

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on September 13, 2021 in the Gilford High School Auditorium. Present were Board members Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Karen Thurston. Gilmanon representatives were Johnna McKenna and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Dr. Robert Gadomski, Amie Leigh, Danielle Bolduc, Peter Sawyer and Anthony Sperazzo.

Opening

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

Chair Gandini stated that the school community suffered the tragic loss of a high school student and asked for a moment of silence to honor him.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 meeting at the Meadows. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 7-0 vote.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 meeting at Gilford High School. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, with a correction, on a 7-0 vote.

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2021 meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a 5-0 vote. Michelle Heyman and Johnna McKenna abstained from the vote.

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session. Several residents expressed their opinion on the opening of school plan and the plan for the Meadows property.

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

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Gadomski presented his report and highlighted the following:

- We are continuing to utilize our school reopening plan. COVID cases are being monitored and addressed as they occur.
- We are planning a COVID vaccine and flu vaccine clinic on October 20. We have the resources to offer COVID vaccine to any unvaccinated staff member and youths 12 and older (Pfizer only). Flu/COVID vaccine can be administered concurrently in different muscle groups. We will also have a limited supply of adult flu vaccine available this year. Last year it took about 3 hours. Students will be grouped to minimize time out of class. Total time was about 20 minutes due to the post vaccine waiting time. This is a completely optional opportunity. Parent consent is needed. The clinic will be run by Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health.
- The bus company has a shortage of drivers so it's been somewhat of a challenge.

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Discussion ensued regarding the Opening of School Plan. Superintendent Gadomski offered suggestions for the Board to consider regarding targeted masking, possibly after 2 or more identified COVID cases in a grade level and school wide masking if there are 4 or more identified cases. After much discussion around how that would work, the Board agreed that they would highly recommend masks but keep them optional.

Michelle Heyman added there is a policy in place that gives the Superintendent the authority to make a decision, with notice to the Board, and follow up after with an emergency meeting if necessary.

Chair Gandini stated that no action will be taken on masks but the Board would revisit the plan at the October meeting. If there is an emergency, Superintendent Gadomski has the authority to make the call.

Superintendent Gadomski also offered guidance on targeted notification. The Board discussed targeted notification and agreed that K-8 should be notified of a positive case by grade level and the high school would be a school wide notification. They also agreed that it would be helpful to notify clubs, groups and teams of positive cases.

Jeanin Onos motioned to change the opening plan to include targeted notification for K-8 and school wide notification for grades 9-12. Audra Kelley seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Principals' Reports

Danielle Bolduc, Peter Sawyer and Anthony Sperazzo submitted their report as written.

Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh presented her report. She also notified the Board that we are still looking for a long-term sub custodian position for a medical leave. The position has been advertised all summer. We have researched working with a temp agency and also a contracted service provider to help fill the void. The contracted service is a 3 month minimum contract, covering 3 of the 5 months for 5 days a week at the cost of \$5,550 per month.

In an attempt to update the GHS Student Activity Accounts, Amie requested the Board's approval to close out the following accounts because they are no longer active. Some of them have a zero balance and the others will be transferred to another student activity account.

- Class of 2020 – zero balance
- Class of 2021 - zero balance
- Cheerleading Team – inactive since 2015 with a balance of \$819.25. Transfer to athletic account, which will benefit both current and future students.
- American Sign Language Club – inactive since 2016 with a balance of \$289.00. Transfer to the Student Water account, which will benefit the entire student body.
- Amnesty International – inactive since 2013 with a balance of \$180.09. Transfer to the Student Water account, which will benefit the entire student body.

Amie also requested to open an account for the incoming freshmen class. The account will be opened with \$676.02 coming over from the GMS 8th grade class.

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Jeanin Onos motioned to approve closing the accounts as presented and the opening of the account for the incoming freshmen class. Kyle Sanborn seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Amie presented the 2021-2022 Budget Committee Schedule.

ESSER II

Amie informed the Board that as part of the requirements for the spending of our ESSER grant funds, the DOE has required that some of the funds be spent towards teacher professional development. We've spent a majority of the ESSER II grant on furniture and software needs.

In August, Danielle, Peter and Amie met with Sue Penny Bergman, M.Ed. She is an education consultant who we would like to contract with to provide professional development with the Elementary and Middle school staff as well as be imbedded in the classroom. The wellness plan summary is to help address student and staff connections after distance learning, decrease anxiety and increase engagement. The annual cost of the activity is \$48,000. Adding this activity will create a better-rounded grant as the state has suggested. Sue's work has been well received in other districts and has been approved by the state as part of their ESSER grant activities.

This activity will almost finish the budget of the ESSER II grant. Should additional years want to be added for the future, we have the ESSER III grant that this will qualify for.

ESSER III

The ESSER III grant will require a spending worksheet for board discussion and public comment. Amie will have a document prepared for the October meeting to get ideas started.

Karen Thurston made a motion to approve the request for professional development provided by Sue Penny Bergman. Jeanin Onos seconded the motion which passed with a 4-1-2 vote. Kyle Sanborn was the opposing vote. Michelle Heyman and Johnna McKenna abstained from the vote.

Meadows Committee Update

Amie provided an update on the Meadows. In August, the Meadows Committee met to discuss next steps and reflect on the conversations from our community tour of the property on August 2nd. The Committee heard from many community partners like Lakes Region Soccer and Lacrosse about the need for fields and how appreciative they are to use our Gilford fields.

Further discussions about the need for renovation and repairs have prompted the Committee to recommend not using the Meadows classroom as a result of the findings in the engineering study. The lack of ventilation and fresh air return, as well as inoperable windows are safety concerns. The roof structure and floor supports are large cost items and areas of safety concern. The alternative program was offered last year at the high school and it is recommended to continue there for the foreseeable future.

The community tour showed the buildings need for repairs and true purpose of the building to be storage for the district. The Committee discussed the phases of renovation as provided previously and would like to propose moving forward with phase three; installing exterior siding, install five garage sports doors, garage loft door and a two double entry doors for a total phase cost of \$65,000. This would be the area on the back side of the

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building looking at the game field and wrapping around to the large back side of the barn currently covered with plywood. This would allow for secure and safe storage for our sports teams and community sport partners.

Karen Thurston stated that the committee is concerned about the cost in the classroom at the Meadows. The costs didn't make much sense. There needs to be a community forum for the community to discuss the property.

Kyle Sanborn stated that he is not in favor of putting any money into the Meadows. He can see bringing the field to the school, but he is not in favor of a turf field.

Superintendent Gadowski told the Board that we are looking for direction. Do we put the \$65,000 in the 22-23 budget as we are preparing it?

Johnna McKenna recommended putting the money for phase three in the budget as it is for the needed storage space. It will also show the teams that we support them.

Karen Thurston made a motion to include the \$65,000 in the budget for phase three. The motion was seconded by Jeanin Onos. It passed with a 4-1 vote. Kyle Sanborn was the opposing vote. Michelle Heyman and Johnna McKenna abstained from the vote.

Policy

Jeanin Onos motioned to send both first and second read policies back to the Policy Committee and send first reading to GEA for review. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Gandini and passed with a 7-0 vote.

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session. Cathy Dumais shared her past knowledge of the Meadows property.

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

Non-Public Session

At 8:14 p.m., on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II (c). 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 8:56 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Sanborn
School Board Secretary