

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
PAGE 1 of 5**

The Gilford School Board held a meeting on February 1, 2021 in the Gilford High School Library. Present were Board members Chris McDonough, Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, and Karen Thurston. Gilmanton representatives were Malcolm McLeod and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, 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 comments@sau73.org.

Public Comment

Chair McDonough opened the public comment session. There being no comments, Chair McDonough closed the public comment session.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting with a 7-0 vote.

Student Presentation

Principal Sperazzo introduced GHS teacher, Dan Caron, and stated that Dan has made numerous connections in the community to grow our internship program as the College and Career Readiness Coordinator. GHS has partnered with several businesses this year to provide students the opportunity to learn about career paths firsthand. The students are not paid but they do earn ½ a credit.

Dan outlined the program for the Board then introduced two students who are currently in the program. Mady MacDonald interned with Michael Gagne at HomeSmart First Choice Realty and is working at their Tilton Office. Mady shared her experiences with the Board and was very happy with the program. Angela Bonnell interned with Caroline Snyder at the Margate working in event planning. Angela shared her experiences as well and was also very happy with the program.

The Board thanked Dan, Mady and Angela for their presentation.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beitler referred to his report and highlighted the following:

Student Learning

The District has developed the Portrait of a Learner, identifying the four attributes - self-direct, collaborate, innovate and critically think. We have developed assessment rubrics with teachers. The next step is to implement with students and parents. The curriculum and competency assessment goal is something that we have done a great deal of work towards accomplishing. Superintendent Beitler is hopeful this work will begin to flourish again in the summer of 2021. We have purchased and launched our new Student Information

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
PAGE 2 of 5**

System (ALMA) this year. Our next step is to have staff training each other on their experiences with the gradebook and other features of the system.

Families and Communities

The extension of the AREA agreement with Gilmanton has been approved by the voters in both communities. Administrators and School Board members in both communities are committed to working collaboratively. The relationship is strong. A communication plan does need to be developed. We have been posting information on Facebook, the high school is using Twitter, and the two accounts are connected. This is a unique school year and while each principal continues to send out weekly updates, we are communicating regularly about the cases of Covid-19 in our school community.

Superintendent Beitler shared update #33 from the NH Department of Health and Human Services. This updates the quarantining guidelines for people that have been vaccinated and have been infected within the last 90 days with Covid-19 as follows:

- 14 days after the second vaccine, people do not need to quarantine after exposure or travel outside of New England.
- 90 days after being diagnosed by a PCR or antigen test, people do not need to quarantine after exposure or travel outside of New England.

Superintendent Beitler recommended the District adopt these guidelines from DHHS.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the adoption of the new guidelines from DHHS. Malcolm MacLeod seconded the motion with was approved unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Beitler stated that in the near future he thinks it is important for the School Board and administration to start having conversations about what next school year (2021-2022) programming will look like. He believes if the vaccination roll out continues to be strong and there are no new virus threats, we would want to focus on in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. At some point, it is important to share that information with families so they can plan accordingly.

Gretchen Gandini made the motion to plan for full-time in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Discussion ensued questioning if there is a mandate to continue to offer remote learning. Superintendent will look into it. Gretchen Gandini amended her motion to include “while following state mandates.” The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Resource Management

The Leadership Team has worked hard to meet the School Board’s expectation for proposed budgets. We have continued to offer opportunities for the public to provide feedback and input through the budget process. Our work with the Budget Committee has been collegial. The Budget Committee and School Board’s proposed budgets have been in alignment for the last several years. The School Board has committed to putting money away in capital accounts to offset future maintenance projects in the District. The Leadership Team has balanced the staffing needs with enrollment. The Leadership Team has been committed to the review of each position as staff have retired or moved on.

GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
PAGE 3 of 5

Safety and Facilities.

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that we have continued to work with the Partnership for Public Health. Much of the work this year has been related to Covid-19. Our schools have been connected to suicide prevention, vaping and drug use information. We have used the NAMI Connect program to provide required suicide prevention training to all of our staff this year. The Emergency Planning Committee continues to meet on a regular basis with the Gilford Police and Gilford Fire to plan for safety drills and to continue updating our plan.

Superintendent Beitler shared an estimate for the elementary sewer line that needs to have a sleeve inserted. The total lining cost is \$8,610.00. We are jet cleaning the sewer line twice a week right now so we do not get a backup.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to approve the \$8,610.00 for the sewer sleeve at the elementary school. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion. Gretchen Gandini asked if we had received more than just this one bid. Superintendent Beitler stated the issue was found while Eastern Pipe was doing work on the line and therefore supplied the quote. Chair McDonough stated that Eastern Pipe's original quote was significantly lower than the other quotes to do the work on the line. The motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

Discussion ensued over Superintendent Beitler's handout for the Deliberative Session. Kyle Sanborn clarified that residents need to attend in person to vote.

Chair McDonough asked the Board members to submit the Superintendent's evaluation to him within the next week.

Principal Reports

Danielle Bolduc presented her report as written.

Peter Sawyer presented his report as written and highlighted a very special guest speaker just prior to the Holiday Break. Mr. Meyer's son, Trevor, had conferences with each class all the way from the Middle East.

Peter also shared the current competency based report card with the Board. Discussion ensued. The discussion was not so much the competencies themselves but moving away from traditional letter grades. Some of the questions included the following:

- How do I know when my child is in danger of not meeting a competency?
- How long should it take them to improve from approaching to meeting?
- Where should my child be now in references to each competency? Should they be at AC now or MC?
- Why don't we offer both traditional letter grades and the proficiency scales on the report card?
- How do I know if my child is completing the necessary assignments and/or putting in the proper effort?
- Better explanation of the proficiency scales
- How do we indicate projection towards MC or EC?
- How do we bridge proficiency scales in the middle school to letter grades in the high school?
- There is some confusion as to why, at parent conferences, parents were told that their child was doing great but ended up with an AC on the report card.

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
PAGE 4 of 5**

Peter reiterated that in talking with area principals who have gone through this transition, the first year is rough but will get better once all stakeholders understand this more. He said students are still getting the same quality of education that they have always had.

Anthony Sperazzo presented his report as written. Anthony invited the Board to the National Honor Society Induction that will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. Anthony also told the Board that the New England Association for Schools and Colleges finalized their accreditation report. GHS has “Met the Standard” on all six foundational elements in order to be granted accreditation for the next ten years. Gilford High School is one of the first schools in the country to go through this new process of accreditation, which focuses more on an inward look at practices. Anthony commended the faculty and staff.

Anthony also shared an email from Susan Dymont, Gatehouse Guidance staff member, to inquire if we will host exchange students for the 21-22 school year. The Board had no concerns and was in favor of hosting the exchange students next school year.

Business Administrator’s Report

Amie Leigh presented her report as written and shared the Meadows Structural Study and the HS/MS Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Study. In future months, she would like to propose other areas of discussion regarding the exterior of the Meadows and the MEP Study. Amie would like to have a priority list of items nearing end of life for discussion as well. Karen Thurston suggested inviting the members of the Meadows Committee to the discussions.

First Reading Policies

- KB – Title I Family Engagement. After discussion, this policy will go back to the Policy Committee.
- KA – School, Community and Home Relations
- JEC- Manifest Education Hardship
- JECA – Change of School Assignment/Best Interest

Second Reading Policies

- EBCF – Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies – Motion by Gretchen Gandini to approve and a second from Jeanin Onos. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.
- ADC – Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds – Motion to approve by Jeanin Onos and a second from Gretchen Gandini. Motion passes with a 7-0 vote.
- GBED – Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds – Motion by Jeanin Onos to approve and a second by Karen Thurston. Motion passes with a 7-0 vote.
- JICG - Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession in and on School Facilities and Grounds – Motion to approve by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.
- IMGA – Service Animals – Motion to approve by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Chair McDonough opened the second public comment section. There being no comments, Chair McDonough closed public comment.

GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
PAGE 5 of 5

At 7:19 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 (c). 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 McLeod, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary