

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 12
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053

5 A concurrent meeting of the School Administrative Unit No. 12 School Board and the Londonderry
School District School Board was held on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017** at 7:00PM at the Londonderry
Town Office, Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH. In attendance
were School Board members: Ms. Ganem, Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. Lekas, Mrs. Reilly and Mr. Young.
Also in attendance were Superintendent, Mr. Laliberte, Business Administrator, Mr. Curro and School
10 Board Secretary, Lisa Muse.

1. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Mr. Lekas

2. **Non-Public Session:** **Non-Public Session requested under RSA 91-A:3, Section II (c) and**
15 **(e).** Mr. Lekas asked Mr. Fletcher if he would like a public or non-public hearing. Mr. Fletcher stated
he would like a non-public hearing. *Mr. Young made a motion to go into non-public hearing per RSA*
91-A:3 II (c). Mrs. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

20 *Mr. Young motioned to exit Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 6:53PM. Motion was*
seconded by Mrs. Hendricks. Motion passed by roll call vote.

25 *Mr. Young motioned to seal the minutes indefinitely under RSA 91-A:3, III because it might affect*
the reputation of a person that is not a Board member. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Hendricks.
Motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

The Board went into a Non-Meeting with Counsel from 6:54PM to 7:11PM.

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40 1. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:12PM by Mr. Lekas.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tyler Cullen.

4. **Questions, Announcements and Presentations:**

45 **4.1 Requested information regarding NHDoE Staff - Scott Laliberte:** Mr. Laliberte
reports that there are 330 total employees; 29 of which work in special ed and they service 103 school
districts in New Hampshire. Mr. Young mentioned that there is about three people for every school

district, but mentioned that we are sending out a staff member. He would like the District to consider sending out bills when they send out our employees to do the DOE’s job and wonders if the DOE has ever visited our district.

5 **5. Consent Agenda: Ms. Ganem made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.**

**5.1 Resignation(s): Alyssa Biagiotti Dining Services South School
Susan Burton SPED Assistant Middle School
Danielle Paulsen SPED Assistant Moose Hill**

10 **5.2 Minutes: November 14 and 21, 2017**

**5.3 Meetings: December 7, 2017 Budget Workshop 7:00PM Town Offices
December 14, 2017 Budget Workshop 7:00PM Town Offices
December 21, 2017 Budget Workshop 7:00PM Town Offices**

15 Ms. Ganem mentioned she was watching the Town meeting last night and said a lot of people came forward for Town positions and she hoped they have the same result for the school side.

4.2 Issue with December 2017 Tax Bills - Peter Curro: Mr. Curro mentioned the tax bills went out incorrect after the tax rate was set so therefore, a \$600,000 tax commitment will not be collected. The School Board and Town Council will get together and solve this problem.

20 Mr. Lekas proposed we have a joint meeting with Town Council in public if that could be arranged. The Board all agreed, but Mr. Young would like to note that we worked with the State for quite a few years to be able to build up a fund balance for the District for emergencies and that was only recently and it’s been three years and we only have about \$400,000 built up and the Town has always had Fund Balance. Mr. Young asked Mr. Curro for the Town amount. Mr. Curro said the total is about \$8 million from the
25 Town side. The Board agreed it should be done in public. Mrs. Reilly asked if that meeting would have to be in December. Mr. Curro said there is no hurry, and it doesn’t have to get done immediately. Because the Town is the collector of funds, we give them a cash flow statement on a monthly basis, but when we get to June we can alter it then. Mrs. Reilly asked won’t it have implications in our budget talks starting this month. Mr. Curro said it would come into play for the budget on the tax rate line where it says Surplus
30 that is the line effected. He mentioned that we would take our worst case/best case scenario and give an estimated amount of revenues coming from surplus and those would be different depending on the amount of money we are talking about. Mrs. Reilly would personally like to know before we close out this budget and Mr. Lekas agreed. Mrs. Reilly said if we do it in December can we piggy back on one of the meetings already. Ms. Ganem asked what our current fund balance is? Mr. Curro said that is \$402,810 and our
35 commitment gap is \$441,000. Mrs. Hendricks believed the Town would not like to see the school in a deficit. She would like more detailed information how they came up with a \$600,000 shortfall. The Town calculated the net valuation of the town and in this particular year there was a new form that the DRA had them use. It was after the tax rates were set that it was discovered. You had the same tax rate being applied to a lower tax base. The Town is the collector of money for school and county.

40 **6. Committee Reports**

6.1 Student Council – Tyler Cullen: The Student Council ran the “teacher tea cart” on Friday’s parent conference day. We pushed a cart around with a Keurig coffee maker and served the teachers coffee and munchkins. We do it to show some gratitude to the teachers for all of the work they
45 do for us. The Craft Fair happened on Saturday, November 18th. We had close to one hundred vendors. The Student Council sold “cookies in a jar” and poinsettias, while the Heal the World club collected

donations for their Kenyan school construction project and ran the raffle. Lots of people showed up and it was lots of fun. The Student Council has chosen to “adopt a family” through St. Jude’s Parish, and the collected items have been sent off to St. Jude’s. The Student Council is doing a can drive, also through St. Jude’s Parish. Collection has begun. Spirit Week is December 18th to December 22nd. The Student Council voted on the themes for each day and they have been approved. There is a Central District meeting on December 13th at Pembroke Academy.

6.2 Teacher Liaison – Mary Wing Soares: Matthew Thornton is participating in an Hour of Code this week. An Hour of Code is a worldwide program created to promote coding/computer programming education in the schools. This is their second year and they hope to have 100% participation. Learners will log on to www.code.org during Math Enrichment class or during their scheduled computer lab time. They are also inviting families to log on at home. This came from Ann Smith, Martha Miller, Mary Coppinger and Penny Webster. Mary Coppinger also asked me to share: Matthew Thornton KEY students along with Student Council raised \$400.00 dollars to help Puerto Rico after the devastating hurricane. Learners made a donation to wear comfy cozy clothes to school on November 21st. **From the Middle School:** From Monica Keshegian - the Winter Holiday Concerts are all day this Saturday. All are invited. From Mrs. Gendron: The Spanish 7 students at the middle school are finding out what an infinitive is and they can now say in Spanish what they like to do and what they don’t like to do. Plus, we have had many a game of charades as they act out these new infinitives to the class. The Spanish 8 students are in the middle of a Sports chapter. They can say what they play, where they play and what they need to play these sports. Even the non-sports lovers have got into the spirit! We end this chapter by either picking an athlete to write about or creating “media day” questions to ask their favorite athlete. All “en español” of course! From Mrs. Salviati: The LMS Pop Stars will be performing Holiday Music for the District and Town Office from 1:30 – 1:45 pm on December 21st. Please invite the school board to attend. **From the high school:** From Barbara Mee: Her junior/senior elective Law Studies class had an awesome tour of LPD with Lt. Kim Bernard last Wednesday. The learners found it very informative and they appreciated the time Lt. Benard took to show them around and answer their questions.

6.3 School Board Liaison Reports: Mrs. Ganem mentioned the LHS PTSO floral workshop was well attended. The Matthew Thornton PTA winter wonderland was successful – adopt a family has a few tags left. Ski signups are ongoing. The next PTA meeting is January 11th in the library.

7. Deliberations

7.1 To see what action(s) the Board will take regarding the third reading of Policy EF Dining Services Management: Mr. Curro mentioned there are no changes. He hasn’t heard from the public. If approved, we will have an announcement with the effective date for parents to catch up on outstanding bills. This will probably be effective March 2018 and a couple notices will be sent to all parents so there are no surprises. These policies are found on our website. *Mr. Young made a motion to approve the third reading of Policy EF Dining Services Management. Mrs. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.*

7.2 To see what action(s) the Board will take regarding the third reading to rescind Policy EF Food Services Management: *Mr. Young made a motion to rescind the third reading of Policy EF Food Services Management. Mrs. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.*

7.3 To see what action(s) the Board will take regarding the High School Program of Studies 2018-2019 – Jason Parent, Kim Lindley-Soucy, Shawn Flynn and Maureen O’Dea: The main goal of the Program of Studies is the ensure the students are college/career ready. There are 250

course offerings each semester. The descriptions and registration are online. Mr. Flynn mentioned that they are adding four dual enrollment credit courses in Physical education; Athletic training I, Strength and conditioning and Personal finance. There is no budget impact. They are adding dual enrollment from SNHU pre-calculus/honors with no budget impact. There were a few title changes and course description updates which are noted on the handout. In the new course proposal, he would like to offer Robotic Design. He went over the rational and course description. There are currently 161 students who seek dual enrollment. Ms. Ganem asked how many of those stem course count as running start. Mrs. O'Dea said the ones through Manchester Community College. Mrs. Reilly said she noticed that five of the courses do not have a budget impact but the other seven do? Mrs. O'Dea said none of these courses would had a budget impact. Mr. Flynn said the teachers we have in place now are qualified to teach these courses. Mrs. Reilly asked with the dual enrollment are we keeping up with other districts or are we pioneering these offerings. Mr. Parent said it is consistent with other schools. The Running Start and the SNHU dual enrollments is unique. Mrs. Lindley-Soucy said Londonderry was the first SNHU tried the online registration with. St. Anselms is now also looking to see how they can work with high schools. Mrs. Hendricks asked about our online classes – how successful are those in transferring to an out of state college? They mentioned that it depends on the course, the major and the individual university. They do not all transfer. Most in state universities like UNH, Keene, Plymouth transfer easily as well as University of Lowell. ***Mrs. Hendricks made a motion to accept the High School Program of Studies for the 2018/2019 school year as presented by Mr. Parent and his colleagues. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.***

8. Superintendent's Report

8.1 Proposal to Adjust Weighted Grades for the Class of 2022 and Beyond – Jay Parent:

There was a Power Point presentation. Londonderry established a 5.0 scale years ago, which is a full point increase in the weighted GPA. A review of the LHS profile has convinced us that we need to rethink our weighted grade scale as it relates to Honors/AP course. Guidance is responsible for the content. Mrs. O'Dea said the High School profile is distributed to colleges/ 97 colleges visited and 108 attended the college fair. She went over what the profile represents. This would decrease the weighted GPA by .5 to close the gap because the 5.0 is not an attainable GPA. Mr. Choquette stated the weighted GPA rewards students who challenge themselves by taking the most rigorous courses offered. It is used to establish class rank, recognition of the Top 10, qualification for scholarships, national honor society qualifications and NH scholars. He found there was one school in New Hampshire that decided to get rid of the weighted GPA and parents decided they wanted weighted. In regard to non-weighted classes, there are freshmen and sophomore requirements. Over 1/3 of the students take a music class, none of which are weighted. It is best to provide students the experience of heterogeneously grouped, non-weighted classes. Mr. Choquette looked at the past LHS valedictorians. Three of these students never had a grade lower than an A. By changing to a 4.5 it gives a more accurate student representation. He chaired this committee because he felt it is necessary. They took a teacher poll and the faculty supported this decision. He felt the parents/students/PTSO have a great understanding of this change. Mr. Flynn went over the advantages of a condensed scale. It minimized the inflation in grades caused by weighting. The shift in the grading scale to a 4.5 would be for incoming freshmen to start with the class of 2022 and beyond. The present Senior Class president spoke on behalf of the students. He was well aware of this discussion. He thought with this new system it will give students more options. Mr. Parent said he wanted students in courses for the right reason and wanted them to be challenged and not because they will get a GPA bump. Mr. Young asked about the inconsistencies between the school

districts in the State and can't believe the state has not mandated this. Mr. Laliberte thanked Mr. Parent and the committee for all their hard work. *The School Board endorses and recommends this.*

8.2 LMS Reading Data - Dan Black and Rich Zacchilli: 7th grade foreign language. Mr. Black mentioned that at the November 21st meeting there were questions from the School Board about potential changes to the 7th grade Foreign Language program. He shared the trends on literacy achievement that are driving this potential 7th grade programmatic change. This will give the School Board plenty of time to analyze the issue. Mr. Zacchilli mentioned that he is not asking for any recommendation or votes tonight. All students in the 6th grade take both Reading and Language Arts as part of their Literacy block at the middle school. Historically, when students moved onto 7th grade 30% continued with two period literacy block. Over the past several years, they have seen a noticeable shift in this trend. Students spend less time reading and writing outside of school and more time in front of the screen and scheduled activities. Expectations from colleges are more rigorous. In 2015/16, the middle school implemented the PSAT8 assessment as well as the i-Ready Progress monitoring tool. The results confirmed the noticeable trend that students were not showing the necessary growth in their literacy skills, to be successful in all content areas. In 2016/17, 38% continued with the two period literacy block in seventh grade. This year, 64% of current seventh graders are in a literacy block. 192 eighth grade students did not meet the benchmark in Reading on the PSAT8 (2016). This resulted in students needing to take a Reading class as a freshman at the High School. The i-Ready progress monitoring tool is used across all grade levels and they felt this trend will continue. On January 9th, Mr. Zacchilli will recommend to implement a full year literacy block in grade 7 for all students. Ms. Ganem asked if students are assessed by other things than i-Ready. Mr. Zacchilli said yes they are assessed every day by a variety of ways. Mrs. Hendricks was concerned about the students regressing – where is the disconnect? Mrs. Collacchi said the reason they described was that they don't read outside what the teachers have them read in school. Mr. Black said they are trying to get ahead of this and this will be presented during the program of studies in January. Mr. Young discussed the fact that the data is showing when the student elected to take a foreign language they step backwards because they aren't actively engaged in reading. Mr. Zacchilli said the data shows this over the past several years. Mr. Young asked if they have looked at any innovative solutions such as the students would do foreign language off hours or reading off hours kind of like the flip learning where they have the opportunity if they wish. Mrs. Collacchi said they have tried to approach that and hold students accountable for that and it has been very difficult. Summer reading expectations have been given. Mr. Zacchilli said they have to be careful not to overload the 7th grade students. Mrs. Reilly doesn't see this as just a middle school problem. She hoped when we are focusing on 6th or 7th grade, we are involving the elementary schools also to understand what can be done better. Mr. Black mentioned the data and he would really like to talk about this further and he would like to look at this from K-12 and how we can rise to the occasion. Mr. Lekas said parents want to know if their child doesn't need to take a reading class that they don't have to and if they want a foreign language they can. Mr. Young said we bulked up on language at the Middle School because students wanted to go through a rigorous track at the High School and they had to start early at the Middle School. Tyler Cullen asked if the 8th grade year of language alone counts as a year of High School credit. Mr. Black said it will be discussed on January 9th. He asked about the percentage of students who regress when taking their foreign language in seventh grade. Mr. Zacchilli said 42% did not meet their benchmark in 8th grade on the PSAT.

Mr. Curro mentioned that there is an invite on Monday, December 11th at 7:00PM with the Town Council to discuss the tax bills.

December 5, 2017

9. Adjournment: *Mrs. Hendricks made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Muse

10 School Board Secretary