

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)



LITCHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052

B. Bourque, Chair

C. Harrison, Vice Chair

Approved Minutes for September 2, 2020

Location: Town Hall

In Attendance:

B Bourque, Chair
 C Harrison, Vice Chair
 E MacDonald, Board Member
 R Meyers, Board Member
 T Hershberger, Board Member
 Dr. Michael Jette, Superintendent
 Cory Izbicki, Business Administrator
 Dan Mitchell, Principal, GMS
 Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant

In an effort to help slow down or stop the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the School Board has implemented social distancing. We are following Governor Sununu's [Emergency Order #12](#) related to public meetings. Therefore, the town hall will be closed to the public. The meeting will be broadcast live on Litchfield TV, and a phone number will be provided for the public to call and listen to the meeting. Public comments, including concerns about accessing the meeting, must be sent via email to Christina Harrison, School Board Vice-Chair, at charrison@litchfieldsd.org, and Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant, at meflynn@litchfieldsd.org.

Public comments shall be made without expectation of a response by any School Board Members to matters raised by such commentary. Comments and statements may be made on matters of public concern directly related to the district's policies, programs and operations. Public commentary shall be limited to 3 minutes per person and must identify the first and last name and address of the commenter.

PUBLIC CALL IN NUMBER: 1-866-899-4679

ACCESS CODE: 292-443-637

PUBLIC HEARING: RSA 197:3-a, III

6:00 p.m.

The governing body's warrant shall specify, in one or more articles, the amounts of appropriations proposed for reduction, rescission, or increase from the operating budget or separate warrant articles, or both, adopted at the annual meeting.

I. PUBLIC SESSION

Immediately following public hearing

A. Call to Order - Board Chair's Statement

Mr. Bourque called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Review & Revision of Agenda

D. Summary of Non-Public Actions from August 19, 2020:

Mr. Bourque made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of July 30, 2020. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

Mr. Bourque made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of August 6, 2020. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

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Mr. Meyers made a motion to accept the nomination of Taylor Theokas as a Grade 2 teacher at GMS at a salary of 46,369 for the 2020-2021 year. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

Mrs. Hershberger made a motion to accept the resignation of John Bennett, CHS Special Education teacher. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

Mrs. Hershberger made a motion to accept the resignation of Tammie Robie, GMS Part Time Computer teacher. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

E. Presentations and Recognitions

There were no presentations or recognitions.

F. Correspondence

Mrs. Harrison reported a letter was received from the Trixy Gardner family and 23 other families in opposition to the full remote model. The letter noted arguments for a dedicated remote teacher for remote students to provide equal access to education. The letter was signed by:

- Trixy and Derek Gardner, 66 Naticook Avenue
- Andrew and Erica Ruggles, 54 Century Lane
- Danielle and Brian Morgan, 5 Grouse Lane
- Kevin and Janine Anctil, 43 Tanager Way
- Meg Couture, 12 Birch Street
- Kathleen Doucette, 115 Talent Road
- Nicole Quintana, 21 Riverview Circle
- Edward and Margaret Almeida, 10 Hopkins Street
- Jessica Vaughn-Martin, 19 Martin Lane
- Jennifer and Jeff Diener, 9 Birch Street
- Debra and Jeffery Hidalgo, 25 Brenton Street
- Candice and Jason Steeves, 20 Chasebrook Circle
- Samantha McClelland, 31 Chasebrook Circle
- Brooke Gray, 22 Brook Road
- Bethany Weixler, 5 Tamarack Lane
- Heidi Ames, 21 Moose Hollow Road
- Meg and Zach Fowler, 1 High Plain Avenue
- Wendy Sarasin and Austin Trombley, 2 Darlene Lane
- Bryant and Catherine Morris, 23 Moose Hollow Road
- Stacy Lamountain, 5 Hildreth Drive
- Andrew and Kate Stevens, 9 Evergreen Circle
- Tonya Watkins, 531 Charles Bancroft Highway

Lindsay Forhat was concerned about the audio/visual component for remote learners. She indicated she was under the impression the district was going to invest in high-def cameras and external audio mics that would allow remote students to be actively engaged during lessons. She commented she was disappointed to learn teachers are expected to live stream from their laptops. She noted that it is difficult to clearly hear the teacher speaking through the mask.

Stacy Lamountain, 5 Hildreth Drive, believes expecting the teacher to simultaneously teach students in the room and remote students is a poor learning environment for the students and a tiresome burden for teachers. She commented that a microphone and simple camera should have been considered months ago for a teacher to stream a class effectively. She was concerned about students that do not have access to electronic devices to watch their teachers on Google Meet. She indicated timeliness of information and practical dry runs have been lacking. She stated that a group of parents sent a letter to have a better action plan for remote learners to be put on the agenda for the board meeting and the request was denied because the board is convinced it has taken positive action to deliver a quality education to all students, but she does not believe this is the case.

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Candice Steeves, 20 Chasebrook Circle, expressed concerns regarding synchronous learning, improper ventilation and inadequate hand washing.

Erica Ruggles, 54 Century Lane, was concerned about teachers using their laptops for synchronous learning and felt that external audio microphones and high definition cameras would create a better remote environment conducive for live streaming.

Kelly and Scott Sicard, 10 Brandy Circle, requested for their names to be added to the Trixy Gardner correspondence signed by 23 other families.

G. Comments:

- **Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Jette commented the district is dedicated to making sure staff can work in a synchronous environment. He indicated that staff are trained on how to use the laptops they have and have tested the cameras and mics. These devices will help make remote teaching easier. Dr. Jette reported that he visited schools today and took photos of classrooms and was impressed that there were no issues with masks in the schools. Photos shown were taken at CHS lunch, CHS math class, an English classroom, a Kindergarten classroom and a Grade 1 classroom where the teacher was wearing a humanity shield. He noted signs are posted at all schools, physical spacing is evident and creative and mask wearing are all being done.

Mrs. Hershberger commented that she heard students at LMS would be wearing masks full time the first two weeks and asked for confirmation of it.

Dr. Jette indicated he will be visiting LMS tomorrow and will find out.

Mrs. Hershberger asked how the first day with remote learners went on September 2.

Dr. Jette indicated he went to LMS and about half of the families attended. He noted that a presentation was recorded for those who did not attend.

Mrs. Macdonald asked why parents are not reaching out to principals for help for remote learners.

Mrs. Harrison commented there were some glitches in the audio in grade 8 and there are issues that need to be worked out. She indicated that she thought schools would be more involved with remote learners on day one and felt the presentations were not long enough. She noted many parents feel they are not ready for the remote environment.

Dr. Jette commented that a brief presentation was the model at LMS; CHS students walked through the schedule and met with their teachers; GMS students met one on one with their teachers.

Mr. Izbicki commented to walk around and see the students back in class and the teachers engaging was nice.

Mrs. Hershberger felt the alternative of learning at home when a student is out sick is not defined. She commented if they call in sick and join remotely it is confusing.

Dr. Jette indicated nurses have to log the sick call in. He noted we will have protocols from nurses soon about what to do if students have symptoms of COVID 19.

Mrs. MacDonald commented it is touchy for students with allergies and hard for some parents as well.

Dr. Jette indicated that symptoms they are looking for are fever and loss of taste and smell.

Dr. Jette updated the Board on various topics and provided responses to Board inquiries.

- o **Sports Update - Joshua Knight**

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▪ **Local Plan**

Dr. Jette reported Mr. Knight has developed a local plan with a cluster that includes Milford, Souhegan, Hollis-Brookline, Pelham, and Sanborn and is trying to minimize the amount of time students spend on the bus.

He noted football has not been determined. All schools are taking a conservative schedule for football and we are a small school surrounded by large schools, therefore, districts were chosen for which we could have some decent competition. Athletics will have access to two buses per day with a limited travel time of 30 minutes. Golfers are allowed to travel to home courses for practices and home matches after signing a waiver, and will be bussed to away matches.

Dr. Jette reported that Dan Dufourny and Kali Trunca were hired as assistant soccer coaches. Locker rooms are closed to Physical Education classes and will only be used for after school athletics with a 10 student maximum and requiring face masks to be worn. He noted that the NHIAA has stated we are allowed to play whatever schools we want to play and games we want to play, culminating in an open tournament where we will play as a Division III school.

▪ **Regional Play**

Dr. Jette provided protocols from each school participating to Board members. He noted all athletic directors met and worked on the protocols for athletics and activities, as well as spectating.

Rob Fay interjected that he will be live streaming every home game possible.

▪ **Schedule**

Dr. Jette provided the schedule of regional play to the Board for review.

School Board consensus: agreement to move forward with the local athletics plan.

▪ **Contracts**

Dr. Jette reported the district's Intent is to issue contracts to the coaches, which will include language in the event that the season is shortened.

Mr. Meyers believes the football coach and the volleyball coach should be paid because they worked through the summer.

▪ **Captains' Practices**

Dr. Jette reported that he received clarification that Captains' Practices are not allowed by NHIAA rules. He indicated coaches are able to offer coaching practices in the prior season. He noted the practices held were not captains practices, but were coaches practices.

o **PE Credit for Athletics**

Dr. Jette responded to the question of physical education credit for athletics not being offered at CHS. He indicated that there exists an 11 year old Board decision that allowed credit to be earned for varsity athletics, which should have been included either in the program of studies or student handbook. He noted there is no record of rescission of that decision.

o **Substitute Update - Rates**

Dr. Jette commented when the Board took action at the last meeting on increasing substitute rates, that included paraprofessionals as well as teachers, which caused a ripple effect. In order to provide equity, the district is asking for the following substitute rates for 2020-2021:

- Substitute Paraprofessional: \$13.34
- Substitute Custodian: \$13.81
- Substitute Food Service Technician: \$10.27
- Substitute Office Assistant: \$13.80

All rates are subject to the LSSA CBA and in line with salary schedules and when salary schedule steps adjust, these rates will adjust as well.

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Mr. Meyers made a motion to approve the requested rate increases for substitute paraprofessionals, custodians, food service techs and office assistants as presented. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

o District Determination - Special Education

Dr. Jette presented to the Board the findings for the audit of Special Services. He reported there were no incidents and no faults or findings in the District Determination.

o Enrollment Update

Dr. Jette updated the Board on the number of students enrolling in the district and the number of those that have moved out of the district. He noted Mrs. Bandurski was in charge of the PreK enrollment and the numbers are 9 students in the 3 year old program and 12 in the 4 year old program. He indicated the enrollment numbers at GMS are: Kindergarten: 66; Grade 1: 78; Grade 2: 87; Grade 3: 91; Grade 4: 75.

Mrs. MacDonald was concerned that the PreK numbers were so low since it is a half day program. She asked for the class size numbers.

Dr. Jette indicated that the PreK numbers were at 11 and 20, but are now at 9 and 12, which is conflicting. He offered to get clarification on the PreK program numbers. He noted LMS numbers are all below 100: Grade 5: 93; Grade 6: 93; Grade 7: 91; Grade 8: 90.

Mrs. Hershberger asked if these are physical in person and remote students, less the withdrawals.

Dr. Jette indicated that is correct, but there could be families in the process of registering or withdrawing.

Mr. Meyers asked for the total number of withdrawn students.

Dr. Jette noted we will get those numbers. He reminded Board members we are waiting for the October 1 numbers as those are the numbers we go by. He indicated CHS numbers are as follows: Grade 9: 117; Grade 10: 115; Grade 11: 101; Grade 12: 112. CHS is running at 13% remote; LMS is running at almost 30% remote; GMS is running 20% remote.

Mr. Meyers was concerned that the lower numbers from the middle school will hit the high school and asked about plans for staffing.

Dr. Jette indicated that he is hesitant to make any predictions in the middle of a pandemic. He believes if students do leave they will return to the district. He commented that marketing works to attract families. He noted we have not delivered our first synchronous instruction yet and everyone is nervous, both parents and teachers. He encouraged everyone to be patient.

Mrs. Harrison commented that she does not feel remote learners are in the places we hoped for them at this time. She indicated that all the preparations taken for in-person learning worked and she is hoping to make that happen for remote learning as well.

● School Board Comments

Mr. Bourque commented that the School Board joined Facebook several years ago, but he believes it has been counterproductive and unhealthy. He indicated this Board will not be driven by Facebook and will accept input through traditional avenues. He believes comments on Facebook have been getting more and more negative with insults to staff and the district. He encouraged the public to participate in the community forum. He noted there are many issues/discussions on Facebook that should go to the schools, but gets lost on social media.

o Remote Students Access to Schools

o Remote Student Access to Athletics & Co-Curriculars

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Dr. Jette noted there are two agenda topics regarding access to schools and programs by remote students. He commented that he is seeing more and more families almost building their own hybrid model and that is not what the district schools are equipped to do. He indicated that a five day per week in person model was offered and traditionally we have allowed home school students to access the schools and programs.

Dr. Jette stated he would never shut a door on any child, but he is trying to manage the spread of the virus and the numbers in the buildings. He commented we gave parents the choice and honored all choices, but we have to draw the line somewhere. He indicated if we have an incident and have to contact trace it will be challenging at best. He noted remote students can participate in clubs virtually. He believes we have to be clear about what we are doing and why we are doing it.

Mrs. Harrison asked if remote students are able to access the buildings. Mr. Bourque indicated there are no remote athletes.

Mrs. Harrison asked if remote students would be allowed to participate in outdoor activities.

Mrs. Hershberger believes remote students should have access to schools in a limited capacity in classes where there is space and attendance should be taken. Mr. Bourque commented that we need to manage the numbers. He indicated the LEA wants to minimize the number of students in the building and the more students that are allowed to come in will push those numbers higher.

Mrs. Hershberger commented if it is about space it is a non-issue; however, we should consider if there is space and if remote students should participate in athletics with protocols being followed.

Mrs. Harrison commented that remote students and parents did not know what they signed up for since these issues were not addressed at that time. She indicated that she understands why parents are concerned and feel they have been dismissed.

Mrs. Hershberger does not believe they are being dismissed. She disputed the assumption that by not having a remote only teacher students are getting less of an education.

Mrs. Harrison wanted to see more of an effort to build community with remote families than there has been.

Mr. Bourque asked Board members and the public to let the program unfold and see how it goes. He noted that adjustments can be made if necessary.

H. Community Forum

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Janine Anctil, 43 Tanager Way, commented that today was the first half day and it was not a perfect day as was depicted in photos shown by the Superintendent. Students came in with masks that were too big for them; took them off when their noses were itchy or when they were talking; they are not always masked when less than 6 feet apart; the 6 foot measurement is from the center of a chair to the center of the next chair; students walking over to others across the room impulsively.

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Mrs. Ancil indicated none of the teaching teams have figured out how to make remote learning work and there are issues with the location of the laptop and audio. She noted that they did perform mock remote tests. She mentioned there are concerns about remote learners from both parents and teachers. She commented the humanity shield is not a “golden” solution because it fogs up and collects much moisture.

James Watt, 19 Pilgrim Drive, commented he is the parent of a student in LMS and one at CHS. With reference to comments that were made regarding questions and answers, he asked about the Board procedures for public input. Mr. Bourque indicated that the public can make comments and ask questions, but the Board does not interact with the public.

Mr. Watt asked if there is a timeline that will be presented to parents, teachers and students where issues are measured against the progress that has been made. He indicated we are in a split mode with children learning one way and children learning another way and there has not been enough practice with the remote model. He asked if there is a goal to add a timeline with milestones toward progress.

Mr. Bourque commented he is unable to answer that question at this time, but directed parents to reach out to the principal of their child’s respective school for assistance.

Mr. Watt commented that he feels that remote parents were not getting a response on this question.

Jill Ozmore, 34 Page Road, commented she is providing some additional detail on having a on flexible schedule. She felt the explanation of the schedules was too simple and does not address complex cases. She mentioned she has a daughter that has an IEP (inaudible). She commented as a parent of a remote student she is concerned about the shared paraprofessional assigned to her daughter and how that paraprofessional will deliver services with seven students who are in person and remote learners. Mrs. Ozmore indicated she asked that question, but it has not been answered. She commented it is important to recognize that if we did not have remote students we would not have students in in-person classes.

Josh Bourque, 141 Talent Road, commented it is obvious the Board is not equally representing full in and remote students. He indicated that it takes time to create a remote learning environment. He felt Board members were dismissing concerns of remote families and was disappointed the Board will not provide equal instruction and resources for the remote model to be successful. He commented that neither teacher at GMS that he met with felt that they did not have the knowledge or resources they needed to have. He asked the Board to consider remote students as well as in person students.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Public Minutes:

- August 19, 2020

Mrs. Hershberger made a motion to approve the public minutes of August 19, 2020. Mr. Meyers seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

III. REPORTS

A. Principals Report: GMS - Social Emotional Learning

Mr. Mitchell indicated that Mrs. Clinton-Jones, Ms. Polichronopoulos, and Ms. Hayes will present information on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Mrs. Clinton-Jones commented the report was planned for last spring and GMS has been implementing SEL for a long time.

Ms. Hayes commented that CASEL information is the foundation with five core competencies that increase students’ academic performance and improve classroom behavior, as well as the ability to manage stress and depression, and have better attitudes about themselves, others and school. The Aces study was important to show the more Aces (trauma) the child experienced, the more negative outcomes they will have in the future.

Ms. Polichronopoulos indicated that there is a resiliency task force district-wide and social emotional learning is important. Someone who has a high “ACES” number will benefit from SEL, but so will a regular student. SEL is

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something that will help everyone and is important with remote learners. She stated that they expect to provide support for remote learners at GMS. She noted many things can be going on in a child's life that influence their need for SEL.

Mrs. Clinton-Jones mentioned the training that has been offered in the district and that GMS has a building-wide support committee. Positive reinforcement practices have been put in place; guest speakers have presented valuable information; book studies have been done with different groups of staff members across the district; and there was a presentation on "How to Flip a Kid" that provided information on how to get that student to be more calm during a crisis.

Ms. Hayes addressed student needs and assessing. She reported that DESSA Screening / Follow Up has been implemented and is done three times per year; students are assessed on the five ACES competencies so we can target our intervention to groups or individual needs.

Ms. Polichronopoulos noted individual screenings and evaluations are performed and that information is necessary to provide interventions. She indicated when we see students who are showing changes, we can gather information to see to support that student.

Implementation: Tier 1

- morning meetings for classroom staff
- proactive regulation strategies
- whole class instruction by school counselor
 - based on CASEL and ASCA standards
 - monthly themes discussed by Resiliency Taskforce
 - collaboration with physical education on mindfulness classes/yoga
- school-wide activities
 - community building project at the beginning of the year
 - Raise Craze: Acts of Kindness
 - student council projects and assemblies
 - SLP and OT social skills modeling at recess
 - sensory pathway

Implementation: Tier 2:

- Teacher problem solving at classroom level
- targeted lesson by school counselor
- Lunch groups : building social skills, reinforcing emotional regulation strategies. conflict resolution, problem solving
- Adult check-ins and check-outs
- Counseling interns

Implementation:Tier 3:

- Individual behavioral interventions
 - counseling,
 - social stories,
 - behavioral plans,
 - evaluations,
 - individualized discipline
- CPI training including paraprofessionals
- Related services/special education
- Paraprofessional supports for students
- Referral to outside services when needed.

Next steps: Short Term:

- supports for returning after remote learning

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- focus on reconnecting
- find innovative ideas to connect with ongoing remote students
- resources for staff/students

Next steps: Long Term:

- focus on common language and lessons that reinforce SEL competencies
- teacher training
- expanding tier 2 and 3 supports
- recreating policies to reflect SEL standards.

Dr. Jette thanked everyone for their presentation tonight. He asked about drop off and pick up at GMS.

Mr. Mitchell indicated we received every child we were supposed to and sent every child home that we were supposed to. He commented it was a learning experience, but we have a thoughtful and creative team who are coming up with suggestions to make it run smoother. He noted the buses will empty when they get to the front of the line, which is a change from waiting for all buses to arrive before emptying them. He explained this will save more time and provide some relief to the line of traffic.

Mrs. Clinton-Jones expressed her gratitude to the parents who were patient.

B. Business Administrators Update

- **2020-2021 Tuition Rates**

Mr. Izbicki commented the tuition rates are calculated in the DOE 25 and rates have decreased slightly at each school level due to the funds that were returned to the taxpayers for FY20. He asked Board members to approve tuition rates for 2020-2021: Elementary: \$15,290; Middle School: \$15,761; High School: \$16,082.

Mr. Bourque made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 tuition rates as presented. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

Mr. Izbicki reported that he attended weekly meetings on the LMS canopy project and ventilation; signed a contract with Viking Controls that will be updated and will install a cloud-based system that will enable the facilities director to access it from anywhere and work with Viking to find the issues. He indicated that he met with the architect and contractor for the LMS canopy this afternoon to finalize the costs, which are on budget. The contractor will arrive on Friday to section off the entrance to the building with fencing and carve out a section for staff and students to walk and access the building. The official contract with the guaranteed maximum prices will be completed Monday.

Mr. Izbicki reported the final cost for the GMS electrical repairs was \$58,000. He will provide Primex with the information to see if the district can be reimbursed for some costs. Construction on the new IT office has begun; the north walkway at CHS was completed; patchwork on curbing was completed. He indicated he has begun gathering FY22 budget information.

Mrs. Hershberger asked for an update on the ventilation.

Mr. Izbicki indicated MERV 13 filters are backordered and will be installed as soon as they are available; all filters were replaced with new MERV 8 filters; every non-functioning exhaust fan has been repaired or replaced.

Mrs. MacDonald asked if the schools are opening windows.

Mr. Izbicki commented opening windows is not an issue. He reported the ventilation controls will be addressed and the high school will be completed. He believes the district has been very proactive.

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Dr. Jette indicated that they learned that at LMS when air is removed through the return that air never enters another classroom and does not have to move through a MERV 13 filter. He mentioned those filters are not a necessity there. He commented that he has been hearing about the November cold and flu season and how when it is humid inside the school the droplets get larger and settle out largely, but when there is less humidity it stays in the air longer. He noted that even ventilation systems will not help when it gets drier and droplets linger in the air longer.

Dr. Jette mentioned that information about the rekeying project will be shared with the Board in non-public session. He explained it is a much simpler and more secure key structure that will be in place.

- **Bus Routes**

Mrs. Flynn mentioned that bus routes are being finalized on a case by case basis and will be in place for the full day start of school.

C. Student Handbooks

Student handbooks from GMS and LMS were provided for the Board to review. The CHS handbook is in draft form and is in the process of being finalized.

Dr. Jette indicated that the SAU has all comments and suggestions from the Board with regard to the handbooks and will work to finalize them for the next Board meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sophomore & Senior Projects

Responding to questions from the Board, Dr. Jette reported there has been a change to the procedures for Sophomore and Senior Projects. He noted Shannon Szepan and Diane Angelini are the co-advisors of Sophomore Projects and the procedural change is allowing students to do more service with their families instead of out in the community. He indicated there is a 15 hour check point and a 30 hour presentation with their advisor.

Dr. Jette reported Denise Freeman and Lynn Gnaegy co-advisors for Senior Projects and the change to that program is a decrease from the 40 hour requirement to 30 hours.

Mrs. Harrison commented this is not a service project, but something they would like to do.

Dr. Jette indicated they are actually calling it a “passion project”.

Mrs. Hershberger commented that during a pandemic there is even more need for community projects.

B. Coronavirus Review and Update

- **Fall School Reopening Plans Update**

Dr. Jette commented that after hearing concerns by parents of remote students, he will meet with the Principals to go through the original approved plan and identify what was not caught in the plan or things that have morphed. He indicated they will edit the plan and bring it back to the Board or reapproval.

Mrs. MacDonald expressed she was confused about remote learners and extra-curricular activities. She indicated not one student who is participating in sports is a remote learner.

Mr. Bourque confirmed Mrs. MacDonald’s statement.

Mrs. MacDonald asked why it is appropriate for them to participate in an outdoor sport.

Mr. Bourque indicated if remote students are participating in an outdoor sport they are not coming into the building.

Mrs. Harrison commented there is a difference in academics online and being a part of the school community.

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Mrs. MacDonald commented some parents opted for remote learning because they did not feel their children would be safe in the building, so why is it okay to do some things in person?

Mrs. Harrison commented she would feel comfortable with it if it were a small group.

Mrs. Hershberger agreed that some of the remote parents feel small groups are okay. She indicated all protocols and restrictions will be in place for those co-curriculars.

Mr. Meyers believes if we are offering a small cohort after school activities, then any students should be able to participate.

Dr. Jette indicated he will come forward with the plan one more time. He noted this question was not answered in the plan and should have an answer.

V. MANIFEST

The manifest was circulated and signed by the Board.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Community Forum

Jamie Watt, resident, commented while a number of people called in this evening, there was a complete absence of response to any questions which were asked. He asked about the proper forum, public and live, to ask questions and receive answers from the school board. He indicated even to structure them into one document or form to have a collation of questions ready is better than simply rejecting the expectation of an answer. He was concerned about comments made regarding the abdication of interacting on Facebook due to negativity and felt that it could be handled better.

VII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3II (a-c)

[Minutes of Non-Public Session are written under separate cover.]

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bourque, the School Board entered into non-public session at 9:35 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, 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. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters, which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

VIII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Due to the emergency rules in place, The board will not conduct additional meeting items following the non-public session. Once the vote to come out of non-public session is approved, the board will immediately adjourn the meeting.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. MacDonald, the Board returned to public session at 10:30 p.m. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

IX. ADJOURN

Mrs. MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Meyers, yes; Mrs. Hershberger, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

Michele E. Flynn
Administrative Assistant to the School Board