

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021  
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**The Gilford School Board held a meeting on March 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](mailto:comments@sau73.org).

**Public Comment**

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

**Public Hearing**

Chair McDonough opened the Public Hearing regarding acceptance of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II. Amie Leigh stated the allocation amounts are still in draft form so we do not know the exact number yet. The draft amount of allocation is \$554,264.00.

Gretchen Gandini motioned to accept up to \$560,000 as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos and unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Beitler thanked Malcolm MacLeod and Chris McDonough for their many years of service to the School Board and presented each of them with a gift of maple syrup from Gilford Elementary School. Gretchen Gandini stated that when people look back on Chris McDonough's service to the Board, they would say that he was an exceptional Board member.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Beitler referred to his report and highlighted the following:

**Student Learning**

Planning has begun for third trimester. State assessments will begin in March.

**Families and Communities**

Superintendent Beitler shared the 2021-2022 approved calendar. The DOE sample calendar as well as the Laconia calendar has moved February vacation one week later to February 28 - March 3, 2022. He has discussed this with GEA and the Gilmanton Superintendent briefly. Superintendent Beitler recommended aligning the calendar with Laconia for our Huot students.

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On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board voted unanimously to move the vacation week to February 28 – March 4, 2022 and the March 9 early release to March 16.

**Resource Management**

Recruitment for open positions based on retirements and staff resignations has begun. A new administrative assistant has been hired for the elementary school.

**Safety and Facilities**

The server at the SAU office is no longer working. This server was for the security cameras at the SAU office. We will be connecting our SAU security cameras back to the new elementary server. The cameras that were no longer working have been replaced. Superintendent Beitler asked for the Board's consideration to add access control to the SAU main entrance door, similar to the schools and the Meadows access control. The cost of the project would be \$1,800.00. This recommendation is outlined in the 2018 Building Security Assessment report conducted by the State of NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Chair McDonough asked where the money would come from. Brenda McGee responded that it would come from the Technology Budget, equipment and contracted services.

Karen Thurston motioned to approve the \$1,800.00 to add the access control to the SAU office. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Gandini. Discussion ensued.

Karen Thurston stated she often wondered why the SAU was the only building that was not done when we did all the schools and Meadows. If the schools are in lock down, the SAU is the only other place to go.

Kyle Sanborn asked if the SAU office was high risk. He understood the need for it in schools but most public buildings are not locked. Karen Thurston said the fire department is locked and you have to buzz in, as is the police department.

Michelle Heyman stated that visitors have to go through two buzzers to get to the Gilmanton SAU office.

Gretchen Gandini stated that at the town offices you cannot get access to the computers or office space. Kyle Sanborn clarified that it is more about protecting confidential information.

The Board voted on the motion, which passed, with a 5-0-2 vote with Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstaining.

**Quarantine Guidelines**

Kyle Sanborn stated that he received an email from a parent regarding the quarantine period. Discussion ensued.

Kyle Sanborn motioned to adopt CDC guidelines for quarantine after travel outside of New England to 7 days with a negative test. Gretchen Gandini opinioned that following state guidelines has served us well.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the adoption of the new travel guidelines from the NH Health and Human Services. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously.

**Families First Corona Response Act (FFCRA) & Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL)**

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Superintendent Beitler stated that at the January Board meeting, the Board extended the Families First Corona Response Act (FFCRA) & Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) until the end of the second trimester, March 26 and asked that it be revisited at the March meeting.

Discussion ensued. Most staff have been able to work remotely. The staff that is most affected is the food service workers and custodians.

On a motion by Chris McDonough and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to extend the leave until the April Board meeting. Jeanin Onos asked Amie Leigh if she could bring an estimated cost to the Board in April.

**Principal Reports**

Danielle Bolduc presented her report as written highlighting the start of maple tree tapping.

Peter Sawyer presented his report as written highlighting the Silver Hawk Award Winners.

Anthony Sperazzo presented his report as written highlighting student achievement and winter carnival.

Anthony Sperazzo asked for the Board's approval to waive Gilford School Board policy IKF (Graduation requirements) requiring all seniors to complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service. Due to COVID-19, students are not being placed in the community to complete their hours. Many internships have been canceled as well.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Kyle Sanborn, the Board approved waiving the community service requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Anthony Sperazzo sought the Board's approval to waive remote students from taking additional courses when they complete their graduation requirements. Chair McDonough inquired if in-person students would be treated the same way as remote students. Anthony replied, yes, they would. Parents are in favor of this request.

Kyle Sanborn motioned to waive all students from having to take additional courses if they have met the requirements for graduation in 2021. The motion was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed unanimously.

Anthony Sperazzo sought the Board's approval to compensate two staff members an extra eleventh of their salary to continue to offer remote instruction through the online learning platform. Chris McDonough motioned to approve the request, which was seconded by Jeanin Onos. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Amie Leigh stated that this expense would qualify for COVID reimbursement.

Peter Sawyer sought the Board's approval to compensate three staff members an extra 5<sup>th</sup> of the salary to continue to offer remote learning at GMS. Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the request, which was seconded by Karen Thurston. The motion passed unanimously. Michelle Heyman and Malcolm MacLeod abstained from the vote.

**Business Administrator's Report**

Amie Leigh presented her report as written. Discussion ensued regarding the \$15 per hour minimum wage increase and impact on the District.

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**First Reading Policies**

- JKAA – Use of Restraints
- JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries
- EBBB – Accident Reports

**Second Reading Policies**

- KB – Title I Family Engagement - unanimously approved on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini.
- KA – School, Community and Home Relations - unanimously approved on a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos.
- JEC- Manifest Education Hardship – withdrawal unanimously approved on a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos.
- JECA – Change of School Assignment/Best Interest - withdrawal unanimously approved on a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos.
- JCA – Change of Class or School Assignment/Best Interests and Manifest Hardship – unanimously approved on a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos.

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

At 7:15 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.

At 8:01 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session. On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Kyle Sanborn, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos  
School Board Secretary