

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Goffstown High School – Library - 27 Wallace Road, Goffstown, NH 03045  
Monday, October 16, 2017**

**School Board Members:** Dian McCarthy, Steven Dutton, Reta Chaffee, Ginny McKinnon, Heather Trzepacz, Dan Cloutier, , Lorry Cloutier, Kristie Curtis, Jenelle O'Brien (arrived @ 7:05pm)

**Administration:** Brian Balke, Superintendent, Ray Labore, Business Administrator, MaryClaire Barry, Assistant Superintendent, Jill Rioux, Special Educator

Dian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**Public Comment:** Tory Barber, New Boston resident and current president of the Goffstown Volleyball Servers (GVS), requested the Boards consideration to fund the Boys' Volleyball team at a cost of approximately \$6,754.47/year (Varsity coaches pay - (if an employee per the CBA): \$4,339.47; estimated travel expenses: \$1,300; estimated official expenses: \$1,000; NHVOA: \$115). During the past 16 years, GVS has supported over 60 students and funded the GHS Volleyball program which includes the MVMS and GHS girls' fall season and the GHS Boys' spring season. Boys' Volleyball has grown in popularity and provides an additional opportunity for boys to participate in high school athletics. There has been an increase in participation for the past 3 years and with the increase in players, the GVS continued to support the program by adding the JV Boys' team. The executive board has voted to increase the salaries of every coach GVS pay to match the CBA including the 7% FICA and potentially the 17% retirement. GVS would like to ensure that all girls' and boys' coaches are paid their full and agreed to amount. GVS budgeted to cover pre and post season tournaments for all teams, referees and transportation. The boys' varsity team is the largest portion of GVS expenses. Goffstown is one of 13 schools in the state of NH that participate in boys' volleyball. The Goffstown boys ranked #2 going into the playoffs in 2015, got to the final four in the 2016 and was ranked in the top 8 also making the final four. Players have also gone on to play at Bryant University, Plymouth State and at the NCAA Division 3 level at Mount Ida College. Funding would allow GVS to focus on volleyball related activities/events and increase opportunities. GVS funded 12 additional volleyballs for the girls fall season, new uniforms and warm-ups, backpacks for new players and outfitted the new coaching staff and would the opportunity to continue providing this type of support.

**Approval of the October 2, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes:** *Heather Trzepacz motioned the approval of the October 2, 2017 School Board meeting minutes, seconded by Reta Chaffee. Vote: 8-0-1 (Lorry Cloutier abstained) - Motion Passed.*

**Approval of the October 4, 2017 School Board Meeting Minutes:** *Reta Chaffee motioned the approval of the October 4, 2017 School Board meeting minutes, seconded by Reta Chaffee Vote: 8-0-1 (Lorry Abstained) - Motion Passed.*

**Correspondence:** Pictures included: MVMS – Gym floor and walkway and Maple Ave Modular Unit (inside and outside). UL news article regarding the 76 townhouse-style Woodland Village Development (Bog and Mountain Road).

**A&F Committee Meeting Report – Dan Cloutier Reporting:** *Dan Cloutier motioned the approval of the October 16, 2017 manifest for \$2,425,478.25 seconded by Heather Trzepacz.* Dan Cloutier highlighted the over \$5K invoices. **Major Items: Payroll/Taxes and Benefits:** 9/29/17 Payroll, 10/12/17; NHRS – September contributions; HealthTrust – 125 Plan Contributions, September and October Health and Dental Premiums; TSA Consulting – 403b Contributions **A/P Activity SPED:** The Birchtree Center – October (autism) Services for one Student (Newington, NH); CORE Vocational Services- September Services for 2 students (Gilmanton, NH); Lighthouse School – September Service for 1 Student. **General Expenses:** Cintas Fire Protection – Fire Alarm Systems Inspection and Maintenance; Eversource – GHS, MVMS and Maple Accounts; Goffstown Truck Center – Athletics Transportation; Performance Food Group – Food Supplies; Reliable Technologies – Business Machine Supplies; SAU#19 October Assessment; St. Johnsbury Academy – Staff Professional Development; WB Mason – Classroom and Office Supplies. *Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

**P&C Committee Report - Reta Chaffee Reporting:** The Dream Keeper, Cornerstone awards and Deliberative Session Preparation were discussed at tonight’s meeting. Superintendent Balke will communicate the award nomination process via e-mail to all teachers/staff; post forms on SAU website; press release for school newsletters and press releases. Nominations are due November 20<sup>th</sup> and the committee recommendations will be made to the Board on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Providing additional information to the general public regarding the status of a full-day kindergarten in Goffstown was also discussed.

**Superintendent Report:** NHSBA Workshops – Offering Budget Workshop – Basics of School District Budgeting; Right-to-Know Law Webinars; Right-to-Know Training and 2017 Bradley F. Kidder Educational Law Conference. The NHSBA Delegate Assembly is Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Center at Triangle Park office building, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH and starts at 10:00am. There is a new robotics project introduced for any schools who would be interested in creating a robotics team and partnering with businesses. Some teachers have already expressed an interest in teaching/supporting a team at the elementary school level. Public School Infrastructure Fund (PSI) will become available for public schools, including charter schools for the following types of projects: E-rate State Match projects (fiber optics); projects that address life and safety deficient and project improvement to school security. The funding is surplus 2017 dollars and will have approximately \$19 million available. Brian would like to explore submitting a proposal for the MVMS road expansion project which is currently listed on the CIP matrix. Brian has contacted Stantec, John Neville, GPD, GFD and DPW to discuss the proposal. Homecoming week had many fun activities for the students and they are getting ready for the dances, skits, etc. Friday is the pep rally.

**SCHOOL STAFFING:**

**Notifications:**

**Student Teacher:**

Alyssa Noonan (Granite State Coll) ..... MVMS ..... Karen Bowden-Gurley

**Student Observer:**

Sara Sylvia (St Anselm).....Bartlett ..... Elementary Ed  
Paige Fontaine (GHS)..... Glen Lake ..... Special Education

**Approvals:**

**Co-Curricular Sports Nominations (2017-2018):**

Alex Paraskevas.....GHS ..... Wrestling- Assistant  
Shane Tufts .....GHS ..... Ice Hockey- Assistant  
Ben Slocum.....GHS ..... Ice Hockey- Varsity

*Ginny McKinnon motioned to accept the Co-Curricular Sports and Nominations as presented, seconded by Steven Dutton. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed*

**2018-2019 Proposed Budget Work Session:**

**Bartlett:** The Board reviewed the increases in various budget lines. Special Ed General Supply line is increased due to increased costs for materials and testing. Staffing lines were reviewed. Brian shared that Bartlett has a lower special ed case-load than Maple Ave. Brian shared that Jill Rioux was transferred from Bartlett to Maple Avenue last year on a part-time basis to assist with the larger special ed population but is now full time. The Music and Art room at Bartlett is now housed in a 1<sup>st</sup> floor classroom. Music and Art are taught on different days and share the classroom space. Art and Music are still on a cart at Maple Ave. Ginny McKinnon voiced concern regarding special ed staffing at Bartlett. Jill is confident that there is enough staff to cover the student needs at Bartlett as the case load is pretty low compared to Maple Ave and should there be other students identified during the course of the school year, the present compliment of staff is doable. Brian stated that Glen Lake has rolling enrollment regarding the pre-school population. Spoecial needs students enter on their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday throughout the year and we generally estimate that about 12 e-year olds will enter preschool over the course of the school year. There is no way to forecast the

number or the unique needs of the special education students who will age into our system. Our pre-school program accounts for the high number of special education students at Glen Lake. Brian stated that there is an increase in special education lines due to having to hire contracted services for Speech and Language pathologists as they are difficult to retain. Jenelle commented on the Symbol Stix Program which allows teachers to develop a language for non-verbal students which is amazing. There was transfer of surplus money from Glen Lake's maintenance line to Bartlett as that line was over budgeted at Glen Lake. The printing and binding line was level funded due to historical spending and some of the savings is attributable to doing away with duplicate forms. There was an increase in the Foster Grandparent parent for providing lunch for a third individual Foster Grandparent. Board members reviewed the \$2.7K increase which were cost increases of existing services.

Guaranteed Maximum Rate (GMR) should be available by the end of the month. The budget will be updated at that time.

**Maple Ave:** Eliminated the purchase of some Core Reading Program materials which decreased that line as the program is anticipated to change this year. A committee was formed and has begun to explore different programs as we will not be purchasing the same type of consumables next year. The committee will be meeting with publishers to determine the best program for our school. There was a decrease in the workers' compensation line attributable to fewer safety incidences.

The printed materials line was decreased based on historical information and actual spending. There was an increase in the Maintenance and Repairs line due to interior/exterior general repairs, general bathroom repairs, new classroom sinks/countertops (2-year project) repairs, inspections, treatments & testing, security system, playground safety mulch, and general maintenance. It is a challenge to predict what the repairs will be and we have based the increase on historical spending.

Brian shared that Principal Pyszka requested for \$44K for interactive Promethean boards. Mrs. Barry is conducting an inventory of all school district devices and noting the devices in need repair or replacement. A lease arrangement is being explored. It was noted that the majority of the classrooms do not have interactive Promethean boards. The Unreserved Fund Balance will be reviewed and the Promethean Board discussion will be re-visited. It was also noted that staff are using both the document cameras and Promethean Boards and liking both.

**Glen Lake: Full-Day Kindergarten Discussion** - Jenelle O'Brien stated that she would like to see a full-day kindergarten in Goffstown and requested further information on what is needed in order for the school district to offer this program. Brian explained that Glen Lake does not meet the criteria of Ed Rule 306 for full-day kindergarten. Under this ruling, the school needs to have a cafeteria, gym, library which we do not have. We would need 10 classrooms and 6.5 teachers. The school district received state building aid in order to build Glen Lake which is no longer available. The school districts that are now offering full day kindergarten were able to do so because their elementary enrollment dropped and they were able to use those classrooms to house the full-day kindergarten program. Jac St. Jean, Student Representative on the School Board inquired if it was possible to add a cafeteria section by section. Brian stated that we could but we still need 6+ classroom space and 6.5 teachers and we would need to plan for and budget.

**MVMS Budget Requests: MVMS Room Dividers** - The current classroom dividers are broken and do not work correctly. The dividers are a safety concern and are only moved by the custodial staff. **Video Equipment** – classroom materials - MVMS would like to offer a class or club as this is an area of interest for the students. The students will learn how to do video productions and the thought is to have the students be the authors of the video. This will be another facet of the UA class and MVMS would like to incorporate a club type piece to the UA program. There is also a need to replace the aging library computers. **Naviance**

**Program-** It was noted that the Naviance Program was cut from the proposed budget last year. This is an expansion of the current GHS program geared for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for future planning of what types of programs of students the students are interested in. This will be common place in a few years.

**Replacement Furniture** – The request is for 4 standup desks. The high school currently have them in the social study classrooms and it is working very well for the students. There are a variety of chair equipment available for unique students some it for core strengths. **Field Trips** – the line was decreased due to historical spending.

**GHS: SAP Drug Prevention Guidance Counselor** – This is a new (.5) position request for a SAP Drug Prevention Guidance Counselor to assist students with substance abuse. Administration thought they would start with a part-time position to see what the program's needs were. **AP Testing** – \$33,500 Increase – Due to rising AP testing costs, Administration is requesting the Board's consideration to fund the students who are in AP classes and participate in the AP testing. There are many students who take AP classes who do not take the test due to the expense. Students who participate in the AP testing can get college credits. Dan Cloutier stated that he considers this a college expense and he is not in favor of paying for AP Testing. Ginny McKinnon stated that it gives credit to our school and enriches what student do. Dan commented the school receives Kudos and he is not convinced that the taxpayers should be paying for AP testing. Jac St. Jean commented that last year he took 3 AP classes and paid \$93/test for credits that may or may not be accepted at various colleges. Brian commented that this is something the high school feels strongly about as it benefits the students and is a good assessment of our programs and is reflects well in our accreditation. Dian McCarthy stated that she recognizes that every one of the AP students are children of taxpayers and we are talking about taxpayers either way. Dian supports this expenditure as these students are high achievers in our community and they do not have the financing. Dian would be inclined to cut another expenditure request in order to support this request. Kathy Sargent, Teacher Representative on the School Board observed that students who cannot afford to pay for the testing, tend to stop working as hard as the testing time approaches. However, if they knew that the district was paying for the testing, they would continue to push themselves to achieve a good testing experience. Dan thanked the Board members for giving him food for thought on the requested expenditure and acknowledged the US News and World Report ratings which gives GHS a high rating and also acknowledged the increase enrollment which is due to having such good schools.

**Division I Discussion:** An NHIAA council is preparing to move forward with the reclassify threshold for all sports. This may become an issue for our baseball and softball teams as the current status of our playing fields do not conform to Division I field expectations and field work will be needed. Brian stated that since he learned of this reclassification, he explored the possibility of developing the field behind the high school and a very preliminary cost guesstimate is around \$70K+ to complete the project.

The district leases the Lions Club field and another field possibility is the Barnard/Clinton parcel which is owned by the town. Board members agreed that contacting P&R and the selectmen for discussion of the Barnard/Clinton property was warranted.

Dian requested further information before responding to NHIAA. It was noted that Steve Fountain and Frank McBride will be at the NHIAA table when the vote is taken. Ginny McKinnon questioned if that would mean that the district would not be able to offer baseball and softball to our students. Ginny added that this would be a complete hardship to this community.

Jac St. Jean was of the understanding that the district could petition NHIAA to stay in the current division as we do not meet the proper field requirements. Perhaps that would allow us to stay in Division II until we are ready to make that jump.

**Stipends:** Ginny McKinnon would like to get on a cycle to get the stipends on the books. Board members agreed that there is an equity piece that will have to be addressed and these are important and appropriate discussion to have as we get closer to contract negotiations.

**Summer Reading Program:** \$12K budgeted – GHS would like one common book for everyone to read. The discussions would be much like a book club which is why one common book is requested. Board members voiced that this sounded more like a pilot/experiment program. This practice is not unusual at college level.

Jac St. Jean stated that some students may prefer to have different options. The purpose of the common book may also be defeated as friends who have read the book can pass on the information to others.

The Board discussed that perhaps a better approach would be to have a common book for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders and another for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders and also to target the book that would be interesting to the age group.

**Maintenance:** Software updates are needed.

**District Budget:** Ray Labore reviewed the District Budget and stated that changes may happen depending on where the GMR falls. A recap of tonight's discussion is as follows: **Athletics:** NHIAA mandate or not. **Technology:** Unexpended funds for technology. **MVMS Partitions:** \$70K for middle school partitions if we need to be make some changes to the budget. **Capital Reserve Fund Discussion:** Ginny McKinnon commented that perhaps the capital reserve fund should be directed towards the Division I needs before settling on the budget.

The Board will meet next Monday. Policy Review Committee (PRC) will meet at 5:30pm and the Goffstown School Board will meet at 6:30pm.

**OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING: None**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3II(a) - none**

*Lorry Cloutier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm, seconded by Jenelle O'Brien. Vote: 9-0-0 – All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise F. Morin  
Recording Secretary