

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on October 5, 2020 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 MacLeod 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 6:40 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting. Chair McDonough informed the public they could email comments to comments@sau73.org.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board approved the minutes from the September 14, 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, yes.

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

Surveys will go out to parents this month to start planning for the second trimester. Depending on the choices that families make, we may need to make adjustments to our staffing in either one of the instructional models. There could be a need for more funding to support the staffing needs in our schools. The next transition will happen in December. The number of cases in Gilford and Gilmanton remain low so he does not see a need for any changes in our instructional models at this time.

Families and Communities

The Leadership Team has talked about families traveling over the holidays and the 14-day quarantine. The Commissioner of Education has talked to Superintendents about the quarantine time, but they have not heard of any movement on the length of this quarantine. Friends of Belmont Football have submitted a letter to the Shaker Superintendent, Athletic Director and Rick Acquilano and Superintendent Beitler regarding the cooperative football agreement between the two school districts. They are asking for financial relief and a possible pay per player option.

Resource Management

Superintendent Beitler asked the Board if they wanted to offer a Google Meet option for the community during the budget work sessions. The Board agreed that they would like folks to have the option to attend via Google Meet.

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Safety and Facilities

We have been asked to connect the SRO to our computer network so that SRO Raxter can offer DARE remotely if we go into a remote learning model again. If SRO Raxter joins our network, we would have her sign the acceptable use policy (AUP). The AUP talks about not communicating with students through social media and she does have an Instagram account for students to reach out to her. Superintendent Beitler is seeking Board approval to allow this practice.

Discussion ensued regarding the request to allow the SRO access to the network. The Board felt it was important for students to be able to reach to the SRO and agreed to create a network email account of SRO@sau73.org that could be used by the current SRO officer as well as future SRO officers. The Board agreed that the Instagram account was an avenue to reach students. Superintendent Beitler stated that the SRO's supervisor, Chris Jacques has access to the Instagram account as well.

Discussion ensued regarding the request from Friends of Belmont Football to pay for play. There are 55 total students on the team, 6 are from Belmont. The affect on the budget would be \$15,000 if we opted out of the MOU with Shaker. Rick Acquilano has petitioned the NHIAA twice to allow us to continue to offer football to Belmont without effecting our division status. Both petitions were denied. If we accept the pay to play request, the NHIAA would count the entire Belmont High School enrollment of 450 students which keeps us in Division II. Superintendent Beitler will explore the options further with Superintendent Tursi and Friends of Belmont Football.

Discussion ensued regarding the 14-day quarantine requirement. We will continue to follow DHHS guidelines and continue with the 14-day quarantine requirement.

Principal Reports

Danielle Bolduc presented her report and highlighted the following:

- Fourth graders will participate in the required NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS) in Mathematics and English LA/Literacy on October 6th & 7th.
- Virtual learner led conferences will be held on October 30th for all learners.
- Staff participated in a suicide prevention training presented by Laurie Belanger
- Gilford PTA is hosting a hike-a-thon fundraising event that goes through October 10th.
- There were 16 withdrawals to home school.

Peter Sawyer presented his report and highlighted the following:

- Remote learning has gotten off to a good start.
- Homework Group resumed on September 21st
- Staff participated in varying workshop on September 30 including Alma, Google, Screencastify.
- Drop off and pick up are going well.

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Superintendent Beitler referred to a memo from Peter Sawyer regarding donations from Hannaford's Helps Program. Four donations totaling \$5519 were made to the middle school. The money is to be used for things that support students that is not in the budget. Gretchen Gandini asked if we could use the money towards the water bottle fillers. Peter Sawyer replied yes as those are directly for students.

Kyle Sanborn offered his appreciation of all staff, stating that Gilford is the envy of many other School Districts.

Chair McDonough stated that the difference in class sizes between the middle and elementary school is a little concerning.

Business Administrator's Report

Amie Leigh shared policy DFA Investment and DIA Fund Balance with the Board. These policies need to be reaffirmed every year. The RSA changed regarding the allowable fund balance retention from 2.5% to 5%. A warrant article would need to be passed to approve a change in the retention amount.

On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to reaffirm Investment Policy DFA.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to reaffirm Fund Balance Policy DIA.

Policy Review

First Reading

GBEAB – Mandatory Code of Conduct Reporting – All Employees

GBEB – Staff Conduct

JLCG – Exclusion of Students Who Present a Hazard

EBCG – Communicable & Infectious Diseases

EBCF – Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies

GBGAA – HIV/AIDS

Discussion ensued on the policies. Policy EBCG will go back to the Policy Committee. Policies GBEAB, JLCG, EBCF and GBGAA will move forward to second reading.

Second Reading

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy KFA – Public Conduct on School Property.

On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy KFB – Community Use of School Facilities.

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On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Michelle Heyman, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy KFB-R – Regulations Governing Community Use of Facilities & Fields.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Kyle Sanborn, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy ACAC – Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process

Karen Thurston motioned to approve policy GBAA – Sexual Harassment – Employees/Staff which was seconded by Gretchen Gandini. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy ACAC-R – Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form.

On a motion Gretchen Gandini and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to withdraw policies GBAA Sexual Harassment Employees and JBAA Sexual Harassment Students.

Public Comment

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

Karen Thurston asked how the lunch program offering lunch to remote students is going. Superintendent Beitler replied that there are a few families in the program and all students can take advantage of a free breakfast and lunch regardless of their free and reduced status through a USDA program. The program is in response to COVID 19. Parents still need to complete the application for free and reduced to maintain a seamless service for breakfast and lunch when the USDA funding expires. It is due to expire December 31st or earlier if funding runs out. Superintendent Beitler has put communication out to parents and will do so again.

At 7:55 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-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 8:12 p.m. the Board reconvened public session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanin Onos
School Board Secretary