

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 18, 2020
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on August 18, 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, Esther Kennedy and Amie Leigh.

Opening

School Board Chair Chris McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Gretchen Gandini and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the August 4, 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, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

Public Comment

Chair McDonough asked that public comments be held until after Superintendent Beitler's presentation.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beitler shared the Capital Improvement Plan with the Board for review. The Town of Gilford's CIP meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020. Discussion ensued regarding the MEP study. Chair McDonough asked if there is anything else we should be replacing. Ken Mulleavey, Director of Buildings and Grounds, stated that we are waiting for direction the MEP study. Chair McDonough will go to the CIP meeting on September 14th and notify the committee that we do not have a concrete plan for the 7th year of the CIP.

Superintendent Beitler shared the Title IX sample policy update from the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA). This update is in response to the recent passage of new federal regulations pertaining to Title IX which go into effect on August 14, 2020. To meet the effective date, NHSBA recommends that districts waive any requirement of "2 readings" and adopt sample policy ACAC.

Jeanin Onos opined that the process has always been to put everything through the Policy Committee and we should do the same with this policy. Gretchen Gandini asked what prompted this policy and did it sneak up on us? Superintendent Beitler explained that the law change happened very quickly and NHSBA has been working on this policy this summer with associations across the country to put it together.

Esther Kennedy suggested accepting this policy on a temporary basis to meet the requirements of the law and then move to through the process of going to the Policy Committee. The consensus of the Board was that they would like this policy to follow the regular practice of going through the Policy Committee.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to put policy ACAC into practice to comply with the law but with the understanding that it will then go through the process. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston. After

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more discussion, the Board agreed that it should be vetted through the process. Gretchen Gandini rescinded her motion which was seconded by Karen Thurston.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to send policy ACAC to the next Policy Committee meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion which 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, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that he has spoken with Herb Greene regarding the possibility of the District using their picnics tables.

Chair McDonough had also spoken to Hayden McLaughlin regarding the possibility of us using his 30 x 60 tent for the middle and high school. Hayden is not looking to make any money, he just wants to make sure the tent is handled correctly and cover his costs. The District would provide a liability insurance waiver and a fee to set up the tent.

Chair McDonough motioned to approve up to \$1,000 for the tent rental for the middle and high school for 2 months if we can work out a deal with Hayden McLaughlin. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion which 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.

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that Plexi-glass dividers have been purchased for teacher use when working one on one with children. The purchase of plexi-glass for learner desks would be \$20 each with a back order of 3-4 weeks.

Special Education Update

Esther Kennedy provided the Board with an update on special education services. There are 6 students at GES that have opted for remote learning, 13 at GMS and 18 at GHS. Ms. Kennedy stated that all students will be supported with services and we are providing OT, PT, speech and ELL. Chair McDonough asked if there are any staffing concerns considering the diverse needs of the students. Ms. Kennedy replied that people are doing 110% and are willing to do whatever it takes to meet the needs of the students.

Elementary Update

Danielle Bolduc shared her update as follows:

- In person Learners - 248
- Remote Learners - 54 remote learners
 - 3 Teachers:
 - K-1 Teacher = 17 learners (7) Kindergarten/(10) 1st grade
 - 2-3 Teacher = 19 learners (12) 2nd grade/ (7) 3rd grade
 - 3-4 Teacher = 18 learners (8) 3rd grade/ (10) 4th grade
 - Specials would be provided
 - 1st grade = 14, 3rd grade = 16, 4th grade = 17
- Band, chorus and PE = phase II/ Instrument lessons
- Building protocols - Drop off/Pick Up 5 different entrances/lunch in classroom

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- Adults will not get out of their cars
- Classrooms - Desks 4-6 feet apart
- After school care / offerings

Chair McDonough inquired how siblings would meet if they were exiting from different places. Danielle stated that a staff member will be outside to assist them.

Chair McDonough thanked Danielle for the level of effort that she and her team have put into the plan.

Middle School Update

Peter Sawyer shared his update as follows:

- In person Learners – 287
- Remote Learners – 42
- Current Classroom Configuration:
- Class Cohort Size based on following classroom capacity (this would maintain a 4.6-5.0 foot distance between student’ seats.
 - “Regular Classrooms” = 19 students
 - Science Classrooms = 22 students
 - Band/Chorus Classrooms (8-10 foot distance between seats) = 20
- Lunch – students will eat within their “core academic” cohorts (café, library & rm 423)
- Breakfast will be available to students
- There will be two-way traffic in the hallways; students will stay on either side of the hallway 6 ft apart
- Masks will be required at all times
- There will be 5-10 minute mask breaks
- Bus riders will go to GHS in the afternoon for the ride home to alleviate parent pick-up
- After School Offerings & Athletics:
 - After school activities will still happen but may be limited enrollment
 - Athletic practices will begin on September
 - Games schedules will be reduced due to the restrictions around bus protocols

Peter Sawyer requested Board approval for two science teachers to teach remote science afterschool. Peter stated the Vlacs classes are closed or waitlisted. Discussion ensued on the various options and logistics. Chair McDonough asked what the extra cost would be. Peter stated that it would be \$3,000-\$4,000 per trimester depending on the teacher’s salary.

Karen Thurston motioned to approve two science teachers to teach and extra 1/5 each. The motion was seconded by Chris McDonough 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.

Karen Thurston thanked Peter Sawyer and Sean Walsh for effort in putting the plan together.

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High School Update

Anthony Sperazzo shared his update as follows:

- In person Learners – 381
- Remote Learners – 100
- First Week Schedule:
 - Tuesday, September 8 Seniors
 - Wednesday, September 9 Juniors
 - Thursday, September 10 Sophomores
 - Friday, September 11 Freshmen

- Band and Chorus class will meet each day, during the trimester, in the following spaces: GHS Auditorium, Outside, or GHS Band/Chorus Classrooms. At least 8’ of social distancing will occur because students can spread out in the auditorium. Bell coverings are being purchased to be placed over the instruments. There will be no more than 30 minutes of singing or playing of instruments. After the 30 minutes of play, the class will clear out and go to another room to allow for proper ventilation. Ideally, anytime the weather cooperates, classes will be outside.
 - Band 21 students
 - Choir 25 students

- Lunch: - We will divide students into several different areas in the building to eat lunch (cafeteria, library, outside, other large classrooms).
- Breakfast will be available to students.
- There will be one-way traffic in the hallways and stairwells.
- Signage will be posted on walls and floors throughout the building.
- During the first 4 days of school, students will practice the flow throughout the building.
- Masks are required at all times
 - There will be a 5-10 minute mask break each class
 - These will take place in the following areas: Classroom, Outside, Gym, Cafeteria, Library, or a “6-Foot Apart Hallway Walk”

- Students will immediately (unless getting breakfast) go to homerooms upon entering the building beginning at 7:10.
- GMS bus riders will come to the high school in the afternoon for the ride home to alleviate parent-pick up at GMS.
- Jump Start -With the approval of the phased approach during the week of September 8, Jump Start will take place during that week when the freshmen are in school alone on September 11. We will alert parents later this week.
- After school activities will still happen but may have limited enrollment due to safety protocol
- Huot – Students that signed up to access the Huot will probably be attending 2-3 days a week. There is no remote option for the Huot.

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Athletics Update

Rick Acquilano shared an update as follows:

- Athletics will begin on September 8th with practices, followed by games in accordance with NHIAA rules around first games allowed.
- Due to the reduced length of the season, the game schedules will be reduced as well. Regional play is being put together to accommodate several concerns such as anticipated busing confinements/shortages and staying more local to reduce the potential exposure to the virus. These scheduling meetings are being conducted the next two weeks.
- The NHIAA will hold an “open” tournament for the upcoming fall season. This simply eliminates the requirements for games played and who they are played against. It also makes all teams eligible for tournament play at the conclusion of the regular season.
- If we are pushed back from game play at the NHIAA level we will hope to continue with social distance on campus programming with our athletes to include: sport specific skill development, fitness and conditioning and team building and mindfulness practices.
- Face coverings and social distancing guidelines will be required at all athletic events by fans both indoors and outdoors.
- All coaches will complete the recommended COVID 19 course online prior to coaching this year.

Chair McDonough asked what science is behind the 30 mile travel. Rick Acquilano explained that it takes into account the bussing issue and prevents teams from going to far outside our area. Gretchen Gandini inquired about how tournament play happens. Rick replied that it eliminates the requirements for games played and who they are played against. It also makes all teams eligible for tournament play at the conclusion of the regular season. Chair McDonough asked about fan attendance. Rick replied that we have to balance social distancing in the gym. We will rope off rows of bleachers and we could offer 4 tickets per athlete for each game. He does anticipate student fans will be able to attend.

Fall Musical proposal:

Anthony Sperazzo presented a request from the The Theatre Department. They would like to present three different versions of Godspell Jr. using three different casts of 10-12. This will allow all 30-36 members of the Theatre Department to be in one of the shows but not rehearsing at the same time which will keep numbers down and social distancing at proper distances.

All participants on stage will have a mask on while performing and practicing. The entire show is only one hour and will not have an intermission. There is only thirty minutes of singing to stay within the recommended guidelines.

- Godspell group 1- Senior only will rehearse from September 1-24 with performances on September 25 & 26.
- Godspell group 2- Mixed grades only will rehearse from September 28-October 22 with performances on October 23 & 24.
- Godspell group 3- Mixed grades only will rehearse from October 26-November 19 with performances on November 20 & 21.

Matt Demko answered questions from the Board and explained that tickets would be pre-sold and only at a 50% room capacity. Practices will be held outside as much as possible and the students will only sing for 30 minutes.

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Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the fall musical proposal as outlined. Malcolm MacLeod seconded the motion which 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, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

Anthony Sperazzo requested reconsideration from the Board of Policy JHCA. He is seeking approval to give seniors the option of having a reduced load of classes (less than 4) in order to reduce class sizes and promote proper social distancing for the 20/21 school year. This is a recommendation from the High School Administrative Team and the School Counseling Department. There are seniors that have minimal graduation requirements remaining and have chosen some elective classes to ensure they have a full course load each trimester. These classes may not tie into their future career path and with parent approval; we would remove them from these classes and reduce class sizes. For some students, if it's a class they will need for their career path, they can stay in the class. We wish to keep the rigor for each student addressing their future career path. We also will engage in conversations with these students that drop their classes to enroll in an internship. Currently, we have students working with Dan Caron on placements at JMG Marketing, Body Covers, Margate, Annie's Cafe, Rogue Space Systems, and Emerson Aviation to name a few.

24 credits are needed to graduate from Gilford High School. Students can earn up to 7.5 credits per year at GHS. Seniors entering their final year, that are on track to graduate, may already have 22.5 credits. They can complete their graduation requirement during the first trimester.

After discussion, on the minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting, Gretchen Gandini motioned to amend the minutes of the August 4, 2020 meeting to remove "less than 4 classes as a senior" from the motion. 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.

Chair McDonough asked how many students this request might affect. Anthony responded that it could be as many as 80 seniors.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to move forward with the request to approve a reduced load of less than four classes with the understanding that it is this year only, they have enough core subject credits to graduate, and it applies to seniors only. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, no; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes, Michelle Heyman, no; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

On a motion by Kyle Sanborn and a second by Malcolm MacLeod, the Board voted unanimously to leave #5 in policy JHCA, "Participate in the Gilford High School Craft Fair" as optional. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote as follows: Chris McDonough, yes; Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes, Michelle Heyman, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

Anthony Sperazzo sought the Board's consideration for an extra eleven elevenths for staff for remote learning (2 math, 2 English, 2 science, 1 social studies, 1 business, 1 art, 1 PE and 1 in person health. He had anticipated 15% of learners would be remote but it is currently at 23%.

Gretchen Gandini asked if it is clear to remote learning students that attendance will be taken and it will a structured day. Superintendent Beitler stated he has communicated that with families.

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Superintendent Beitler stated that the cost would be \$3,000-\$5,000 per 11th as it is based on their salary. He shared that we do not have any out-of-district students this coming school year and there is \$152,000 in the budget line that we could use to fund this request. Jeanin Onos inquired if we are reducing requirements, do we still need the extra classes. Anthony replied yes, and that we are combining classes. Anthony requested the flexibility if numbers change to move staff from one subject area to another, keeping in mind certification areas.

Karen Thurston motioned to approve Anthony's request for the additional eleven elevenths to teach remote classes with the flexibility to move teachers depending on the enrollment numbers. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion which 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, yes; Malcolm MacLeod, yes.

Gretchen Gandini stated that we all need to be flexible, have a little grace and not expect perfection. Communication is the key to success.

Karen Thurston thanked Anthony Sperazzo and Tim Goggin for their work putting the plan together.

Malcolm MacLeod suggested having a 2nd Freshmen Jumpstart prior to the 2nd trimester for those students who chose remote for the first trimester.

Superintendent Beitler reviewed the Mitigation of Risk and Multi Levels of Safety/Precaution portion of his presentation. Discussion ensued regarding travel outside of New England (VT, ME, MA, CT, RI) and the need to quarantine for 14 days. The Board agreed that it would be on a case by case basis. Chair McDonough inquired what "close contact" meant. Superintendent Beitler stated that it is defined as within 3 feet for 15 minutes. Chair McDonough asked if that was masked or unmasked. Superintendent Beitler will research that question.

Kyle Sanborn inquired what lockdown and fire drills will look like. Superintendent Beitler stated that he is meeting with the Gilford Fire and Gilford Police to departments to discuss what these drills will look like. Fire drills are a requirement of the State.

Discussion ensued regarding the plexi-glass for students. The Board was in support of them if it would allow students to remove masks. The mask requirement would not change so no action was taken.

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

Seth Cook inquired what are the class sizes this year compared to last year at the middle and elementary school. Both principals replied that the class sizes are lower.

Scott Canning expressed his thoughts on the benefits of athletics.

Heather Strohm asked if teachers or students will be moving. GES teachers will move, GMS students will move in small cohorts and GHS students will move around for classes.

Heather Strohm asked if the remote classes be recorded. The answer was no.

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Adam Mini expressed concern that Freshmen Jumpstart is being dropped. Anthony Sperazzo clarified the plan to incorporate the Jumpstart program into the first day freshmen will be in the high school (September 11th). There will be no other grade levels in the school on that day.

Becky Plourde asked with the reduction of requirements for seniors, will they still be able to march at graduation? The answer was yes.

Seth Cook asked if there is a confirmed case on Wednesday, what happens on Thursday. Superintendent Beitler replied that we don't have it all outlined yet but we are putting the pieces together. DHHS would be involved immediately to provide guidance.

Louise Jagusch inquired what does sanitize mean. Ken Mulleavey explained the process that the custodians will use during the day to sanitize and the process of disinfecting at night. Gretchen Gandini asked that the MSDS sheets on the product that is going to be used be put out for public view.

Elaina Costa asked about 5th grade Jumpstart and the bus routes. Superintendent Beitler replied that the 5th grades will do their Jumpstart on September 11th and they will be the only grade level in the building that day. The bus company is working on the routes.

Gretchen Gandini stated that this is a unique time and encouraged staff and parents to continue to keep the lines of communication open.

At 9:13 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 9:48 p.m. the Board reconvened public session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary