

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
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**The Gilford School Board held a meeting on September 14, 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 Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Esther Kennedy, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo 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 informed the public they could email comments to [questions@sau73.org](mailto:questions@sau73.org).

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board approved the minutes from the June 1, 2020 meeting with corrections. 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 abstained from the vote.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting with corrections.

**Public Comment**

Chair McDonough asked if there was any public comment. There being none, Chair McDonough closed public comment.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Beitler highlighted his report as follows:

**Student Learning**

The state fall testing window for NHSAS will open on September 22, 2020. Schools did not assess students in the spring due to remote learning. The NH Department of Education is having school districts assess students this fall. As an example, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be administered the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade assessment. The 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the school day SAT on September 23, 2020 at GHS. School districts are scheduled to assess students in the spring of 2021.

The technology integrators have been providing support for the remote teachers and making sure that the remote learning experience is a schedule of classes this fall. The remote learning experience is multi-grade in the elementary and middle school. At the high school, the remote learning experience is multi-level and some multi-grade. The school counselors have been working hard to make schedules that fit the need of each individual learner.

**Families and Communities**

Superintendent Beitler stated that we are working with the Partnership for Public Health to offer flu vaccine clinics for our students at GHS/GMS on October 5<sup>th</sup> and GES on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

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Rick Acquilano has been able to secure schedules for high school and middle school fall teams.

Jonathan Dupuis, Food Service Director, has worked on the kitchen and cafeteria spaces for the workers and the student's safety. Based on the US Department of Agriculture's waiver, we will be offering free breakfast and lunch to all students in our schools. There will be pick up times for remote families if they would like to participate.

#### Resource Management

The town picked up the picnic tables from the beach and deliver them to GHS/GMS this past week.

We will be offering online ticket sales for our fall performances offered by the high school Performing Arts Department.

We currently have two staff openings. There is a night custodian and a paraprofessional position open.

The budget process has started in the schools. Amie Leigh and Superintendent Beitler will begin to meet with Principals and Department Heads this month. Administration is scheduled to present to the School Board on October 20, 21 and 22.

Chair McDonough inquired how many tickets would be sold for the fall performances. Anthony Sperazzo replied that the auditorium seats 750 and he believes they are going to limit it to a 4<sup>th</sup> of the capacity which would be approximately 200.

Superintendent Beitler presented a letter from Anthony Sperazzo requesting the Board's approval to close out three accounts because they are no longer active and have a zero balance.

- Class of 2019
- Community Programs
- Field Trip

Gretchen Gandini motioned to close out the three accounts as outlined in Anthony's letter. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos which passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **Principal Reports**

Danielle Bolduc presented her report and highlighted the following:

- GES welcomed back 307 learners.
- The staggered start proved to be an excellent way to ease learners into new safety protocol.
- Kindergarten teachers sent home welcome videos to their families.
- New drop off and pick up loops worked well.
- Staff is in a good place.
- On Labor Day weekend, volunteers put the drip edge and patio on the sugar shack.

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- Their biggest challenge is keeping learners socially distant outside.

Peter Sawyer presented his report and highlighted the following:

- The first couple of days of school went well.
- Students did a phenomenal job of keeping their masks on.
- Social distancing was more of a challenge.
- Parents can drop off students in either the “bus loop” or the regular drop-off/pick-up loop.
- GMS welcomed back 334 learners.

Chair McDonough asked that Principals pass on a thank you to the staff for all the extra effort they have done to accommodate remote learners.

Anthony Sperazzo present his report and highlighted the following:

- Anthony thanked the Board for the staggered opening.
- Administration met with each class to go over new protocols and safety precautions.
- The new moto for the year is GHS Together – Compassion, Connection, Perseverance.
- 85 students have chosen remote instruction.
- The SAT will be offered to this year’s seniors on September 23<sup>rd</sup> during school.
- The PSAT will take place for juniors on October 14<sup>th</sup> during school.
- NEASC on-site visit is rescheduled for October 18-21 but will be conducted remotely.

Discussion ensued regarding the Jumpstart programs in each school. All three principals said it went very well, no negative comments and very positive feedback from all involved.

Chris McDonough stated that the 200 people in the auditorium for the Performing Arts shows seems reasonable but is concerned regarding the limiting of 4 fan tickets for each players in a gym that has an occupancy rating of 800 spectators. Fan base is extremely important for players and he asked that administration reconsider this and make it 25% occupancy, consistent with the performing arts. Discussion ensued. Anthony Sperazzo will meet with Rick Acquilano and take a look at how they can social distance participants.

### **Business Administrator’s Report**

Amie Leigh presented her report and highlighted the following:

Facilities – The MEP and Meadows property studies contract is currently being reviewed by legal. Once the contract has been settled, project dates can be set – hopefully by the end of this week.

Business Office – The DOE-25 and MS-25 documents were submitted on time. Preparation for the 21-22 budget has begun. The approved budget transfers for teacher class coverage and additional facilities position from the August meeting as well as the regular annual transfers for track changes will be finalized for the October Board meeting. The RFP for the van in the 20-21 budget was submitted to four different dealerships

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for participation. The RFP closed on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and there was no response from any NH dealers. We received one bid from a dealer in Massachusetts and one from a Maine dealer. We are going with the dealer in Maine and they will deliver the van to us. Amie has spoken with Primex as well as the state police regarding requirements for the van and is working on procedures.

Chris McDonough inquired if Amie has had discussion and guidance with the administrators regarding the 21-22 budget process. Amie stated that she is hoping for a level funded budget.

**Policy Review**

First Reading

KFA – Public Conduct on School Property

KFB – Community Use of School Facilities

KFB-R – Regulations Governing Community Use of Facilities & Fields

ACAC – Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process

GBAA – Sexual Harassment – Employees

JBAA – Sexual Harassment – Students

Discussion ensued on the policies. All policies were moved forward and will be on the October 5<sup>th</sup> agenda for second reading.

Second Reading

JICA – Student Dress Code.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the policy. Kyle Sanborn seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote. The updated policy will be in the student handbooks.

**Public Comment**

Heather Strohm commented that the CDC has issued new guidelines against wearing ventilated masks. Ms. Strohm stated that gators also are not recommended. She also commented that handwashing was not being actively promoted in the middle school.

Amber Latorre inquired about class pictures for remote learners.

Erica Brough inquired about drop off at the middle school. Peter Sawyer clarified the procedure.

Chris McDonough asked what the policy was on ventilated masks. Superintendent Beitler stated that we have purchased masks with ventilators but are now taking them out of circulation based on the new guidelines and replacing them with cloth masks. We have not heard anything on gators but he will look into it.

Principals shared the options for pictures for remote learners. They can come in on pictures day, attend re-take day or send in a picture of their learner.

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There being no further comments, Chair McDonough closed public comment.

At 7:12 p.m., on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A3II (c) 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.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board reconvened public session.

On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Malcolm MacLeod the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos  
School Board Secretary