

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2020
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on August 4, 2020 in the Gilford High School Auditorium. Present were Board members Chris McDonough, Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, and Karen Thurston. Gilmanton representatives were Malcolm MacLeod and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Danielle Bolduc, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo, Sean Walsh, Tim Goggin, Rick Acquilano, Brenda McGee, Esther Kennedy and Amie Leigh.

Opening

School Board Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting. Chair McDonough announced the phone number and pin for those who wanted to join the meeting remotely and informed the public they could email questions to questions@sau73.org.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Public Comment

Chair McDonough asked for public comment. Several residents asked questions and made comments.

Superintendent's Proposal

Superintendent Beitler thanked the members of the Task Force and presented a slide show on his reopening proposal for the 2020-2021 school year and highlighted the following:

Survey Results:

- Surveys sent to parents and employees in July.
- 766 parents responded, 144 employees responded.
- 60.3% of parents would like in-person instruction at GES.
- 57.8% of parents would like in-person instruction at GMS.
- 56.1% of parents would like in-person instruction at GHS.
- 38% of staff at GES would prefer in-person instruction at GES and 36% prefer hybrid .
- 27.3% of staff at GMS would prefer in-person instruction and 39.4% prefer hybrid.
- 22.9% of staff at GHS would prefer in-person instruction and 45.7% prefer enhanced remote.

Recommended Safety Precautions:

- A daily self-screening of students and staff will be required from home.
- A screening protocol will be provided.
- Students and staff that do not meet the criteria must stay home.
- Face coverings/masks will be required.
- The District has purchased masks and PPE for all students and staff.
- Mask breaks will be built into each student's schedule.

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- Schools will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Duct work has been inspected in all three schools.
- Water bubblers will be turned off, but bottle filling stations will be turned on.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be used each night to disinfect.

Classroom and Hallway Safety Precautions

- Classroom furniture (tables and desks) will be distanced.
- Goal is 6 feet and 3-6 feet will always be maintained.
- Desks/tables will all face the front, where physically possible.
- Students will be asked to sanitize/wipe down hard surfaces.
- Seating charts will be used in each classroom for contact tracing.
- All classrooms have hand sanitizing stations.
- Schedules will attempt to minimize student movement and passing time.
- Hallway lockers will not be in use.
- One directional hallways and stairwells.
- Necessary passing times will be staggered.
- Cafeteria and library may be used for instruction and lunch.

COVID Response Protocol

- Coordinate communications with public health officials to notify staff and families.
- Advise sick staff members and students not to return to school until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 and are feeling better, or have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- The State will handle contact tracing.
- Impacted students and staff will go to remote learning.

Transportation

- The District will encourage parents to drive and pick up their students.
- Survey data indicates that approximately 30% of families will access transportation.
- Specific transportation registration for all families.
- Twenty five students will be on the bus at one time, unless there are siblings.
- Siblings will be allowed to double up in seats.
- Masks will be required on the bus.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer.

School Calendar 2020-2021 Proposed Adjustments

- January 22, 2021 – move this professional development day to September 1, 2020 providing more time at the beginning of the year for schools and staff.
- September 16, 2020 early release – move to September 30, 2020 and pair with half day from Governor Sununu's allocation of 3 PD days to give us a full PD day on September 30, 2020 to prepare for October 5th.
- October 9th and November 6th are Parent Teacher Conference days – propose one District Virtual Parent Teacher conference day October 30, 2020.

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- October 14th, November 18th and December 9th early release days – take these three days and pair with half day from Governor Sununu’s allocation of 3 PD days and create November 23rd and 24th as full PD days for staff.
- There may be periodic days that we need to move to remote learning for a day or two.
- All snow days would be considered remote learning days.
- We will revisit early release dates for the second half of the year in December.

Proposed Phase in Approach to the School Year

- The proposed calendar segments allow the District to focus on smaller amounts of time.
- September 8th – 11th small cohorts of students will enter school to learn more about the school year expectations and set up Chromebook access to Google Classroom – prepare for possible shift to remote instruction – social emotional needs addressed.
- September 14-October 2nd small cohorts of students working and learning together in the classrooms – District assessments will be administered – continue the work on social emotional needs.
- October 5th – target to start full in person teaching with all students in school for families that choose this option.

Potential Remote Instruction

- District enlists teachers to develop “online” remote instruction.
- Students (families) that choose enhanced remote instruction will be assigned a fully remote instructor.
- The remote instructors will engage fully with students/families 5 days a week.
- Remote instructors will be on campus in Gilford.
- Students/families k-12 may choose Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS).
- Students/families will be asked to commit to 1 trimester.

Remote Instruction

- This option will be enhanced from the spring with a daily schedule.
- There will be a consistent look and use of Google Classroom.
- Technology platforms used will be consistent.
- Daily responsibilities with deadlines.
- Attendance will be taken.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Will face coverings/masks be required?
 - Yes, there will be mask breaks in all schools
- Will social distancing be enforced?
 - Yes
- What happens if students or adults do not follow safety protocols?
 - Adults will be handled via personnel protocols
 - Students will be handled via disciplinary procedure at each school
- Can a parent/student change their instructional model?
 - First reconsideration date will be in late October early November 2020 (trimester break)

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- Will volunteers and visitors be allowed in the schools?
 - No.
- What if there is a spike of COVID cases in NH or Gilford
 - We all must be prepared to transition into remote learning model
- Will fall sports happen?
 - NHIAA has established September 8, 2020 as the start date for fall practices of high school sports
 - NHIAA is recognizing all fall high school sports
 - Middle school sports will start practices on September 8, 2020
- Will there be a fall musical
 - The fall musical has been moved to spring 2021
- Will we offer co-curricular activities?
 - These opportunities will be evaluated and offered if safety guidelines can be followed

After Superintendent Beitler presented his proposed plan, Board discussion ensued on the following:

- How would the cohort groups work at each school?
- Has the HUOT solidified a plan?
- What is the purpose of the 4-week hybrid option?
- Majority of parents cannot do remote learning with children.
- Children need to be in school on the first day.
- Healthy fear can turn into healthy respect.
- What would 3ft distancing vs 6 ft distancing look like?
- What is the plan to communicate with parents, staff, and community if there is a positive case?
- DHHS would conduct the contact tracing should there be a positive case.
- Would cyber security be increased?
- Chromebooks go through our web filter just as if they were in school.
- Snow days would be considered for power outages.
- No cubbies/lockers – students will have to carry their personal belongings.
- Students should be able to take masks off at their desks.
- NH State Epidemiologist, Dr. Chan, recommends face coverings.
- Mask breaks will be built into the day.
- We want to create a safe environment.
- What does a mask break look like in January?
- Have we looked at Plexiglass for each student desk?
- Students enrolled in VLACS do not have to withdraw from Gilford.
- There will be couple of different drop off points at elementary and middle schools to prevent bottleneck.

Chair McDonough opened up the meeting to public comment. Comments were as follows:

- Can parents change from remote to in-person learning at trimester breaks? The answer was yes.
- Masks should be worn.
- New data shows students are able to transmit.

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- CDC recommends 6 feet apart and masks
- Can the hybrid be shortened to one week?
- Get kids back in school.
- We need some time to get the plan right.
- School needs to be open from day one.
- Students with an IEP or 504 really need to be in school.
- There will not be enough substitutes.
- What if the school nurse is out.
- Elementary students are too little to wear masks.
- Remote classes should be recorded.
- Face shields do not protect as well as masks.
- Students would have to screen before getting on the bus.
- Rapid testing is not an option.
- School nurses are working on an algorithm.
- Remote learning was a nightmare.

Chair McDonough called for a five minute break.

The Board took action on the following:

Gretchen Gandini motioned to accept the proposed concept to open the high school but amended it to offer a full in-person instruction option on day one for high school students as well as the remote learning option. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston. After discussion and consideration to make the first week of school a hybrid week, the motion was defeated on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, no; Gretchen Gandini, no; Karen Thurston, no; Kyle Sanborn, no; Jeanin Onos, no; Michelle Heyman, no; Malcolm MacLeod no. The motion failed.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to accept the proposed concept to open the high school with a phase in for 1 week and then full in-person learning with the remote learning option beginning on September 14th. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos. Malcolm MacLeod commented that only 22% of high school teachers were in support of in-person learning and asked if it would be worth getting a quote on plexiglass. Superintendent Beitler will get the cost of plexiglass. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes, Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, no; Michelle Heyman, no; Malcolm MacLeod, no. Motion carries on a 4-3 vote.

Jeanin Onos motioned to accept the proposed concept to open the middle school with a phase in period of 1 week and then full in person learning with the remote learning option beginning on September 14th. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes, Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, no.

Karen Thurston motioned to accept the proposed concept to open the elementary school with a phase in period of 1 week and then full in person learning with the remote learning option beginning on September 14th. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes, Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, no.

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The Board discussed the approval to give parents and families a deadline of registering for an instructional model that they would have to stay with for a trimester. Chair McDonough opined that it is vital to give administration numbers to work with. Superintendent Beitler stated that new families who enroll after the trimester has started will be given the option of in-person or remote instruction. Michelle Heyman asked if legal counsel had been consulted. Superintendent Beitler said that he had not reviewed it with legal counsel.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve to give parents and families a deadline of registering for an instructional model after consulting with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes. Motion carries 7-0.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the establishing of a bus registration process. The motion was seconded by Kyle Sanborn and passed 5-0 on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the calendar adjustments for the first half of the school year. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston. Superintendent Beitler stated that GEA has been supportive of these changes and would require an MOU with the GEA. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes. Motion carries 7-0.

Discussion ensued on the request to add one air filter change out into the current rotation of changing air filter for \$2,143.00. No action was taken.

Discussion ensued on the request to rent two tents for September and October. Chair McDonough was concerned about the high cost. Esther Kennedy stated she sees it as a place where students can go for behavior breaks, time out, lunch, outdoor classrooms and mask breaks. Karen Thurston motioned to approve the rental of the two tents for September and October with the high and middle school sharing one tent at a cost of \$13,400.00 covered in the CARES Act money. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, no; Kyle Sanborn, no; Jeanin Onos, no; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Malcolm MacLeod and Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote. The motion failed.

Discussion ensued on the request to modify the high school open campus requirements allowing juniors and seniors to participate with updated GPA requirements. This would be for the 2020-2021 school year only. Chris McDonough motioned that the board approve the modification to the high school open campus requirements allowing juniors and seniors to participate with 2.67 GPA for this school year only. All other requirements will remain in place. Malcolm MacLean seconded the motion which passed on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, no; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes. Motion carries 6-1.

Discussion ensued on the request to hire an extra daytime custodian to supplement the 2.5 daytime custodians at an approximate cost of \$68,000. Kyle Sanborn asked if it was just for this year and will the candidates be notified that is just for one year. Superintendent replied that yes, it was just for this school year and this cost is on the high end, worst-case scenario. Karen Thurston motioned to approve the hire of an extra daytime custodian at the top cost of \$68,000. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Gandini. A roll call vote was

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conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

Superintendent Beitler stated that we have 5 maternity leaves coming this school year, four of the leaves are at GES. Superintendent Beitler is seeking approval to hire one long-term substitute with an elementary certification to work with us through the school year and cover two of the long term leaves. Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the request, which was seconded by Jeanin Onos. Business Administrator, Amie Leigh, explained that the money would come from the field studies account as well as from the Title I positions. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Beitler sought approval to purchase approximately 150 plexiglass shields for staff at a cost of \$40 per shield. He stated that it will add an extra level of security. Kyle Sanborn felt it could help teachers over the hump. Karen Thurston motioned to approve the purchase of the plexiglass shields at a cost of \$6,000. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos and passed on roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Discussion ensued over the request to purchase and install two water bottle filling stations for the middle school. Superintendent Beitler stated this would help keep students in their grade area. We would look to install them where there is already plumbing. Karen Thurston motioned that the board approve the purchase and installation of two water bottle filling stations for the middle school with the funds to be taken from the field studies budget line. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Chair McDonough motioned to retain the elementary school tent for September and October at the cost of \$1800 per month. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, no; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the request to purchase 12 picnic tables for the middle and high school to support instruction and lunch outside. Karen Thurston motioned to approve the request. There was no second on the motion.

Chris McDonough motioned to approve the closing of the buildings for use by outside organizations for the first trimester of the school year. The motion was seconded by Kyle Sanborn and passed on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote. Motion carries 5-0.

Anthony Sperrazo provided an update to the board on the scheduled French trip for the spring of 2021 and what some of the options families would have.

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Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh gave the Board an update on the NH DOE Food Service Directors Annual Learning Conference. She also gave a brief update on the facilities projects as well as what is happening in the business office.

At 11:22 p.m., on a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted unanimously to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II (a).

At 11:37 p.m. the Board reconvened public session.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary