

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
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**The Gilford School Board held a meeting on June 8, 2021 in the Gilford High School Auditorium. Present were Board members Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Karen Thurston. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Danielle Bolduc, Sean Walsh, Peter Sawyer, Anthony Sperazzo, Ken Mulleavey and Amie Leigh.**

**Opening**

School Board Chair Gretchen Gandini called the meeting to order at 8:57 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with corrections with a 5-0 vote.

**Public Comment**

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session. Being no public comment, Chair Gandini closed public comment.

**Superintendent Report**

Student Learning

Both schools have advertised summer enrichment opportunities for learners. We have also expanded the summer academic offerings at the middle school and expanded the title one summer programming at the elementary school. This is to support student learning and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Families and Communities

We are planning for K-8 literacy work this summer. We plan to have three of our teachers lead this work for other teachers. The focus will be word work and reading.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Sununu issued a new Emergency Order extending the state of emergency through June 11, 2021. The Board has been meeting in person, but providing remote access for the public. Superintendent Beitler is seeking direction from the Board stating that this feels like the time to allow our remote access to expire as well. We have had little to no participation remotely.

Resource Management

Superintendent Beitler provided a spreadsheet to the Board of proposed expenditures for the ESSER II grant money, (\$550,000). It has taken close to a month to have the April items approved through the State's grant management system. He would like approval to move forward with these items to gain DOE approval and to get in a queue to make the purchases. He reminded the Board that we have ESSER III grant money coming. We will hold a public hearing in August to accept this money.

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Discussion ensued on the items that included Gilmanton. Superintendent Beitler and Superintendent Beasley had discussed the grant funds and were in agreement. The Board would like the spreadsheet sent to the Gilmanton Board representatives and Superintendent Beasley for their review.

Gretchen Gandini asked if consideration was made for microphones for the theater department and track hurdles.

Discussion ensued regarding using some of the grant money for the Meadows. Amie Leigh explained that because this is federal funds, it would fall under the Davis-Bacon Act. The vendors would have to provide payroll information, determine locally prevailing wage rates and complete 5 – 6 forms weekly.

Amie stated that the ESSER II grant ends in 2023 and the ESSER III grant ends in 2024.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the ESSER II expenditures as proposed up to \$554,264. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Gandini and passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

### **Principal Reports**

Danielle Bolduc presented her report as written.

Peter Sawyer presented his report highlighting a poem written by Lilly Sanborn. Peter shared a line in Lilly's poem, "I touch your bark, I imagine all of the people who did the same long ago." and congratulated her on being the winner of the PTA poetry contest.

### **Business Administrator Report**

Amie Leigh presented her 20-21 school year overview that was shared with the Budget Committee at their June 2, 2021 meeting.

### **Fund Balance Retention 20-21**

Amie explained to the Board that the Fund Balance Retention Law permits New Hampshire school districts the ability to maintain a fund balance (reserve), just like every town and municipality does. However, unlike towns and municipalities, the use of the reserve fund is strictly regulated and may be used for only two purposes, either as a revenue source for emergency expenditures or to reduce taxes.

A fund balance (reserve fund) also indicates good fiscal health. Rating agencies, leasing companies and insurance companies look at fund balance when determining the rates charged to a given entity. The old state requirement of returning everything at year-end and carrying a zero fund balance had actually limited the ability of school districts to secure favorable rates when leasing equipment.

The state law caps the amount that can be retained at 2.5% of the prior year's net assessment. The prior year's net assessment was for the Gilford School District was \$19,867,086. This means that the District can retain \$496,677 for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Amie requested the Board formally approve the retainage of the full 2.5% or \$496,677 of the prior year's net assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.

Kyle Sanborn asked if we have used any of the money in the past. Superintendent Beitler said no, we have given it back every year. Amie's goal is to have a smaller fund balance in the future.

Kyle Sanborn motioned to approve the retainage of the full 2.5% or \$496,677 of the prior year's net assessment for the 2020-2021 school year. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**2020-2021 Food Service Budget Summary**

Amie Leigh explained that the Food Service Fund budget for the 20-21 school year is estimated to have a negative ending balance of \$194,960 as a direct result of the pandemic and rising costs of food and supplies.

Amie requested the Board approve the retention of the payroll expenses in the amount of \$183,291.12 and a transfer of \$12,000 from the general fund to the food service fund to create a fund balance of no more than \$37,000. A fund balance is important, as it is needed as startup funds for the purchase of foods to begin the next school year.

After discussion, Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the retention of the payroll expenses in the amount of \$183,291.12 and a transfer of \$12,000 from the general fund to the food service fund to create a fund balance of no more than \$37,000. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

**Pipe Repair Elementary**

Amie Leigh shared with the Board that as a result of the camera inspection done at the elementary school during April vacation, an additional repair project has been proposed. The old cast iron piping has holes and gaps at joints as well as tuberculation (rust) that is catching paper and causing backups into other areas of the plumbing. This proposal is the same repair as done prior this year with use of a lining system.

Area 1 is near room 674/675 and is a 35' section that needs lining. This area of the school is part of the 1950's addition and we assume the pipes are 70 years old.

Area 2 is near room 628 and is a 125' section that runs out to the main line on the street. This section of pipe receives a large amount of flow. This is also the remaining section from a 2016 repair but was not done at that time.

This work will take an estimated three days to do and will cost \$23,900 to complete. Amie is proposing that we move money from remaining facility related accounts across all three schools to accomplish this financially. The elementary school has already spent a majority of its remaining balances for the previous plumbing and pipe lining repairs. Amie shared a journal entry outline to show the coverage of this project and the outstanding \$10,772 of prior projects for expenses at the elementary in the C/S plumbing and heating account # 31-2620-54300-26-00-00000.

Amie shared a floor plan to show the two phases done this year and the 2016 past repair. She also shared a floor plan showing the ages of each section of the building.

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Kyle Sanborn asked if we had received other estimates. Amie responded that this is the only company around who does this kind of work. Ken Mulleavey stated that this company was recommended by several plumbers.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the transfer of funds on budget journal entry #62 in the amount of \$34,672.46. The motion was seconded by Audra Kelly and passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the pipe work at Gilford Elementary at a cost of \$23,900. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Gandini and passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

At 9:50 p.m., on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Audra Kelly, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Karen Thurston, yes.

At 10:12 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session. On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Sanborn  
School Board Secretary