

Goffstown School District
Goffstown, New Hampshire

School Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2011

School Board Members, Present

Keith Allard
Philip Pancoast
Dian McCarthy
Jennifer Theroux
Ginny McKinnon
Lorry Cloutier
Henry Boyle (arrived at 7:48PM)
Kent Nolan, via teleconference
Sue Tremblay, via teleconference
Liz Kelly, Student Representative (excused absence)

Administration, Present

Stacy Buckley, Superintendent
Ray Labore, Business Administrator

Teacher Reps, Present

Peggy Zola
Mary Grassett
Jeanne Roy

Keith Allard called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM; the Board went out of agenda order and opened with a vote to enter non-public session.

Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A: 3 II(a)

Philip Pancoast made a motion to enter non-public session at 7:06 PM for the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Kent Nolan seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Kent Nolan made a motion to leave non-public session at 7:54 PM. Philip Pancoast seconded. The Chair took an individual voice poll of each Board member. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Jennifer Theroux made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for a period of five years. Ginny McKinnon seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

**The Board recessed at 7:54 PM.*

Stacy Buckley opened the public part of the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Election of Officers

Stacy Buckley opened nominations for School Board Chair. *Keith Allard nominated Philip Pancoast, Ginny McKinnon seconded nomination.* Mrs. Buckley asked if there were any other nominations. Henry Boyle made a motion to close nominations for Board chair. Dian McCarthy seconded. Mrs. Buckley asked for a vote on the nomination of Mr. Pancoast. *VOTE 7 yes, 2 abstain (Lorry Cloutier, Philip Pancoast)* Mrs. Buckley congratulated Mr. Pancoast and turned the chairing of the meeting over to him.

Philip Pancoast asked for nominations for School Board Vice Chair. **Keith Allard nominated Dian McCarthy. Ginny McKinnon seconded.** Mr. Pancoast asked three times if there were any other nominations; being none Mr. Pancoast congratulated Mrs. McCarthy.

**Kent Nolan left the meeting via teleconference at 8:04 PM*

Approval of 03/07/11

The Board had the following changes to the minutes: where Lorry Cloutier is listed as Mrs. change to Miss.; under commendations, Dian McCarthy is not setting up the Rock and Race for Maple Ave., Maple Ave. sets that up, she is running in it. **Henry Boyle made a motion to approve the March 7, 2011 minutes as amended. Keith Nolan seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED**

Correspondence

- Nurse/Teacher Substitution Report

Commendations/Good News

- Peggy Zola stated Glen Lake finished the preschool role model selection process for next year; there were 27 eligible candidates and a lottery was used to select for a contract. Mrs. Zola stated Bartlett Elementary would be participating in an Earth Hour Program this week, staff and students will wear all black and turn off the lights for one hour; this is the beginning of the school's Earth Day celebrations. Mrs. Zola stated the Easter Bunny Breakfast is on April 16 from 8 AM-noon. Mrs. Zola stated Bartlett Elementary also held a Kids Voting election last week. Mrs. Zola stated Bartlett held an all school meeting on March 15 with Elizabeth DeBrule as the guest speaker. Mrs. Zola stated the Maple Ave. Elementary School annual Father/Daughter Ball is this Saturday; some girls were able to get dresses from Cinderella's Closet and they also collected donated ballgowns. Mrs. Zola stated the Maple Ave. Designation Imagination teams did very well and team Versus! Foiled Again! qualified for the State Meet on April 2. Mrs. Zola stated the Maple Ave. Spring Concert is on April 5 at 7 PM at GHS.
- Mary Grasset congratulated Christian Cejka, the MVMS Geography Bee winner, who will be competing at the State level (against 50 other states) at Keene State on April 1; if he wins, he would go to Washington D.C. in May. Mrs. Grasset stated the band went to Litchfield on Saturday for a NHMEA Group Festival; the students were excellent role models.
- Jeanne Roy stated GHS will be visited on March 31 by the EDDIES group regarding application for School of the Year. Mrs. Roy stated on March 5 they had five students compete in "Moody's Math Challenge"; Mr. Pancoast asked that the challenge be shared with the community.
- Stacy Buckley stated, for Liz Kelly who was unable to be at the meeting, reported that the Student Council made a visit to the Hillsborough County Nursing Home and will do so again in April. Mrs. Buckley stated NHS just started a Penny Slam this week which will go until next week. Mrs. Buckley stated the GHS Drama Company performed at a Regional Theater Festival and was one of three schools to go on to States. Mrs. Buckley stated elections for a new School Board student representative are coming up.
- Ginny McKinnon commended Liz Kelly for being chosen as GHS Good Citizen; Ms. Kelly will go on to the State competition in April.

Public Comment

Daniel Hughes, Goffstown resident, asked to read a letter to the Board; Mr. Pancoast reviewed the letter and approved request. Mr. Hughes read his letter which was in regards to the change in policy for public comment. Mr. Hughes stated he did not think public comment should be used in an inappropriate way, but anyone who lives in Goffstown should be able to address the Board with both parties being respectful. Mr. Hughes stated his suggestion listed in the letter is to allow those who want to speak during public comment sign-up on a paper at the beginning of the meeting with the Board Chair and have an equal time limit assigned for each within the allotted time. Mr. Hughes stated as a resident he would be angry if he came to speak on an item and was told he could not speak. Mr. Hughes stated with the changes we face today, more communication and understanding is needed.

Administration/Finance Committee Report

Ray Labore brought forward the manifest in the amount of \$1,440,360.94 for School Board consideration; Mr. Labore briefly reviewed the contents of the manifest. *Henry Boyle made a motion to accept the manifest in the amount of \$1,440,360.94. Dian McCarthy seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED*

Human Resource Committee Report

The next HR Committee meeting will be on April 11 at 6 PM at the SAU.

Planning & Communication Committee Report

The next Planning & Communication Committee meeting will be on April 4 at 6 PM at GHS.

Curriculum and Education Committee Report

The next C&E Committee meeting will be on April 11 at 7 PM at the SAU.

Elementary Facilities Renovation Committee

Stacy Buckley stated the Committee met last week and whittled the list of contractors down to three, sent out additional questions for clarification. Mrs. Buckley stated the next Elementary Facilities Renovation Committee meeting would be on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 PM at the SAU; will come to terms with company to bring forward or to do a round of interviews with top three companies.

Superintendent's Report

Stacy Buckley stated they received the health insurance rates, about 1% lower than GMR, which will be a savings of approximately \$69,000 for Goffstown.

Stacy Buckley stated she was invited on Thursday evening to the Piano Benefit Concert. Mrs. Buckley stated it was a wonderful concert and she was presented with a plaque in recognition of individuals and organizations that were significant contributors. Mrs. Buckley stated the piano has been purchased.

Stacy Buckley stated at the last New Boston Board meeting, Kevin Collimore was elected Chair and Wendy Lambert was elected Vice Chair.

Stacy Buckley stated she is trying to set up a SAU Meeting for April 19 or 20; Mrs. Buckley asked Board members to contact Dense Morin on which date would be better for them.

Stacy Buckley discussed some legislation with Board members. Mrs. Buckley stated the Finance Committee put Catastrophic Aid back in, but took out tuition and transportation for MST. Mrs. Buckley stated if that continues, they would have to determine which students could go to MST, not all

who wanted to would be able to go. Mrs. Buckley stated the dropout age passed from 18 to 16 and the governor has said he will veto it. Mrs. Buckley stated she agrees with him that the dropout rate has been reduced to below 1%. Mrs. Buckley also briefly reviewed HB42 and HB2. Mrs. Buckley will keep the Board updated on legislation.

Stacy Buckley stated she has been working with the high school on graduation. They are potentially looking at June 16 with finals on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and a makeup on Monday; looking at ideas for for seniors on Tuesday and Wednesday would be the class trip.

Board Retreat

Philip Pancoast stated he would like to solicit responses for subject matter areas for the retreat, goals, and feedback from administration on what is coming up and what areas they would like to see the Board focus on. Stacy Buckley asked when the Board would like to have the retreat and if they wanted a facilitator. Keith Allard suggested having the retreat offsite in April with a facilitator so all could participate. Mr. Pancoast stated he would send out an email to Board members asking for subject matter areas, problem areas, reasonable goals. Mr. Pancoast asked if any Board members had a problem with meeting on a Saturday; there were no objections.

Budget Overview

Stacy Buckley gave Board members a two-page handout in response to default budget. Mrs. Buckley stated they needed to cut \$1.1 million to meet the default. Mrs. Buckley reviewed proposed reductions with Board members. Jennifer Theroux asked if any of the lines on the handout were not at \$0. Mrs. Buckley stated ELA was budgeted at \$120,000 and if they do not go forward with the program, they would have to purchase vocabulary books. Keith Allard asked about transportation. Mrs. Buckley stated they cut field trips and biology trip, also eliminated late bus. Sue Tremblay asked about FICA and if budgeted at full rate or reduced rate. Mrs. Buckley stated they would look into that. Mrs. Buckley stated the reductions proposed total \$1,094,573. Dian McCarthy asked what percentage of cuts athletics was taking. Mrs. Buckley stated she cut 20% off all of supplies, cut any new uniforms/equipment, except football helmets. Mrs. McCarthy asked when the Board last looked at Pay to Play. Mr. Allard stated about two years ago. Mrs. McCarthy stated they are looking at cutting paraprofessional positions and in looking at what the best value is maybe they need to look at Pay to Play. Mrs. McKinnon asked what the \$6,000 cut was under co-curricular. Mrs. Buckley stated cuts in supplies. Mrs. McKinnon asked about \$75,000 cut under supplies. Mrs. Buckley stated they took 20% off general school supplies and off individual department supplies. Lorry Cloutier asked what was still in the budget that was not in the default budget. Mrs. Buckley stated off the top of her head the SRO, a 3rd grade teacher, and the library paraprofessional at MVMS. Ms. Cloutier asked about technology. Mrs. Buckley stated there is \$0 for technology after these cuts, also replacement of furniture was cut. Ms. Cloutier asked if she could get the numbers of the things they are keeping in the budget that were not in the default the year before. Mrs. Buckley stated she would have to compare each line item in the budget from last year to this year. Ms. Cloutier asked if she could get that electronically. Ray Labore stated that information was in a workbook circulated to Board members back in December and the default budget is not in there yet. Philip Pancoast asked if the four positions that would be funded by grant next year. Mr. Allard stated they are not part of the default budget as grant is used to fund.

Stacy Buckley reviewed page two (cuts due to governor's proposed budget) of the handout with Board members. Mrs. Buckley stated Column A was reductions that would have to be made due to the proposed retirement reduction, which is budgeted right now at 0% and would cut \$622,000 from Goffstown. Mrs. Buckley stated she was suggesting they RIF (Reduction in Force) staff listed which

would reduce budget by \$300,000 and hope to find funds if needed for the remaining \$322,000. Mrs. Buckley stated if the governor's budget came in higher, they could bring in staff as necessary. Mrs. Buckley stated Column B was more reductions if the Board does not feel confident with only Column A. Mrs. Buckley stated at the bottom of the sheet is loss in revenues which would be about \$567,000 and she has no solution for that at this time. Mr. Pancoast stated the worse case scenario is a \$2.25 million reduction. Mrs. Buckley stated yes, based on the governor's budget at this time. Sue Tremblay asked if the staff being cut would be notified by April. Mrs. Buckley stated yes. Mrs. McKinnon asked about nurse cut. Mrs. Buckley stated it was Glen Lake, the position would be reduced and an LNA, supervised by another school nurse. Mrs. Buckley stated this is very tough, they have to make cuts and none are easy. Mrs. McKinnon asked about using unanticipated revenues to make the default budget more palatable; realizes cannot use funds for salaries. Mrs. Buckley stated she and Ray Labore have met with all administration, went through budgets, and will look at bottom line and see if they could purchase some things this year so they would not be going so far backwards next year. Mrs. McCarthy asked about the Summer Success Program and maybe not waiving fees this year and charging a little bit. Mrs. Buckley stated you would have to charge the regular ed students who attend, approximately 80 students, a significant amount of money, as special needs students go for free. The Board continued to discuss Column A and B; Mr. Pancoast stated the question before Board is if they look at the \$622,000 reduction as an absolute or direct the Superintendent to make decisions only on Column A. ***Sue Tremblay made a motion to RIF the \$612,000 as proposed by Superintendent on handout. Keith Allard seconded.*** Lorry Cloutier stated, for the record, that she would rather see them switch the administrator on Page 1 of handout with the four paraprofessionals listed. ***VOTE 6 yes, 1 no (Ginny McKinnon), 1 abstain (Philip Pancoast) MOTION PASSED***

Dian McCarthy asked if she could get the results from when the Board last looked at Pay to Play; Sue Tremblay was on the committee and stated she could also talk with Mrs. McCarthy.

Board Committee Assignments

Philip Pancoast stated he would send out a Committee form electronically and asked that Board members let him know which committees they would like to do in order of first, second and third choice. Mr. Pancoast will fill in the gaps and bring back to the Board. Sue Tremblay stated via teleconference that she would like to continue on all her committees.

MS-22 Document Signing

Ray Labore stated the MS-22 was ready for each Board member to sign at the end of the meeting.

MVMS Field Trip

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following field trips; both are repeat trips:

- 4/11/11: Team 8-2; to Boston Museum of Science
- 4/15/11: Team 6-3 and 6-1 to Boston Museum of Science

Any Other Business that May Legally Come Before the Board

None

Nominations

Stacy Buckley brought forward the following co-curricular nominations:

- Richard Risman Jones, Volunteer, Softball, GHS
- Thomas Lamy, Baseball, JV, GHS

Keith Allard made a motion to approve the co-curricular nominations as presented by the Superintendent. Dian McCarthy seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Lorry Cloutier made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM. Keith Allard seconded. VOTE All in Favor MOTION PASSED

Deborah Jore
School Board Recording Secretary

These minutes are subject to School Board approval