

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**St. Anselm College – Joseph Hall
100 St. Anselm Drive - Goffstown, NH 03045
Monday, June 19, 2017**

BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

School Board Members: Dian McCarthy, Reta Chaffee, Steven Dutton, Dan Cloutier, Heather Trzepacz, Jenelle O'Brien, Kristie Curtis, Lorry Cloutier, Ginny McKinnon

Administration: Brian Balke, Superintendent

Call to Order: Dian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

Public Comment(s) none

Policy AD – Philosophy of the Goffstown School District: The Board discussed the development of a school district mission statement. It was noted that all schools have their own mission statement. Board members had the following suggestions: include the district's educational arena (STEM, STEAM and the Arts Program). We do not only educate our students but we do it in a cost conscious manner and our decisions are prudent; Bring consistency in addressing the mission statement in all school levels; describe how we strive to challenge and help the students to achieve their highest potential and offer suitable learning opportunities for a very diverse student body; Concise and easily understood language. Dian McCarthy suggested placing the mission statement on the website and on letterhead.

Budget Philosophy: Preliminary budget work will be in full swing in July/August. Brian and Ray had a very productive meeting with Mike Smith, Chair of the Budget Committee. Mike expressed interest in touring the schools. Brian suggested committee members tour the schools during the upcoming school year and suggested the tour be held in two evening sessions or on a Saturday. Mike stated that he was not looking to change the budget process but will be requesting historical spending information – those spending lines to be determined.

Board members discussed the population growth in Goffstown. Dan Cloutier suggested the demographic study may be very different from what Goffstown is currently experiencing and commented that even with Dunbarton's exit, enrollment has not decreased. Brian commented that the school district picked up 33 more students from New Boston in 2018. The New Boston School District is experiencing student population capacity. Ginny McKinnon commented new houses are being built in all areas of Goffstown are being purchased by families with school age children.

Brian reported that kindergarten numbers are high and the district continues to struggle with space issues even with the elementary school modular units in place. Board members agreed that the schools are now enjoying dedicated art and music rooms and we would not want to go back to having these programs on the cart as student population grows. Dian McCarthy commented that impact fees help but do not support the needs of the school district. Brian commented that the future is unknown and encouraged the Board to continue consideration of land acquisition. He also suggested offering volunteer tuition enrollment to New Boston Grade 6 parents.

Ginny McKinnon would like to address staffing needs over what can be purchased at the end of the year and consider adding a couple of sport stipends to the budget each year. Brian commented that the district uses an archaic method in determining who receives stipends and suggested addressing co-curricular stipends during next year's negotiations. Board members agreed that they need to get a handle on what they are looking at in order to make informed decisions as they review the inclusion of stipends in the budget. The Board agreed to explore adding co-curricular stipends and coaches to the budget. Ginny suggested reviewing historical stipend information if available.

The Board would like an early start to warrant article conversations this year. Brian stated that there are couple of warrant articles he would be interested in bringing forward for the Board's consideration in October. The Board discussed the need to have the warrant articles written with flexibility in mind.

Board members expressed satisfaction with their budget philosophy. They discussed the complexities the budget versus the default budget. Board members agreed that they would like to see the principals budget requests before being reviewed by administration. The intent is to see and hear what the principals are thinking and envisioning as new projects. Brian commented that principals would more than likely state that they would like more technology.

Board Goals for All Boards Meeting – Brian Balke Addressing: The Board of Selectmen (BOS) reached out to Adam Jacobs as they would like to team up with Adam McCunn (GTV) and implement a different spin on the annual "All Boards" meeting. Each board has been asked to establish 3 goals for next year and be prepared to present/discuss at the 2017 "All Boards" meeting. Adam McCunn is inviting a representative from each board to film a very short segment describing each goal and what those goals bring to the community. The information should be succinct and will be packaged as one short video for GTV and social media. Brian offered the following for consideration: Continued focus on developing a thoughtful and fiscally responsible budget while continuing to provide teaching and learning facilities; accommodating population growth of school age children enrolled in our schools. Highlighting School Achievements: Maple Avenue's impressive NH School of Excellence (EDies) finish; Incredible efforts and innovative ways the teachers and administrative staff highlighted Maple Avenue Elementary School; MVMS honored as a "Spotlight School". Population growth in Special Ed needs; GHS – US News and World Report named GHS the fourth best high school in the state of NH - awarded a silver medal for their achievements.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING - none

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3II(d) *Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.*

Dan Cloutier motioned to enter non-public session at 6:35pm, seconded by Jenelle O'Brien. The chair took an individual voice poll. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed

Dan Cloutier motioned to leave the non-public session at 6:54pm seconded by Reta Chaffee. The chair took an individual voice poll. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Dan Cloutier motioned to seal the nonpublic session minutes until the matter is resolved, seconded by Ginny McKinnon. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor - Motion Passed.

Lorry Cloutier motioned to adjourn the Board Retreat at 6:55pm seconded by Reta Chaffee. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise F. Morin
Recording Secretary