

Hampton Falls School District

Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting
Lincoln Akerman School – Library
8 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls

www.sau21.org

School Board Members present: Mark Lane; Chair, Greg Parish; Vice-chair, Pamela Miller, and Greg Marrow.

Administration present: Dr. Ronna Cadarette, Assistant Superintendent, and Mark Deblois; Principal.

Absent: John Bailly, and Dr. Robert Sullivan, Superintendent.

Mark Lane called the school board public meeting to **order** at 6:00 p.m.

2. School Board Opening Statement

Mark Lane expressed appreciation to the parents and constituents for attending tonight's meeting. He emphasized that the LAS parents message was loud and clear and that the administration and school board has taken immediate action.

The audience was reminded of the protocol chain of command for addressing any concerns or questions:

- ✓ The first step is to talk to the teacher – where in most cases can resolve a concern or answer a question,
- ✓ Second is to talk to the principal,
- ✓ Third is to talk to the superintendent,
- ✓ Lastly, would be to address the school board.

The Board expressed confidence that we have great teachers, staff, and administration who work to instill sound morals, with emphasis on helping others. That is the true spirit of this school and should not be overlooked.

b. Policies & Procedures (Out of order)

Mark Deblois informed that there are three specific policies in place that the school board and administration are required to follow, and they are available to view on the web-site:

- ✓ JBAA-Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, and JBAA-R Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Report Form
- ✓ JICK-Cyber bullying
- ✓ JKD Suspension from School.

c. Education (Out of Order)

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Mark Deblois spoke about programs that have been in place throughout LAS. Some include: Paws Pride, C.A.R.E.S. (Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Regulation), Participation and Personal success skills that address behavioral interactions, personal interactions within community, academics and guidance pre-planned programs throughout the grades are ongoing.

LAS staff are working to develop recommendations for additional in-house programming, ideas to help foster communication with students, and to let students know that they can come to get help.

a. Communication (Out of Order)

Mark Deblois addressed providing greater and timelier school-to-home communication as thoroughly as can be considering the RSA restraints that we have to go by.

Parents-to-school partnerships are vital to our success. Parents should not hesitate ever to contact a teacher or administrator, and expressed that stopping by for a conversation is best. Never hesitate to do that. When incidences are not reported, then nothing will happen because we don't know about it.

It is important to gather information so that a more informed judgement can be made. Rumors and innuendos can overtake a situation, but we always need to find out what is true.

Parents to children

- We should recognize the importance of entering conversation with children about the things that might be sensitive and uncomfortable to speak about. Try not to accept “things are ok”, or “alright” responses, and try to pursue a conversation to get more information about how school is going.
- Developmentally, talk about sexual related things that you may not want the school to decide. Children should be informed and that is the parent domain. Do they know what things are that other children already know? Encourage conversations with your children.

We will work through the answers. There are wonderful things going on each day and we have great kids who will maintain their focus on the right things. Protocols will be established to resolve these problems. No one entity is to blame. Parents, staff and administration has to work in concert.

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Public Comment

- Teacher computerized documentation is valuable for repeat offenders, as well as establishing exact repercussions, and consequences for each offence or repeat offences.
- Constant reporting and referrals are needed. Mental evaluations are needed where you can get outside help. We need to trust the process and the staff.
- Establishing a better accounting process for repeat offenders showing what the offences were, and establishing stricter consequences.
- Administration and staff are researching the additional training needed.
- Checks and balances are important.
- Incident recording is important, and to interview all staff that might be observing everyday activities.
- Expressed appreciation that this meeting was happening, and inquired if we do an exit interview when people leave the district?
- Children need to act properly in a school, and there needs to be discipline for multiple offenders. Some children do not feel like they can report an incidence.
- Define what our core values are within the school, what are the negative behaviors that will not be tolerated, define protocols and stick to it, reinforce that there is a student safety net.
- Parents need to educate your children. Ask your children very plainly if something is wrong, teach them to tell a teacher, children can be afraid that they would get reprimanded, or called a snitch.
- This is a school community issue that is hard for kids at this age to go through. There could be an impact on the children where there may be lots of irritability, or they don't want to go to school.
Suggestions to monitor spaces, engage in frequent communication among all involved, and increase incidence reporting.
- Would like to see a written policy reviewed, accountability for children actions, annual training so that staff can recognize issues, and written consequences for behavior actions.
- Would like to see an investigation, and also look into other stake holders (within the confidence-level) meeting the challenges.
- Would like to know how these incidents might have occurred? on-line, verbal, physical, and where in the school the incident occurred: was it in the cafeteria, bus, play ground?

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- Appreciation was expressed for conducting this meeting, there are many positive things going on at the school, let's see where we go from here. It is now in the hands of the administration. We need strong policies to help build trust.

Audience participants:

Don Janik, Todd Santora, Shawn Brunelle, Angela Bramante, Laura Pouliot, Marsha Medford, Colleen Farias, Stacy Kinnaly, Charlie Rizzo, Jillian Tanida, David Gandt, and Donna Gandt.

The audience was made aware of a monthly Discipline Report, which is a public document and can contact the SAU21 for a copy.

The Board acknowledged that a non-public meeting will be held, policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated, trust building will continue, looking at an anonymous box to place complaints or concerns, but some things are controlled by RSA's.

Motion: Pamela Miller motioned to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:22 p.m. Second: Greg Parish. Roll call vote. Mark Lane says yes, Greg Parish says yes, Pamela Miller says yes, and Greg Marrow says yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Submitted by Maureen Hastings, Recording Secretary (Approved December 14, 2017)