

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2007
GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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The Gilford School Board held a regular meeting on November 5, 2007 at the Gilford Elementary School Tocci Library. Present were board members Sue Allen, Paul Blandford, Derek Tomlinson, Kurt Webber, and Margo Weeks. Representing Gilmanton was Russell Knowles. Administrators present were Scott Isabelle, Jim Kemmerer, Sandy McGonagle, and Ken Wiswell. Student representative was Taylor Morrison.

OPENING

School Board Chairperson Sue Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and confirmed posting of the meeting.

After seeking and obtaining affirmative consensus of the board, Sue moved the agenda item "Request for Girls' JV Lacrosse" next: see New Business below.

Margo Weeks made the motion that the board approve the minutes of the October 1 and October 29, 2007 meetings. Derek Tomlinson seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative.

REPORTS

Gilford High School

Ken Wiswell added to his written report as follows:

- He commended the success of the school's athletic teams
- He advised that the theatrical production "Once Upon a Mattress" is being presented by the drama students in the auditorium
- He sought the board's endorsement of the Environmental Club, with no stipend attached. Last year's departing senior class presented the school with recycling containers. It was their wish that the school involve itself in a sustainable recycling program; the Environmental Club is an offshoot of that gift.

Margo Weeks moved that the board endorse the club if it occasioned no cost to the district. Paul Blandford seconded the motion.

Margo inquired whether there is any supervision. Ken replied that there are three science teachers involved; the program would fall under the auspices of Esther Kennedy.

Kurt Webber asked whether Ken envisions the club becoming a funded school activity. Ken replied that a request could come in future years.

Russ Knowles asked that the club's stated focus be expanded to include educating Gilmanton citizens. Ken agreed, and indicated he would pass the request on.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ken also related that the senior class trip request was ready to be presented to the board, however class members were not in attendance at the meeting, spending the time instead supporting athletic events. Sue indicated that the board looked forward to the presentation at the December meeting.

Gilford Middle School

Jim Kemmerer let his report stand as written.

Kurt Webber inquired when results of NECAP tests would be available. Jim replied that he expects them late spring 2008.

Gilford Elementary School

Sandy McGonagle supplemented her written report as follows

- Musician and vocalist Walter Cunningham from the Dartmouth College Gospel Choir made his visit to the school today, and provided many opportunities for students to learn about the genre of gospel music. There will be a performance on Friday at the Gilford Community Church, to which he invited all elementary school students to come and sing.

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- For the first time, GES Grade 3 and 4 students participated in an attitudes survey. Staff will be reviewing survey results this Thursday, which will provide opportunities to improve the culture and climate of the school, and could drive some changes in instruction.

Kurt Webber commented that similar surveys were done at the Middle School and High School, but results were not provided to the board. Sandy indicated she would share the results with the board.

Kurt further inquired about Mandt training. Sandy replied that Mandt training informs about methods of dealing with students experiencing behavioral difficulties. Prior to this time staff were trained in the CPI model. The Mandt training occurs over two days: the first focuses on speaking to students who may be struggling with behavioral issues; the second day focuses on actual restraint methods.

Kurt inquired what math and reading skills students might be learning while playing the glockenspiel. Sandy replied that the school's project with Sandy McLaughlin of the New Hampshire Music Festival (paid for by a \$7,000 grant) involves several techniques used to teach math and reading while playing an instrument. She referred to test data from the West coast indicating that scores in these areas improved with the addition of music integration.

Derek Tomlinson asked of all principals whether any thought had been given to NWEA testing in the spring only. He commented on the time and resources spent on these tests, and questioned the return on investment.

Sandy responded that the leadership team has had discussions on the matter, and the notion of administering only spring-to-spring evaluations generated substantial interest. She cautioned that what may work well in one building may not work so well in another.

Use of Fields

At the sponsor's request, Sue Allen tabled this agenda item.

Meadows Advisory Committee

Sue Allen related that there was a question by the committee whether Paul Fluet's contract provided for planning a locker room facility.

Scott Isabelle informed the board that in the current contract there is language providing for a small lump sum to investigate a concession stand. If the board wishes to have included in the overall design a locker room with showers, the designing and planning would be done at additional cost to the district. Scott indicated that Mr. Fluet would likely subcontract that portion to an architect, and the costs would essentially be a pass-through via Mr. Fluet. He advised that Dave Pinkham is investigating locker room choices made by other local schools and will report on his findings. Scott added that he had inquired of Mr. Fluet whether this addition would slow the design phase; Mr. Fluet indicated that drainage and sewerage for bathrooms was already being planned, and to add locker room facilities to that plan would not incur additional time.

Sue also informed the board that with the hosting of the football tournament at Gilford's home field there were some changes requested by NHIAA, which include portable toilets and bleachers. She emphasized that these changes are only temporary in nature.

Kurt Webber inquired as to the additional cost for showers. Scott indicated that the cost depends on the requested size of the facility; Mr. Fluet needs a rough size to begin with. This information will come from Dave Pinkham's survey. Sue added that whether the locker rooms would be "wet" or dry, and whether they would be sized to accommodate visiting as well as home teams, are important

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considerations.

Derek pointed out that there presently exists a building requirement at the Meadows for dry locker rooms and toilet facilities, so the incremental change in cost will not be that significant. The board needs to give its approval to Mr. Fluet to find out how much a quote for the additional facilities will cost. Scott concurred that the committee had stopped its proceedings until it received feedback from the board on this issue.

Paul Blandford noted that use of existing structures should be investigated as well.

Sue related that the charge is to Dave Pinkham about use of the same field for field hockey and football for games; the committee is hoping to get a response by its next meeting on November 14.

Sue Allen noted that she will request that the superintendent make the Student Report a regular agenda item. Student Representative Taylor Morrison extemporaneously related that excitement is high for ongoing sports and tournaments; finals are rapidly approaching, with only 14 school days in November.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sue Allen acknowledged correspondence as follows:

- Plymouth State University Letter recognizing Mrs. Chris Roderick
- Paul DeMinico letter to Evans Juris regarding SAU use of town library building
- First Student, Inc. letter regarding acquisition of Laidlaw

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bradford Bowen inquired whether a discussion of paying for sports would occur at this meeting. Sue Allen replied that some discussion was held at the budget work session, but was not on the current agenda, nor was the board planning to add it to any agenda in the immediate future. Kurt Webber referred to a newspaper article that indicated such a discussion would be held at this meeting.
- Peter Mawson inquired whether a discussion about use of lights at the Meadows fields would occur at this meeting. Sue replied that the subject was next on the agenda. Mr. Mawson indicated he feared use of lighting would continue uncontrolled.
- "Caitlyn" asked whether there will be heterogeneous classes, due to the elimination of AP classes. Ken Wiswell indicated there are no plans to discontinue AP classes.

OLD BUSINESS

Confirmation of Board Pollings

Sue Allen sought confirmation of the board's email polling in regards to the lighting issue at the Meadows

Derek Tomlinson moved that the board formally ratify the email poll that allowed the temporary use of lights at the Meadows to provide student safety during football practices. Margo Weeks seconded the motion.

Sue clarified that the issue is over the use of nighttime lighting at the Meadows property. Neither the board nor the Athletic Director was aware that the lights were presently in use. She emphasized that the concern focuses on the safety of the student athletes.

Kurt Webber described the situation as arising from a misunderstanding: Gilford Friends of Football, based on last year's events, assumed they had continuing permission to use lights this year. He described the lights to be pole-mounted on one small trailer. He pointed out that no alternative exists at present: the younger athletes begin practicing at 5:00 PM when darkness begins; there is not enough

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space for them to begin practicing sooner, as the other teams are practicing at the same fields.

Derek concurred, adding that with Daylight Savings Time at an end, the field would likely need more than one set of lights. He indicated he would not limit the permission to only one set of lights.

The motion carried unanimously.

Sue inquired about addressing future use of lights at the field.

Derek referred to a letter from Lou Athanas requesting the use of temporary lights in the future at the Meadows fields. Acknowledging concern about late-night use of lights, Derek moved that the board allow future temporary lighting until 7:30 P.M. and until the end of each football season. Kurt Webber seconded the motion.

After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Sue next reiterated a concern about parents' use of student photos on the internet. She indicated that the board should state its position on the issue.

Paul Blandford clarified that his question was not about any individual engaging in that activity, but rather with the point at which the district's responsibility begins and ends. He remarked that parents are asked to sign a waiver allowing publication of student photos.

Sue related that Dr. DeMinico has consulted an attorney on the question but has yet to receive an opinion. Margo stated she would prefer to await that opinion.

Paul moved to have the superintendent contact an attorney to determine where the district's responsibilities lie with respect to anyone taking photos at sporting events and placing such photos on the internet. Margo Weeks seconded the motion. Board discussion is summarized as follows:

- Derek: The press takes pictures and publishes them as a matter of course; if a newspaper can take photos and sell them, there is no reason that an individual cannot
- Margo: Just today a picture of the volleyball team appeared in the *Citizen On-Line*, with an offer to sell copies of the photo
- Paul: The initial question was how, or why, or should we pursue this? Can newspapers sell photos without parents' permission? Because parents are asked to sign waivers on pictures when the students come onto school grounds, should that not carry through to sporting events, or drama production? The board should investigate the question.
- Sandy McGonagle (In response to a question from Sue): Whenever we have a publication, such as a summer newsletter, even if we have (waiver) approval, we will call and ask permission. We do keep lists of parents who do not sign the waivers.
- Jim Kemmerer: The list of parents who decline the waivers is longer than one might imagine.
- Scott: The photos published in Dr. DeMinico's annual report are printed with written permission. The question is, if we follow those guidelines in protection of our students, does that carry over to public events?
- Russell Knowles: Do you ask permission of parents of students who are 18 years old? (Ken Wiswell replied in the affirmative; as long as they are students, they fall within the jurisdiction of their parents.)

Paul's motion carried unanimously.

Budget Proposal

Scott Isabelle, in a follow-up to a budget work session held at the end of October, reviewed three areas of the proposed budget for the board's consideration and action.

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- Federal Projects Budget at \$417,287, down from \$439,739, reflecting a \$22,000 decrease primarily from reductions in IDEA grants

Derek Tomlinson moved that the board accept the Federal Projects Budget as proposed; Paul Blandford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- General Fund at \$22,079,258, down from \$22,160,923 representing a reduction in salary increases from 3.9 percent to 3 percent and concessions accepted from the support staff.

Margo Weeks moved that the board approve the proposed \$22,079,258 general fund budget figure. Kurt Webber seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Food Services at \$689,658 down from \$694,082.

Margo Weeks moved that the board accept the proposed food services budget figure; Kurt Webber seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness Manual

Sue Allen brought forward the manual for the board's consideration. Kurt Webber moved that the board adopt the manual; Margo Weeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

NHSBA Delegate Assembly

Sue Allen noted that the New Hampshire School Boards Delegate Assembly will be held on November 17, and a delegate from Gilford School District was sought to represent the board. An early session with NHSBA Executive Director Mike Resnik will precede the meeting. Margo Weeks nominated Sue Allen; Kurt Webber seconded the nomination, which passed unanimously.

Request for JV Girls' Lacrosse

Ken Wiswell brought forward a request from the Gilford Lacrosse club, currently in its fifth year of operation, to move from club to Junior Varsity status, allowing them to participate under NHIAA rules. He noted that a similar process was followed for the boys' lacrosse team; there is hope that eventually enough interest will generate a varsity girls' lacrosse team. He noted that there will be no funding impact on the district. He and Athletic Director Dave Pinkham both recommend adopting the change.

Kurt Webber moved that the board endorse the change; Margo Weeks seconded the motion.

Margo inquired about the present source of funding. Sue indicated that the athletes privately fund the sport. Taylor Morrison indicated that the per-year cost per student is \$200 for membership fee and the student purchases her own equipment. Because girls' lacrosse is non-contact, pads and helmets are not required.

Kurt inquired whether transportation to away games is included in the costs; Ken replied that it is.

An audience member inquired whether there is funding available for school-sanctioned Junior Varsity lacrosse. Sue replied that this request came forward from a self-funded club. District funding could come forward as a proposal to the board at a future time, but was not before the board at this meeting.

Margo related that an editorial in the *Citizen* describes sports funding.

Sue explained that currently all club sports are being paid for by participating athletes while school-sponsored sports are being paid by the school district.

The audience member inquired whether the games would be sanctioned by NHIAA, thus giving Gilford proper status to play against other schools.

Kurt Webber likened the proposal to football: it is still not funded by the school district. Sue confirmed that the program would run under NHIAA auspices.

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Derek inquired whether, once the team becomes school sanctioned, it also becomes organized by the Athletic Director. Ken Wiswell confirmed, adding that the players would follow all existing athletic rules.

The audience member inquired whether the school would hire a coach. Ken explained that the district would approve a coach; Paul Blandford elaborated that the coach would be paid by member funds, under the stipend formula the district currently uses.

The audience member inquired if the team is a school sport, will a bus be provided or will participants be required to transport themselves. Ken reiterated that the program would follow school rules, which require a bus to transport players.

The motion carried unanimously.

Overnight Field Trip

Ken Wiswell referred to a detailed proposal from Louise Jagusch and the French students in attendance, seeking the board's permission to travel overnight to Quebec from March 7 to March 9 2008. Ken noted that the proposal meets all guidelines for overnight trips and recommended that the board endorse the trip.

Derek Tomlinson moved that the board accept the proposal as presented. Margo Weeks seconded the motion.

Paul Blandford inquired about the need for passports, presently thought to be required for re-entry into the US by all travelers on January 1, 2008. Ms. Jagusch indicated her research showed the deadline had been pushed back to January 1, 2009 due to high demand. Derek Tomlinson indicated he had passed the Canadian border three weeks ago, and was told the deadline remained January 1, 2008. Ms. Jagusch indicated she would double-check.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 7:11 p.m., Margo Weeks made the motion to enter non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (c) and (e). Kurt Webber seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kurt Webber
School Board Secretary**