

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on April 5, 2021 in the Gilford High School Library. Present were Board members Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Karen Thurston. Gilmanton representatives were Johnna McKenna and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo, Tim Goggin and Amie Leigh. Danielle Bolduc joined remotely.

Opening

School Board Vice-Chair Gretchen Gandini called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Election of Officers

Jeanin Onos nominated Gretchen Gandini for Chair, which was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed with a unanimous vote.

Karen Thurston nominated Jeanin Onos for Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Chair Gandini and passed with a unanimous vote.

Chair Gandini nominated Kyle Sanborn for secretary, which was seconded by Karen Thurston and passed with a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with corrections on a 5-0-2 vote with Audra Kelly and Johnna McKenna abstaining from the vote.

Committee Assignments

The Board discussed committee assignments as follows:

Policy: Jeanin Onos & Kyle Sanborn

Budget Committee Representative: Gretchen Gandini

Meadows Committee Representative: Karen Thurston

Wellness Committee Representative: Karen Thurston

Warrant signing: Audra Kelly, Karen Thurston and Kyle Sanborn

CIP Representative: Karen Thurston

HUOT Liaison: Kyle Sanborn

Gilmanton High School Options Committee: Gretchen Gandini & Audra Kelly

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session.

Skip Murphy commented on Policy JBAB. He questioned the language in the policy from “shall” to “should.” Chair Gandini said she would send it back to the Policy Committee for review.

Kendall Jones, a senior at GHS, found a mistake in her transcript and wanted the Board to be aware of the issue.

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Kristin Snow commented on the transcripts as well.

Chair Gandini asked Anthony Sperazzo for a full update on the issue as soon as possible. Kyle Sanborn asked Anthony Sperazzo when he was first made aware of the issue. Anthony stated that he spoke with Kristin Snow on Wednesday or Thursday for the first time.

Riley McDonough requested consideration to allow students from other schools to attend the prom.

There being no more comments, Chair Gandini closed the public comment session.

Student Presentation:

Anthony introduced Reece Sadler who won the SIFMA Foundation's Fall 2020 InvestWrite competition. Reece explained her motives for her winning essay on how challenges can create opportunities in the global economy and in life. The Board congratulated Reece on her award.

Champion for Children

Superintendent Beitler stated that the Champion for Children award is for distinguished public service for the benefit of children. Gilford administrators nominate a Gilford resident each year. This year Gilford's nominee is Scott Piddington. Superintendent Beitler presented Scott with a gift and presented the Champion for Children plaque with his name on it.

Principal Reports

Danielle Bolduc presented her report as written and highlighted the Gilford Summer Camp Program. Karen Thurston asked if they would have tents this year. Katie Bryant stated they did purchase pop-up tents last summer. Jeanin Onos asked if we were expecting any additional COVID costs this year. Katie responded that they do not have any additional costs that they cannot afford and hope to offer scholarships this year.

Peter Sawyer presented his report as written highlighting the summer academies. Kyle Sanborn commented that he would like the social media safety presentation to be more than a possibility, as it would be great for parents to see it. Peter is working with the PTA on the presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding the summer academies. Chair Gandini asked if we add other academies, how we are covering the cost. Peter Sawyer explained that the COVID grant would cover it for this year. Superintendent Beitler said the SR2 money that the Board approved last month was received and some of that money is for "learning loss." The grant goes through 2023 so it could be used for multiple summers. Jeanin Onos asked about a remote option. Peter Sawyer stated that part of the purpose of the academies is to get students who have been remote back into school.

Anthony Sperazzo introduced representatives from the junior class. Catherine Stow, Ava Bondaz, Avery Marshall and Brady McIntire presented their 2021 Junior Prom Proposal to the Board and highlighted the following:

- Location would be GHS on May 14 - Prom march at 6:00 p.m. - Prom 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- 2 DJs lined up
- Contigiani's Catering, 2 students per table

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- Total of 200 students
- 3 cohorts - Hour rotation between DJs and dinner using GHS & GMS gyms and cafeterias
- Face masks and 3 foot rule

Discussion ensued regarding the proposal. The Board thanked the students for their presentation and hard work to put the plan in place.

Anthony Sperazzo introduced representatives from the senior class. Bryce Cote, John Mitchell and Kayla Loureiro presented their non-traditional class trip proposal. They would like to have a celebratory bonfire at the Meadows on May 21, 2021 and highlighted the following:

- Set up from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Event 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Two food trucks.
- Fire and police would be present for safety/security.
- Games to include corn hole, capture the flag, bottle horse shoes, spike ball and a dunk tank.
- COVID guidelines and contact tracing would be followed.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the bonfire which would be on the side/back field that no one uses. They would like it to become a Gilford tradition going forward.

Anthony Sperazzo presented his report as written and sought Board approval on two items

Anthony requested acceptance of a HP z6100 plotter from JD Designs in Ashland. This donation is valued at about \$2500 and would be donated to the Engineering and Technology teacher, Dan Caron. Karen Thurston motioned to accept the HP z6100 plotter from JD Designs. The motion was seconded by Johnna McKenna and passed with a unanimous vote.

Anthony sought the Board's approval to start a new mountain biking club. The advisor will be John Allwein, new math teacher. If approved, District funding of the program will be phased in as follows pending budget approval:

- 25% - year 4
- 50% - year 5
- 75% - year 6
- 100% - year 7

The estimated cost would be approximately \$500 in total. Kyle Sanborn motioned to authorize the startup of the GHS mountain biking club. The motion was seconded by Chair Gandini who applauded John Allwein for his efforts for bringing this lifelong activity to the table. It was a unanimous vote.

Gilford Athletics – Return to Play – Spring 2021

Rick Acquilano presented the Return to Play plan and answered questions from the Board. Discussion ensued regarding masks and following guidelines. On May 13, the NHIAA council is going to revisit the guidelines.

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Discussion ensued regarding hosting the state track meet for Division III. The District would be paid to host the event and would also be reimbursed for expenses.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Beitler asked for the Board's consideration in opening up field trips to NH destinations. Discussion ensued regarding the expense of 25 students per bus. Chair Gandini stated that the field studies line has not been used.

Karen Thurston motioned to allow field trips within the State of NH. Kyle Sanborn seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

Superintendent Beitler referred to Update #38 from the Department of Health and Human Services. The update references grades K-12 Back to School Guidance, which includes information about using VLACs as an alternative educational option for families considering remote instruction. He would like to put information out to families regarding next school year offering VLACs as Gilford School District's remote instructional model if families are interested in continuing with that model.

Karen Thurston motioned to offer VLACs as a remote option for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos and passed with a unanimous vote.

Superintendent Beitler stated that in the latest NH DHHS guidance, there is no longer a recommended quarantine for travel in the United States. Students and staff that travel should be screening themselves upon return to work/school, staying home if they are not feeling well and getting tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

International and cruise ship travel requires a 10-day quarantine with the option on day 6 or 7 to test out of the quarantine with a negative PCR test.

- No quarantine needed for people that are vaccinated and 14 days has gone by.
- No quarantine for individuals that have been infected with COVID-19 with proof of a positive test in the prior 90 days.

For contact tracing in a school setting, it is recommended that we use 3 feet or less for an accumulated 10 minutes of time. This is a change, we have been using 6 feet. We have not seen any new guidance on family members of a positive case. Family members are a 20-day quarantine. We have not seen any new guidance on bus capacity. We still have one learner per seat on the bus. Superintendent Beitler recommended the Board adopt the new guidance regarding travel.

Jeanin Onos motioned to adopt the NH DHHS guidelines with the caveat that the travel be within the 50 United States, effective April 6, 2021. Michelle Heyman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Superintendent Beitler stated that we have extended Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) from January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021 and at the last meeting it was decided to bring this topic back to the Board to see if we would extend this benefit through June 30, 2021. Superintendent Beitler explained the American Rescue Plan "The Act" and stated it is something that could affect the extension of this benefit. Amie Leigh stated that \$60,000 was spent in gross payroll from September – December and \$20,000 from January through

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March. Amie stated we are not required to participate in the new act, it is voluntary. Discussion ensued on the following:

- This money was not covered under the grant
- We were required to offer FFCRA September – December
- Some people who had COVID are still not able to get vaccinated
- If staff are close contact at school, they will have to quarantine for 14 days.

Karen Thurston motioned to extend the FFCRA until the next Board meeting on May 3, 2021. Michelle Heyman seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-2 vote. Kyle Sanborn and Jeanin Onos opposed the motion.

Outside Groups Using Facilities

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that outside groups are requesting to use the facilities. Discussion ensued on the following:

- Do we have them use our guidelines or the guidelines of the organization that oversees the group?
- Beneficial for the community as a whole.
- The facility use forms now include language that the group would be responsible for PPE.
- Areas would have to be re-sanitized.
- The auditorium currently has rows roped off so they can only use so many rows.
- If we are setting limits on our activities, would we set limits for outside groups?
- We would adopt DHHS capacity guidelines and theatre guidance.
- Tack on a small fee for extra COVID cleaning

Kyle Sanborn motioned to allow outside groups providing that they are following state DHHS guidelines. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous vote.

Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh presented her report as written.

Amie asked for Board approval on offering an additional life insurance policy that employees in the teacher and administrator group can purchase. An additional \$50,000 life insurance policy can be purchased by the employee for \$72.00 per year as long as we have 20 people enroll. Discussion ensued. There would be no cost to the District.

Jeanin Onos motioned to allow the offering of the additional \$50,000 to be purchased by employees at no cost to the District. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meadows Property

Amie Leigh stated that the Meadows Committee met and discussed the findings of the structural study by Fisher Engineering. In summary, the structural study strictly looked at the floors, walls, roof structures and foundations. The engineer divided the property into 6 locations. In each location, he has made a recommendation of repairs all requiring adding to or replacing existing roof structures.

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The Meadows Committee discussed the information provided and would like to proceed with the architectural work required to determine a cost estimate of the work needed to be done to add the bathrooms. The \$25,000 for the architect is in the current years budget. The committee would like to see the classroom repairs also included in the architect estimate. Discussion ensued on the following:

- Would any cost be covered under the COVID grant?
- Has the committee explored costs associated in doing something else with the building?
- The number one priority has always been the bathrooms.
- The deed states the “use of land” has to be for the Gilford School District.
- Arrange a tour of the building for the Board

Superintendent Beitler said that the report states the building is not structurally sound and asked if we should share the report with the fire department. He also inquired, what do we allow to happen in the building? Chair Gandini asked if the town could assess the building. Chair Gandini opinioned that it is not a wise use of funds right now. The next Meadows Committee meeting is Wednesday, April 14th.

Jeanin Onos motioned to send the conversation of Meadows buildings back to the Meadows Committee for further review. The motion was seconded by Kyle Sanborn and passed with a unanimous vote.

Policy – Second Reading

- JKAA – Use of Restraints – approved unanimously on a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Jeanin Onos
- JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries – approved unanimously on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston.
- EBBB – Accident Reports – approved unanimously on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston.

Public Comment

Jade Wood commended the Board for opening the schools safely and continuing to educate students. She commented on Superintendent’s Beitler message to parents regarding a threat.

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

At 8:32 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-A:3II (c). A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Gretchen Gandini, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Audra Kelly, yes; Johnna McKenna, yes.

At 9:44 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session. On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Sanborn, School Board Secretary