

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY MAY 8, 2006
GILMANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on Monday, May 8, 2006 at the Gilmanton Elementary School immediately following the joint meeting with Gilmanton. Present were board members Sue Allen, Paul Blandford, Derek Tomlinson, Kurt Webber, and Margo Weeks. Administrators present were: Paul DeMinico, Scott Isabelle, Jim Kemmerer, Sandy McGonagle, and Ken Wiswell. Any Drever was the student council representative.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Derek Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. and then led the Pledge of Allegiance

Sue Allen made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the April 6, 2006 meeting. Margo Weeks seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative.

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Gilford Elementary School:

Sandy McGonagle supplemented her written report as follows:

- 18 representatives from local preschool programs and daycares met at the school to exchange ideas and expectations about curricula. Presentations were made by a Technical College instructor regarding developmental needs, and by an occupational therapist regarding sensory and fine motor development of children. The meeting was another step towards maintaining communication between the school and local providers.
- Ben and Mrs. Franklin visited the Grade 4 students, and gave an excellent hour-long presentation on Franklin's impact on history
- Education Commissioner Lyonel Tracy will be visiting the school on Thursday morning, and has expressed an in GES's reading programs, and particularly the Integrated Instructional Model.

Derek Tomlinson inquired as to enrollment projections. Sandy replied that for the next couple of years the anticipated enrollment will be between 70 and 75 students; however, the population of 2-year olds in the community is high, so a corresponding increase in kindergarten enrollments would be likely in about three years from now.

Gilford Middle School:

Jim Kemmerer supplemented his written report as follows:

- While exact figures are not yet available, the Carpet of Cash event raised 19 bags of coins, and was a productive fundraiser for the school's sidewalk project.
- GMS's participation in National History Day has yielded four students who will be traveling to Washington DC to compete at the national level.
- The timeline for the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) self-assessment next includes definition and construction of a steering committee. A team from NELMS will visit to help quantify and qualify how the school sees itself, and make recommendations for improvements, or ideas to implement to move forward. Jim was very positive that the work the school has undergone over the last three years will be reflected in their report. He is eagerly anticipating the third-party review, which will provide impetus and outside vision to move forward.

Margo Weeks inquired whether funds have been budgeted to host the three to five NELMS visitors. Jim replied that there are funds in the budget to help cover these costs, which run in the area of \$4,000 for the assessment, plus travel, food, and lodging for the visitors.

Kurt Webber inquired into the relationship between NELMS and NEASC. Jim replied that while both are school assessments, NEASC confers accreditation and

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is concerned with high schools, while NELMS recognizes “best practices” and is limited to the middle school level. When Gilford was originally assessed by NEASC, it was as a 6-12 configuration. Since that time, the Middle School has emerged, and requires its own evaluative model, which NELMS fulfills. Further, NELMS reviews every five years, while NEASC reviews every ten years.

Gilford High School:

Ken Wiswell supplemented his written report as follows:

- The students who participated in the New England Drama Festival, whether in a production or as hosts, did an outstanding job. Ken noted that attendees from other schools went out of their way to find Ken and comment on the wonderful experience they had at the event.
- Testing continues: last week sophomores participated in New Hampshire Educational Improvement and Assessment Program (NHIEAP) tests; freshmen participated in Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) testing; juniors and seniors are still engaged in Advanced Placement (AP) Ken applauded those responsible for overcoming logistics difficulties to help the testing to run smoothly. This is the last year of the NHIEAPs; next fall will begin New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) testing.
- Preparations are being made for the next NEASC visit in 2009, including training five staff members in leadership, mission, core curriculum, and assessment. Next year will see the recommencement of self-study.
- Virtual High School is evolving into a very real possibility for students who wish to engage in instruction that is not offered at the school. Costs are now being split with Belmont, resulting in an alternating availability of 13 seats in one semester, 12 in the next. Two on-site coordinators are in place, and a third is expected soon. He hopes to have a more thorough report on the topic by summer.

Derek inquired whether the NEASC effort is all budgeted. Ken replied that the school will have to budget next year for the following three years. The training session for this year was funded from a professional development account. It was felt vital since NEASC has changed the scope of their evaluations.

Paul DeMinico predicted that the school will fare quite well in the evaluation process. Ken agreed, noting that many of the programs implemented, such as curriculum mapping, NWEAs, improvements in communication and technology, are moving the school in the right direction.

National School Boards Conference:

Paul DeMinico described his and Sue Allen’s attendance at this Chicago conference. Of note was what he called the ‘grass roots’ or home-grown nature of the conference, which encompassed the relationships between superintendents and the boards, examples of exemplary school board practices, how different districts accommodate varying testing programs, and the like. He remarked that it was refreshing to speak with parents and school board members who are experiencing the same kinds of issues as those at Gilford. Keynote speakers included Colin Powell, Jane Goodall, Alfie Kohn, and historian David McCullough. One of the outstanding workshops for Paul concerned superintendent evaluation; he and Cindy Hatch will be making their own presentation on May 25 for the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

Sue Allen concurred, describing opportunities to listen to different workshops. She handed out synopses of workshops she attended to the board members. She described the difficulty of limiting oneself to three workshops per day, out of many that were appealing.

New Board Orientation:

Kurt Webber described his attendance at this event, and spoke highly of the content and presentations. He pointed out that many attendees were long-time school board members who had much to offer from their own experience. Of particular interest were discussions of roles and responsibilities, and relationships with the public, the media, and the superintendent. He remarked, "This is something quite worthwhile; we probably should send somebody to every year." Sue Allen related that NHSBA had just hired Cindy Hatch as a training coordinator who it is hoped will bring a number of new ideas to the table.

Margo Weeks commented that the focus ought to be how to become a better board member, as opposed to new board member orientation. Sue agreed to pass the comment on to NHSBA.

Long Range Planning/Evaluation of Staff Status:

Paul DeMinico reported that the final long range planning session was held last week, resulting in a revised mission, a clearer set of beliefs, goals, and associated strategies. A subcommittee will form to make the document more readable, and he will bring it to the board for its review, possibly in August. "It will be a very useful document, not just for you as the board but for the community in general. It will let everyone see where we're going and how we're going to get there."

Paul also briefly discussed that the GEA has voiced its approval of the Charlotte Danielsen evaluation model, including its rubrics. GEA has sent him a list of nearly a dozen points of clarification, suggestions, and inclusions, to which he has responded. The plan would be to have mentors trained this summer, but he is reluctant to earmark funds until the board and GEA approve the protocols. He is hopeful to implement the program by the beginning of 2006-07 school year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Paul DeMinico acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Kathy Cuddy Egbert regarding Esther Kennedy as Director of the Year. Paul praised Esther for her advocacy, passion, and effectiveness.

Scott Isabelle noted that another piece of correspondence would be dealt with in non-public session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

OLD BUSINESS

NE League of Middle Schools (NELMS) Self-Evaluation:

Jim Kemmerer supplemented his earlier report by describing the expected timeline: Steering committee develops in spring; evaluation implemented in fall; NELMS on-site visitors arrive next spring. He noted that it is a somewhat fast-moving process, with a final report anticipated about eight weeks after the on-site visit. Paul DeMinico viewed the process as extremely valuable; as valuable as NEASC is to the high school, the NELMS is to the middle school. "There's a lot of work, not only in self-evaluation, but how do you get there." Margo concurred, adding that the process "allows you to find things you're doing well, as well as things you need to do better. It's a valuable process."

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Resignation: this item was moved to non public session.

Staff Nomination: this item was likewise moved to non-public session.

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NEW BUSINESS

NHSBA Resolutions for 2006-2007:

Sue Allen described the handout and the timeline: if a district wants to submit a resolution, the deadline is July 7. She pointed out resolutions that were adopted at the last delegates' assembly in 2005. Each school nominates one delegate to be its voice at the assembly to vote on resolutions raised from the floor. She asked that members review the resolutions and bring any concerns to the next board meeting for discussion, so that the delegate would know how to vote in accordance with the board's wishes.

Board Calendar:

Paul DeMinico introduced the 2006-2007 Gilford School Board Calendar. Discussion ensued as to when to schedule the retreat; the consensus was for Thursday August 24 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, at a location to be determined later. Sue Allen moved to accept the proposed meeting schedule as amended. Paul Blandford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Overnight Student Field Trip:

Kurt Webber moved that the board approve the trip as proposed. Margo Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

At 7:58 p.m., Sue Allen made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II. Kurt Webber seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kurt Webber
School Board Secretary**