

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2022
GILMANTON CENTRAL SCHOOL
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The Gilford School Board held a meeting on June 14, 2022 at the Gilmanton School. Present were Board members Jeanin Onos, Kyle Sanborn, Audra Kelly, Nicole Hogan and Jessica Jacques. Gilmanton representatives were Drew Taylor and Michelle Heyman. Administrators present were Superintendent Beitler, Amie Leigh, Danielle Bolduc and Anthony Sperazzo.

Opening

School Board Chair Jeanin Onos called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Nicole Hogan motioned to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting. Audra Kelly seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Nicole Hogan motioned to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting with corrections. Audra Kelly seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Jessica Jacques motioned to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting. Nicole Hogan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Public Comment

Chair Onos opened the public comment session. There was no public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Student Learning

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that we have hired and added extra sections at the high school using ESSER III funding. We will continue to offer in school and after school tutoring during the next two years. There is a need to hire permanent substitutes in the elementary and middle school for the next two years. These positions would be at a cost of roughly \$75,000 each. The elementary school is interested in creating a partnership with Prescott Farm for the next two years. All three schools are interested in a partnership with Adventure Lore or Gunstock to do student team building activities.

Superintendent Beitler also stated that we would evaluate our world language programming K-12 over the next year to determine our needs and how to best support the programming.

Families and Communities

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that in the ESSER III spending proposal, we have an upgrade for communication going out of the district; Parent Square will replace One Call Now. We have pricing on equipment for streaming school board meeting in the plan as well. We are interested in offering a presentation for students regarding the use of electronic devices and social media. Nepris is a career exploration program that we could use k-12 with students.

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Resource Management

Superintendent Beitler informed the Board that in the ESSER III spending proposal we are interested in completing the classroom furniture purchase in the elementary school. The middle school request is for the 5th grade and that furniture came to the middle school from the elementary school when the 5th grade transitioned to the middle school.

The Leadership Team is also proposing to use Citi Wide to support our custodial needs as we have seen staffing shortages across the district at different times.

Safety and Facilities

Superintendent Beitler has heard from the Commissioner of Education that there will be \$10 million for school building safety work next year. We applied for and received money the last time the state offered this funding. We will evaluate our needs and have some recommendations to apply for funding. Some bollards at GMS and keypad entry access for some of the doors across the district are two things they have discussed as a leadership team.

Superintendent Beitler reviewed the ESSER III spending proposal with the Board. Discussion ensued regarding heightened need for a mental health counselor. Anthony Sperazzo stated that students are in-line waiting for counseling services. Jeanin Onos expressed concern that she does not want to see the services ripped away after the two years.

Kyle Sanborn stated he felt the costs for the streaming equipment was too high. Jessica Jacques requested that different options be brought to the Board for further discussion.

After further discussion, Nicole Hogan motioned to approve the ESSER III Spending Proposal as written with the exception of Adventure Lure, the late bus, streaming equipment and Parent Square communications software. Jessica Jacques seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

Kyle Sanborn requested more information on Bill Preble.

The Board discussed dates for a summer planning/goal-setting meeting. The meeting will August 11 at 4:00 at the SAU

Principals' Reports

Danielle Bolduc submitted here report as written. Superintendent Beitler updated the Board on happenings at GMS.

Michelle Heyman and Drew Taylor joined the meeting.

Business Administrator Report

Amie Leigh presented her 21-22 Review as written.

Amie Leigh stated that the Fund Balance Retention Law permits New Hampshire school districts the ability to maintain a fund balance (reserve) fund, just as every town and municipality does. However, unlike towns and

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municipalities, the use of the reserve fund is strictly regulated and may be used for only two purposes – 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 for the Gilford School District was \$20,065,003. This means that the District can retain \$501,625 for the 2021-2022 school year.

The law specifies it can only be used to reduce taxes or as a revenue source for emergencies. Emergency expenditures are defined by RSA 32:11, must be approved by both the local and state Boards, and they can only be approved if a revenue source is identified. Each year any unused reserve funds must be returned to reduce taxes.

Amie Leigh requested Board approval to retain the full 2.5% or \$501,625 of the prior year's net assessment for the 2021-2022 school year.

Superintendent Beitler stated that we have done this since 2014 and never used the money. It has always been turned back to the Town of Gilford.

On a motion by Nicole Hogan and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted to approve the full 2.5% or \$501,625 of the prior year's net assessment for the 2021-2022 school year. The vote was 5-0-2. Michelle Heyman and Drew Taylor abstained from the vote.

Amie Leigh presented the budget entries as follows:

- Entry #38 – To create the HealthTrust 21-22 wellness budget from the donations account for end of year wellness celebration
- Entry #39 – Budget adjustment for approved Robotics Club trailer purchase via DOE Robotics Grant
- Entry #40 – Increased Title II Grant Professional Development activity
- Entry #41 – Reclassifying approved dollars from the balance of the trailer activity to supplies in the Robotics Grant

On a motion by Kyle Sanborn and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted 5-0-2 to approve budget entries 38, 39, 40 and 41. Michelle Heyman and Drew Taylor abstained from the vote.

Amie Leigh presented the Contribution Assurance Program for FY2024-FY2026 for the Property & Liability Program Agreement with a guarantee nine percent (9%) maximum increase.

Amie Leigh presented the Contribution Assurance Program for FY2024-FY2026 for the Workers' Compensation Program Agreement with a guarantee 10 percent (10%) maximum increase.

On a motion by Nicole Hogan and a second by Audra Kelly, the Board voted unanimously to participate in the Primex programs. The vote was 5-0-2. Michelle Heyman and Drew Taylor abstained from the vote.

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Policies – First Reading

ABD/GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools
IHBH – Extended Learning Opportunities

Policies – Second Reading

IKAH – Grading Disabled Students: Grades K-12
IKFC – Alternate Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
DAF-P –Employee Time and Effort Reporting Procedures
KED – Facilities or Services – Grievance Procedure (Section 504)

On a motion by Audra Kelly and a second by Jessica Jacques, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy IKAH, IKFC, DAF-P and KED. It was a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Kyle Sanborn motioned to bring policy JBAB forward for discussion. The motion was seconded by Audra Kelly.

Kyle Sanborn read a statement from the NHSBA removing sample policy JBAB. Kyle stated that he has been on record for 3 years opposing the policy.

Kyle Sanborn motioned to replace section three in our current JBAB policy with the following:

“III. GUIDANCE A. Privacy: The School Board recognizes a student's right to keep private one's transgender status or gender nonconforming presentation at school. The Board also recognizes a transgender and gender nonconforming student's right to discuss and express their gender identity openly. Information about a student's transgender status, legal name, or biological sex listed on a person's birth certificate also may constitute confidential information. School personnel should not disclose information that may reveal a student's transgender status or gender nonconforming presentation to others without authorization from the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s). School personnel shall include parent(s) or legal guardian(s) when implementing a written plan for a student to address their needs as it relates to their transgender or non-conforming status.

C. NAMES/PRONOUNS

A student under this policy may ask others to address them by a name or pronoun that corresponds to their gender identity that is consistently asserted at school, however, this request shall not require or compel another individual to acquiesce or create an obligation to honor such a request.”

Audra Kelly seconded the motion.

Jessica Jacques stated that she was in favor of the policy going to the Policy Committee. Michelle Heyman would like to see a real thorough review of the policy stating that a lot of time was put into the policy. Drew Taylor stated that it is only logical to amend as the original policy was from NH School Boards Association. Kyle Sanborn stated he did not want to spend any more money on lawsuits.

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Nicole Hogan shared that she had spoken with the NHSBA attorney. He advised that we should seek counsel. Nicole also stated that the topic was listed on the agenda as “other.” She is not opposed but wants to make sure we go through the proper channels and also give community members a chance to have input.

Audra Kelly stated that the revisions being discussed were brought to the Board prior to the meeting. Michelle Heyman replied that they were not shared with Gilmanton.

Jessica Jacques stated that she would like the Board to do its due diligence, go through the process and seek legal review.

After more discussion, the Board voted on the motion. The motion failed with a 3-4 vote. Jeanin Onos, Nicole Hogan, Jessica Jacques and Michelle Heyman were the opposing votes.

Kyle Sanborn made a motion to hold a special meeting within the next 30 days to discuss policy JBAB. Michelle Heyman seconded the motion. Michelle also suggested posting what the proposed changes are with the agenda. The motion was approved with a 7-0 unanimous vote.

The meeting will be held on June 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gilford High School library.

Public Comment

Chair Onos opened the public comment session.

Skip Murphy commented on Esther Kennedy’s request to him to help with the opt out for student testing with the legislation. He also commended on the live streaming equipment and policy JBAB.

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

Non-Public Session

At 9:52 p.m., on a motion by Kyle Sanborn 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: Nicole Hogan, yes; Jeanin Onos, yes; Audra Kelly, yes; Kyle Sanborn, yes; Jessica Jacques, yes; Michelle Heyman, yes; Drew Taylor, yes.

At 10:23 p.m., the Board came out of non-public session. On a motion by Audra Kelly and a second by Jessica Jacques, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

**Audra Kelly
School Board Secretary**