion stating that it is good to keep the momentum of on-line learning going. Karen Thurston stated that she likes the flex day on Wednesday to give a computer break to families.

Kyle Sanborn also agreed and felt it is best to keep the momentum moving and work through April vacation. Michelle Heymen agreed as well stating that the flex day is a big game changer to give staff and families the break they may need.

After no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote to and continue remote learning through April vacation with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Resource Management

Superintendent Beitler shared that we are continuing to serve breakfast and lunch to children. We are no delivering meals twice a week on two buses to 70 children and are contemplating transitioning to three days a week based on enrollment numbers.

40 Chrome books, extra chargers and hot spots were purchased and Superintendent Beitler talked with Chair McDonough about this on the phone, as this purchase was not in our approved budget. Since Atlantic Broadband expanded their offering, we have been able to pull back some of our hot spots and even return a few back to Verizon.

Superintendent Beitler shared the technology costs related to remote learning:

- SAU phone support – all calls going to Kim's cell phone. \$200
- 40 new Chromebooks \$7200
- Headsets with microphones \$400
- Chromebook repair parts – adapters and keyboards \$1550
- Chromebook Repair parts – screens, batteries and Keyboards \$2580
- Hot Spots

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- Verizon: 9 with no daily limit \$3780
- Kajeets: 10 with daily limits \$2700
- \$1000 remote desktop license so Jay Moody can remote into someone's computer. We have had it for free in the past but just purchased the license as we have a great deal of that going on to support our work in the District.

We have continued to interview candidates for our open positions and have several candidates for the Board's consideration. We still have one special education position at the high school and one administrative assistant position at the elementary school, a custodial position, a maintenance position and one anticipated opening for a Title I teacher for the 2020.2021 school year.

Safety and Facilities

The Buildings and Grounds Department are working to deep clean and disinfect the facilities. If we learn that Remote Learning will continue through the end of the year, we will transition to our summer cleaning procedures.

Business Administrator's Report

Scott Isabelle reported that the current financial statement is on the internal website.

Scott updated the Board on the food service expenses stated that we are allowed up to 9,000 reimbursement from the government. We have spent right around \$3000 for supplies and food at this point. Some costs have been offset as we have had government surplus food items. The students we have provided for have been enrolled in Free and Reduced Lunch so therefore, we will received \$3000 back. We are no longer bringing in revenue for fully paid students or snacks. We have to pay salary and benefits and not bringing in any revenue to offset the costs. We had a \$50,000 surplus in last year's budget. Right now we are anticipating being \$10,000-\$20,000 in the hole. Our expenditures will exceed our revenue. Will the carryover from prior year absorb that? Chris McDonough asked about the big picture in budget for remainder of the year. Scott Isabelle replied that he does not have that yet as he has been out on FMLA but will work on that in the next couple of weeks. He did state that we have a surplus in health insurance of \$200,000 and \$400,000 in the line for track changes because we did not fill many of the positions we had budgeted for.

POLICY – FIRST READING

AC – Non-Discrimination – Current GSD policy - Suggest replacing with NHSBA sample policy to reflect the passage of SB263 as well as incorporate the provisions of policy GBA.

Kyle Sanborn question the language regarding “off school grounds” and would like clarification. Superintendent Beitler clarified that if it affects their access to education, or interferes with educational opportunities or relates to bullying . Kyle Sanborn said he does not see any discipline laid out. What type of appeal does the student have if being accused? Superintendent Beitler stated that it depends on what the incident is and what the principal may provide for discipline. There is always an appeal process available. Kyle Sanborn asked if we should add that to the policy. Superintendent Beitler said we certainly can but he

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would want to look at the other policies to see what they say as far as the discipline as well as the appeal process as he thinks those policies would guide that.

ACE- Annual Notice of Contract Information for Human Rights Officer, Title IX Coordinator, 504 Coordinator and Civil Rights Agency – NHSBA Sample policy. Suggest replacing current GSD policy with this sample to reflect the passage of SB263 as well as incorporate the provisions of policy GBA.

AC-E Annual Notice of Contact Information for Human Rights Officer, Title IX Coordinator, 504 Coordinator and Civil Rights Agencies – We do not have this policy

GBA – Equal Opportunity Employment – Suggest removing this policy and incorporate it into policy AC.

GADA – Employment References and Verification (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse) – This policy is required by law. We do not have a current GSD policy.

IHAMA – Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco – This policy is required by law. We do not have a current GSD policy

IKFG – Career Readiness Pathways and Credentials – We do not have this policy. This policy complies with SB 276.

IHCD – Advanced Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses and STEM Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program – Current GSD policy. Grade 10 needs to be added to comply with SB 276.

POLICY – SECOND READING

DJE – Bidding Requirements – Current GSD policy for review. Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve, seconded by Jeanin Onos. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

DJE-R – Bidding Procedures – Current GSD policy for review. Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the policy which was seconded by Karen Thurston. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

JFABE – Education of Children in Foster Care – NHSBA sample policy. We do not have a current GSD policy. Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the policy which was seconded by Karen Thurston. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Public Comment

Chair McDonough asked for public comment and reminded the public to dial *6 to turn on microphone. There was no public comment.

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Non-Public – RSA 91-A:3II (a)

At 7:44 p.m., Jeanin Onos made the motion to go into non-public session. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Roll call was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Adjournment

Karen Thurston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Gretchen Gandini. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary**