

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on January 3, 2022 in the Gilford High School Auditorium. Present were Board members Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Karen Thurston. Gilmanton representatives were Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Superintendent Beitler, 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. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held to discuss the acceptance of grant monies.

Amie Leigh recommended the grants for acceptance as follows:

The Emergency Connections Fund is a revenue received similar to E-Rate provided by the Federal Communications Commission. Information was submitted on our expenses and we qualified for reimbursement of \$47,080.00. This revenue was proposed during our budget sessions to cover the expenses of a 22-23 proposed project. We were able to remove the proposed project from the 22-23 budget.

A motion to accept the revenue and expend for a district wide fiber upgrade project to be completed in the 21-22 fiscal year was made by Jeanin Onos and seconded by Audra Kelly. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

The School Meals Emergency Operating Cost Reimbursement Program has calculated that the Gilford School District is receiving \$15,730.22 for emergency operating costs incurred during the months of March through June 2020. These funds will remain as fund balance for the food service budget and will not be spent per recommendation of our auditors.

A motion to accept the School Meals Emergency Operating funds was made by Karen Thurston and seconded by Audra Kelly. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

The Robotics Education Development Program grant via the DOE, was awarded to the Gilford School District for \$7,500.00 for use in the 21-22 school year. These funds will be expended and reported to the NHDOE.

A motion to accept the Robotics Education Development Program grant was made by Jeanin Onos and seconded by Kyle Sanborn. It passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote

The ESSER III grant has been awarded to schools to use through September 30, 2024. The funds were allocated using the Title 1 formula. 20% of these funds are required to address learning loss and we are required to develop and make publicly available the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The use of the funds are also required to have public input by all stakeholders. The Gilford School District was awarded \$1,246,509.89

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A motion to accept the ESSER III grant was made by Karen Thurston and seconded by Audra Kelly. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

The ARP Homeless, IDEA and Preschool grants were awarded to schools to support students with disabilities through the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds are to aid in the support of special education services. To support and fill in gaps where students may not have made the progress IEP teams had hoped to see.

Gilford School District was awarded \$3,788.07 for ARP Homeless support funds.

A motion to accept the ARP homeless grant as provided was made by Kyle Sanborn and seconded by Jeanin Onos. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

Gilford School District was awarded \$56,455.10 for the ARP IDEA funds.

A motion to accept the ARP IDEA funds grant as provided was made by Karen Thurston and seconded by Jeanin Onos. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

Gilford School District was awarded \$4,822.60 for ARP Preschool support funds.

A motion to accept the ARP Preschool support grant as provided was made by Karen Thurston and seconded by Audra Kelly. Motion passed with a 5-0-2 vote with Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstaining from the vote.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanin Onos motioned to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting. Kyle Sanborn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a 6-0-1 vote. Adam Mini abstained from the vote.

Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session.

Elizabeth Green, Kristine Blackwelder and Diana O'Connor commented on the mask policy.

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

Student Report

Anthony Sperazzo introduced Madison Stoddard and Avery Marshall. Madison and Avery updated the Board on the craft fair, the winter formal dance, the morning news and the holiday door-decorating contest.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beitler reviewed his report with the Board and updated the Board on assessment information from NH DOE. He also updated the Board on professional development in the District.

Superintendent Beitler stated that we continue to host Gilford/Gilmanton curriculum and administrative meetings but we need to schedule a Gilford/Gilmanton Board meeting.

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The Partnership for Public Health will be offering a vaccine clinic on January 5, 2022 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. In December, we had approximately 126 students that were vaccinated.

Superintendent Beitler added policy KCD *Accepting Donations and Gifts* to his report. It was brought to our attention that the track mats are unusable and we are looking to replace them for middle and high school. The track coach has put out a GoFundMe page and it refers to Gilford High School. The Board did not approve it. Gretchen Gandini stated that she learned about it after her husband told her he donated to it. The mats were brought to the Gilford Youth Center and it turned out there was mice living in the mats. The track coach put out the GoFundMe page to replace the mats. We would normally look within our own budget to see if we could come up with the money. Gretchen Gandini proposed that the Board look for funding within its budget. The GoFundMe page has already raised over \$1,000.

Superintendent Beitler thanked the Gilford Police Department for their support on December 17th and stated that the police department was responsive and helped to make everyone feel safe in our schools.

Superintendent Beitler spoke with the Commissioner of Education who had been updated by the NHDHHS. State health offices issued a statement that once official guidance is available from the CDC, the State will determine how best to implement changes to the current guidance. Changes to the state guidance will be based on the CDC recommendation once they come out in the next few days.

On December 14th we did have 14 positive cases at the elementary school. All students and staff wore a mask for the last 7 days before break. During that period, we did not see spread from one person to another in the school. We did see people that became positive for COVID-19 based on close contacts outside of the school. We did have students stay home because of mask wearing.

At 6:22 p.m., the fire alarm sounded. On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the meeting.

At 6:37 p.m., on a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the GoFundMe page for the track mat. Superintendent Beitler said we do have a policy in place for accepting gifts and donations to prevent fundraisers that are not sanctioned by the Board. The track mats are several years old. Any affiliation with Gilford High School has been removed from the Go-Fund-Me page.

The approximate cost of the replacement mats is \$5300. Amie Leigh said it would be a conversation with the principal and Rick Acquilano to see what money is not encumbered. If the Board authorizes Amie to make the purchase, it would be a journal entry.

Karen Thurston motioned to accept the funds that are currently in the Go-Fund-Me page and ask that it be shut down once the monies are transferred to the District. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion.

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Amie stated that she would do a purchase order for up to \$6,000 and then bring forward the money donated to offset the cost.

Adam Mini opinioned that he thought it was creating a precedence and was not in favor of accepting the funds. The page can be shut down and the monies donated would be returned to whoever donated it.

Karen Thurston rescinded her motion. Gretchen Gandini rescinded her second.

Karen Thurston made a motion to ask that the Go-Fund Me page be shut down and approve up to \$6,000. Gretchen Gandini seconded the motion with passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

The Board revisited the mask wearing policy. Discussion ensued.

Kyle Sanborn asked if the 10 cases at GHS are being counted towards the 14.

Gretchen Gandini stated that she would like to see structure and routine. There is no certainty, no 100% guaranteed but we need all the help we can get. She would like to see universal masking for one month as we are seeing the most community spread so far. We have to pause and ask what is our community responsibility right now. We are seeing staff drop like flies and they cannot come to work. Our hospital staff is drained. Keep it simple and pivot to universal masking for one month.

Karen Thurston supported Gretchen's opinion. Karen stated that it is not a political issue but rather an obligation to our employees and students. We need to make decisions that support everyone in the community and she supports masking.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to pivot to universal masking at GES until the next School Board meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote. Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Jeanin Onos voted against the motion.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to pivot to universal masking at GMS until the next School Board meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote. Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Jeanin Onos voted against the motion.

Gretchen Gandini made a motion to pivot to universal masking at GHS until the next School Board meeting. Karen Thurston seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 3-4 vote. Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly and Jeanin Onos and Adam Mini voted against the motion.

More discussion ensued and it was decided to keep the status quo.

Principals' Reports

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

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Anthony Sperazzo invited the Board to the Nation Honor Society Induction on February 17th.

Michelle Heyman thanked everyone for the communication as well as law enforcement for making our students feel safe in the schools. Michelle suggested inviting Dustin Parent come and have an ALICE discussion for parents and give an overview so parents know that there are measures in place.

Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh gave the Board a budget update.

The December Budget Committee meetings were successfully reduced from four meetings to three. The January 6th Budget Committee Meeting will conclude with Capital, Revenues and Default Budget.

Federal Projects:

The 21-22 continuous annual grants have been received. Past practice has been to motion to approve the revised budgets amount.

Project	Voted Budget	Received Amount	Variance
Title I	162,381	174,881	12,500
Title II	57,390	42,912	-14,478
IDEA	232,509	245,428	12,919
IDEA / Pre-School	2,023	2,077	54
Title IV	30,825	23,418	-7,407
Total	<u>485,128</u>	<u>488,716</u>	<u>3,588</u>

On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Gretchen Gandini, the Board voted with a 5-0-2 vote to approve the revised budget amounts as provided. Adam Mini and Michelle Heyman abstained from the vote.

December Budget Entries

Amie Leigh shared the December budget entries as follows:

Budget Entries 4-13 – Approved @ December Meeting

Budget Entries 14-19 – for Board approval:

Entry #14 – Approved Title II grant Activities / Budget Revision

Entry #15 – Correction of Entry 14

Entry #16 – ESSER II opening budget entry adjustment. Activity was expensed in 2020-2021 should not have a balance in 21-22

Entry #17 – To cover additional special education legal fees. Per Esther moved from Tuition to Legal.

Entry #18 – Adding Approved Activity to ESSER II.

Entry #19 – Adding Approved Activity to ESSER II.

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On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted to approve the budget entries as presented in the December 29, 2021 memo with a 5-0-2 vote. Michelle Heyman and Adam Mini abstained from the vote.

Gretchen Gandini thanked Amie Leigh for her work on the budget as every budget was approved unanimously by the Budget Committee.

Policies – First Reading:

JLCJA – Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation

EEAB – Establishment of School Bus Routes

DI-R – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting Regulations

DIE- Audits

DIH – Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management

Policies – Second Reading:

JHCA – Senior Privilege – On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEA – Student Transportation Services - On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAE – School Bus Safety Program - On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAED-R – Student Transportation Services - On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAE-R – Safety Guidelines for Parents/Guardians of Students Using School Buses - On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAEA – Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Bus Drivers On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAEC/JICC – Student Conduct on School Buses - On a motion by Jeanin Onos and a second by Karen Thurston, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

EEAEC-P – JICC-R – School Bus Conduct Rules - On a motion by Gretchen Gandini and a second by Jeanin Onos, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

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Public Comment

Chair Gandini opened the public comment session. Maude Aldridge, Michelle Tyler, Danielle Cook and Jen Coapland commented on the mask wearing policy.

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

Non-Public Session

At 7:35 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 (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; Adam Mini, yes.

At 8:46 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Sanborn
School Board Secretary