

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on August 2, 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. Administrator present was Amie Leigh.

Opening

School Board Chair Gretchen Gandini called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Business Administrator Amie Leigh confirmed posting of the meeting.

Public Hearing

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, provides nearly \$122 billion to States to support the Nation's schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students resulting from COVID-19. It is particularly important that ESSER funding will enable States and local education agencies and more directly schools, to support students who have been most severely impacted by COVID-19 and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities and schools that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amie Leigh asked for the Boards approval to accept the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III in the amount of \$1,245,290.72. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously, with a vote of 7-0, to accept the grant funds.

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session. Comments were made by Norm Silber, Skip Murphy and Lauren Milligan.

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

Approval of Minutes

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, with a correction, on a 5-0 vote. Johnna McKenna and Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2021 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 5-0 vote. Johnna McKenna and Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote.

Opening of School Plan

The Board reviewed the draft plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion ensued and Board updated the plan to include "unless there is an abnormal spike in cases" to the communication paragraph. Audra Kelly questioned if the 3 feet requirement should be removed.

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Kyle Sanborn motioned to approve the 2021-2022 plan as amended. Karen Thurston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh sought the Board's opinion on accepting the "Seamless Summer Option" money offered by the Federal Government to provide free food for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the program. Amie said there is a training next week to hear more about what challenges other Districts are facing.

On a motion by Audra Kelly and a second by Kyle Sanborn, the Board voted not to accept the SSO money with a 6-1 vote. Michelle Heyman was the opposing vote.

The Board requested that Free and Reduced applications be mailed home and parents are notified via email.

Policy

On a motion by Audra Kelly and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to defer policy readings to the September meeting.

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session.

Comments were made by Skip Murphy, Tom Murray, Norm Silber and Michelle Tyler.

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

Non-Public Session

At 6:59 p.m., on a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Jeanin Onos, 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; Michelle Heyman, yes; Johnna McKenna, yes.

At 8:35 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session.

On a motion by Karen Thurston and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted unanimously to seal the minutes of the non-public session. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Gretchen Gandini, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Audra Kelly, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Karen Thurston, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Johnna McKenna, yes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Sanborn
School Board Secretary