

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2006
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2006 at the Gilford Elementary School Tocci Library. Present were board members Paul Blandford, Kevin Hayes, Derek Tomlinson, and Margo Weeks. Representing Gilmanton was Zannah Richards. Administrators present were: Paul DeMinico, Scott Isabelle, Sandy McGonagle, Ken Roy, and Ken Wiswell. The Student Representative was Tom Routhier.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Paul Blandford called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and then led the Pledge of Allegiance

Margo Weeks made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting, as amended. Kevin Hayes seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative.

REPORTS

Gilford Elementary School:

Sandy McGonagle let her written report stand, and reported that the artist in residence program was running very well. A performance is scheduled for Thursday February 9 in the gym.

Gilford Middle School:

Jim Kemmerer allowed his written report to stand. He congratulated the drama team on their production of The Chronicles of Jane, Book 7, noting that it was well performed, produced, and attended.

Gilford High School:

Ken Wiswell congratulated the art students in their winning 46 awards. He described a visit by author Doug Wilhelm, who met with freshmen, sophomores and faculty to discuss his book, the topic of which is bullying. Ken announced that, with the anticipated participation of the middle school, other titles will be combined into a project about bullying and its prevention. He also reminded the board that tonight was the second of three parent meetings about trimester scheduling.

Director of Curriculum Report:

Ken Roy reported that with the recent NWEA update, the plans set in motion at the beginning of the year are now running smoothly. He noted that the staff has remained on task, and has overcome any residual apprehension about using the computer. The combination of NWEA and Techpaths will result in a curriculum that is easier to develop and understand. He and Paul DeMinico had attended a statewide conference, and discovered that Gilford's efforts tie very closely to what the state is recommending. The work with Gilmanton to align math curricula is proceeding well. He noted that another group of curriculum personnel are researching other area schools to consult on development of high school competencies and High Quality Teacher (HQT) standards.

Endowment Report:

Derek Tomlinson reported that his group has had three meetings thus far. Scott Isabelle has drafted general bylaws and articles of association, which after fine-tuning will be submitted to the state to enable the establishment of a 501 (c) corporation. Ultimately, donors will be able to determine how each donation will be used. The working name is the Gilford Education Endowment Foundation.

Superintendent Report:

Paul DeMinico congratulated Ken Roy for his efforts with the curriculum

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REPORTS

development program. He briefly reviewed their attendance at a recent workshop, and noted that the efforts will include working with Gilmanton and with Jim Kemmerer at the Middle School in terms of alignment and expectations.

The Long Range Strategic Planning group has been meeting and talking about beliefs and revisions to the mission statement. He noted that no major changes are anticipated, the efforts are more aimed at providing clarity. The group will develop a long-range plan, and will invite community input at a session in April or May.

Dr. DeMinico recognized Student Representative for his recent acceptance to the Annapolis Naval Academy, which was met by applause from all present.

CORRESPONDENCE

Paul DeMinico acknowledged receipt of two items of correspondence: one from teachers Molly Moulton and Gail Hutchison concerning comments made about the senior trip; and another from Gilford Resident Nancy Campbell regarding a recent Newsweek article (comparing differences in learning rates between boys and girls), and inquiring whether the board were interested in that topic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicholas Resca, president of the Senior Class, read a letter signed by senior class officers expressing concerns about comments made at the last board meeting concerning the senior trip.

Christine Resca read from a prepared statement and likewise expressed concerns about comments made at the last board meeting concerning the senior class trip. She indicated that she had accompanied one group to Germany, and experienced no problems. She further indicated that comparisons between the classes of 2005 and 2006 were unwarranted. She felt that a reference to Natalie Holoway was a negative reflection on Gilford's students and chaperons.

Paul Blandford pointed out that some remarks were taken out of context, and that when the board engages in discussion, it brings five board members with differing backgrounds and experiences to the dialogue. He indicated that in no way was any disrespect intended. "It's a part of open discussion and a part of policy setting. I hope that all board members will continue to be open and express their concerns."

Ken Wiswell acknowledged that it was he who suggested that bonding was part of the purpose of a senior trip.

Margo Weeks put on record that her comments in no way were intended to reflect on the class of 2006; the discussion was raised issues about the whole concept of a senior trip, regardless of which class or individuals. "I was raising questions that I think we as a board should consider in regard to these trips."

OLD BUSINESS

Deliberative Session Planning:

Paul DeMinico related that members had met with the town clerk, the school district clerk, Scott Isabelle, and the town moderator to discuss setup and planning for the deliberative session scheduled for February 9. He noted that no elaborate presentations were planned; each article will be moved by one board member, then seconded by another. The member moving the article will speak to the article briefly and respond to any questions.

Scott Isabelle pointed out that a difference between the deliberative session and the public meeting is that the deliberative session is not to move on acceptance of the article; rather, it is to place the article on the warrant for the second session in March.

After brief discussion, it was decided that

- Paul Blandford will move Article 1
- Kevin Hayes will move Articles 2 and 3
- Sue Allen will move Article 4

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OLD BUSINESS

- Margo Weeks will move Article 5
- Dick Hickok will move Article 6.

Derek related a comment from the budget committee that it would be easier to understand if the school would present an overview, with corresponding backup, of the school's budget. He suggested that a similar package or presentation be prepared for distribution to the public at the deliberative session. Margo suggested two pie charts: one describing the entire budget, and another describing increases or decreases.

In-Service Change of Date:

Paul DeMinico brought forward a request from the Junior Class (five members of which were present) through the GEA asking to move the in-service early release date from Wednesday, May 17 to Friday, May 19, in order that those wishing to leave early to prepare for that night's prom dance may do so with minimal interruption to the school. Paul described the experience of moving the request through the proper channels, and applauded the students for their willingness and determination to see their request through the process. Having received approval from the GEA and administration, it is now up to the board to approve or disapprove of the request. If approved, it will be presented to the State for final approval.

Ken Wiswell also commended the juniors for noticing the potential opportunity, and for their willingness to stay in school rather than have a half-day off. "It will work out nicely, and eliminate some headaches."

Derek Tomlinson moved that the board approve changing the in-service date from May 17 to May 19. Margo Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Zannah Richards requested that Gilmanton be advised, in order to facilitate coordination.

Policy Review and Revision:

Scott Isabelle spoke to Policy DJE, discussed two meetings past, and corrected some confusion that arose during the first discussion. The revision will raise the sealed bid threshold from \$2500 to \$7500. Scott noted that some vendors are unwilling to enter the sealed bid process for amounts less than \$2500, citing insurance and bonding costs. For purchases from zero to \$7,499, quotes (as opposed to formal "bids") will be solicited.

Kevin Hayes moved that the board approve Policy DJE. Margo Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Follow the Child Initiative:

Paul DeMinico gave a brief overview of Commissioner Lyonel Tracy's initiative, described as an alternate method of compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Essentially it involves following every student from Kindergarten through high school graduation, plotting his/her progress academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. Paul noted that the measure will require a bit of additional effort on the part of the staff, but much of the framework is already in place, notably NWEA and Techpaths. Paul described the initiative as a shift from identifying "in need of improvement" from a school to a student. NCLB was an initiative focused on inner-city issues, specifically the achievement gap between middle class and minority individuals, a profile that many states, particularly rural, do not fit. The commissioner is requesting approval of the federal government for Follow the Child as an alternative to No Child Left Behind. The Gilford administration approves the initiative, and wishes to become a participant.

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NEW BUSINESS

Paul noted that Ken Roy had expressed a concern that the initiative not become yet another burden on the teaching staff, a sentiment echoed by Derek Tomlinson. Paul noted that the teachers are already very involved, and he viewed the initiative as a powerful tool. The leadership team is interested in pursuing the initiative, and Paul will next speak to respective faculties before moving forward. Paul Blandford observed that, with all the technology available at the school, such an effort would seem feasible.

Bid for Meadows Well Replacement:

Scott Isabelle briefly described the present failing dug well as engendering the need for a new well at the Meadows. At the bid price, a new well will effectively pay for itself in that it will not require frequent testing and treatment, as the present well does. Presently about \$500 yearly is spent on testing, chlorination, and purchase of bottled water.

Kevin Hayes moved that the board authorize the administration to go forward with the Gilford Well proposal, as it appears the least costly. Margo Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION
RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (b)**

At 7:02 p.m., Margo Weeks made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 (a) (b). Kevin Hayes seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sue Allen
School Board Secretary**