

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

1-19-22

(Minutes amended on 2-2-22 for agenda # 8.1 Article 8 -Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney)

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A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dawn Dutton, Chair
Jim Baker, Vice Chair
Moira Bashaw
Peter Broderick
Jamie Fitzpatrick
Heather Ingham
Tammy Mahoney

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Jocelyne Lampron

ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
Dr. Patricia Haynes, Dir. of Teaching & Learning
Matthew Angell, Business Administrator

1. Call to Order - School Board Chair Dawn Dutton called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Dutton asked the Board to move Agenda #7.1-Approval of Overnight Field Trip for National Choir Event. The event is summarized below by music teacher Maria Isaak, who will accompany the students:

Congratulations to Olivia Bradley, Damien Easter, Cailyn Heath and Adam Putnam for acceptance into the 2022 OAKE National Conference Chamber Choir!

Congratulations to Hailey Boyd, Kelsey Giguere, Pierce Ortiz & Gabrielle Paris for acceptance in the 2022 OAKE National Youth Choir! They will participate in a rigorous 4-day rehearsal schedule March 2 – 5, 2022 (Wed – Sat), culminating in a final performance the evening of Saturday March 5, 2022.

Founded in 1975, the Organization of American Kodály Educators mission is to support music education of the highest quality, promote universal music literacy and lifelong music making, and preserve the musical heritage of the people of the United States of America through education, artistic performance, advocacy and research. The OAKE National Conference is an annual event which occurs in a different city each year, bringing together music educators and clinicians over the course of four days. The Conference culminates in the performance of singers selected to participate in the OAKE National Honor Choirs. There are five audition-based OAKE National Conference Choirs, each led by a nationally renowned conductor. Accepted singers learn and memorize the music at home with their own teachers before going to the conference city.

Mr. Stack and Ms. Issak introduced the student performers who sang “Because I Knew You” from the *Wicked* Broadway performance. Mr. Stack said typically an overnight trip is a school-sponsored event, but in this case, the students auditioned and were accepted, and they are independently paying their own transportation and lodging. He added that the Music Boosters have fundraised and paid the \$300 registration fees for the eight students.

Ms. Mahoney made a Motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip for the National Choir Event, seconded by Mr. Baker.

Chair Dutton and the Board expressed their enjoyment of the performance, their congratulations to the National Choir applicants and appreciation of their efforts.

Vote: All in Favor.

- 2. Action on Minutes- Review of Minutes of [1-5-22](#).

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of January 5, 2022, moved by Ms. Mahoney, and seconded by Ms. Bashaw.

No Discussion

Vote: All in favor

- 3. Communications

3.1 Distribution of Manifest Documents- Chair Dutton said documents are circulating for signature.

3.2 Nominations-Superintendent Ambrose reported he has two nominations both which are being funded by ESSER grants as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Actual Salary 2021-2022</u>	<u>Budgeted Salary 2021-2022</u>
<u>District</u>			
Andrea WijsenSchool (Part-time)	Behaviorist	\$24,739	New Position
<u>Memorial/Middle</u>			
Rachel Noland	School Counselor	\$20,337	New Position

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to approve the nominations of Ms. Wijsen and Ms. Noland, moved by Ms. Ingham, and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Vote: All in Favor

3.3 Resignations-None

3.4 Superintendent's Report -None

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Policy- Chair Ingham said Policy met on 1-5-22 and reported as follows:

In attendance: Board members, Chair Ingham, Ms. Dutton, Ms. Mahoney, and Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Haynes

Chair Ingham asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of 11-3-21 moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Dutton. No discussion. Vote: All in Favor.

The group reviewed the following policies. Chair Ingham recommended moving forward with the policies there are no questions about and saving those others (with questions) for the next meeting to review and discuss.

[EEAA-Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property](#)

Ms. Mahoney recommended adding “permitting copyright requirements” under “d”. Chair Ingham said we will hold this policy to discuss at the next meeting.

[ECAF-Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses](#)

Chair Ingham said there are no questions, but we will hold this as it is related to EEAA.

[EBCA Emergency Plans](#)

Chair Ingham asked for a Motion to bring Policy EBCA for a 1st Read to the School Board, moved by Ms. Dutton, and seconded by Ms. Mahoney. Vote: All in favor

[EEA Student Transportation Services](#)

Chair Ingham recommended holding this for further review and discussion.

[EEAEA-R-Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers](#)

Chair Ingham asked for a Motion to bring Policy EEAEA-R to the School Board for a 1st read, moved by Ms. Dutton, and seconded by Ms. Mahoney. Vote: All in Favor

[FAA-Annual Facility Plan](#) Ms. Dutton made a Motion to move policy FAA to the School Board for a 1st Read, seconded by Ms. Mahoney. Vote: All in Favor.

The next meeting is on February 2, 2022, at 5PM.

4.2 EISA -Ms. Mahoney said Excellence in Student Achievement met tonight and she will report at the next meeting on 2-16-22. Time will be 3:30 instead of 4:30.

4.3 Finance- Mr. Fitzpatrick reported the group met today and he will report at the next meeting. The meeting held on 12-15-21 is as follows:

Minutes to December 15, 2021, Finance Committee Meeting

Attendees: J. Baker / J. Fitzpatrick / M. Bashaw / M. Angell / T. Ambrose / Dan Doyle
Minutes from 11/18/21. J. Baker Motioned for acceptance and J. Fitzpatrick seconded. J. Baker and J. Fitzpatrick Approved. M. Bashaw Abstained

Trust funds (as of 11/30/21)

Special Education Expendable Trust Fund	\$241,209.34
Capital improvement and Maintenance fund	\$273 069.49 (Corrected)

\$223,069.49 was reported at the Finance Committee meeting
 Unanticipated Educational Expenses fund \$200,221.17
 Facilities use Revolving Fund \$189,466.96

Includes:

Rental income \$11,667
 Expenses
 \$682.50 Tyler Tech Accounting Software

Note: There are some accounting system issues causing errors in the reported balances that will need to be reconciled at the January Finance Committee Meeting
 Additionally, there is approximately \$545K in Unexpended funds from last year that board voted to withhold in 2021.

Revenue & General Fund Spending Reports

Health Spending –

YTD Spend \$1.528M
 Encumbered \$2.699M
 Unexpended Funds \$0.753M* (Reduced by Approx. \$25K from last month)
 *Note this includes ~ \$400K premium reimbursement

All Non- Health Spending

YTD Spend \$ 11.683M
 Encumbered \$15.766M
 Unexpended Funds \$ 2.883M

(Last month was \$3.638M – Change of Approx. \$750K
 The report defaulted to 12/31 so included the first 2 weeks of December in the spending totals rather than 11/30/21 cutoff.

M. Bashaw asked if the increase in spending shown with the large reduction of unencumbered funds, jump could be explained by desire to buy products prior to end of calendar year to protect against price increase. M. Angell said that no, this would not be the case.

Revenues

YTD Booked \$27.150M (incl. the receivables for the full year from Kingston and Newton)
 Still to be collected
 Fremont \$ 3.021M
 Adequate Education 693K received of \$2.610M
 Building Aid \$0.246M
 Catastrophic Aid \$0.180M

Business Administrator Comments:

January will be issuing RFP – Proposals due in March for FY23 School year
 School Food Service
 Regular and Special Ed student transportation
 Banking Services
 Engineering Services
 Soliciting Proposals for Electricity
 His quotes are spot quotes.
 He will contact all providers and review with the Finance Chair to determine lock in rates
 J. Baker asked about timing, as currently a lot of crises that may not exist by summer.

M. Angell identified that he has to give min 60-day notice to current provider that expires in November 2022. M. Angell agreed that this is not time sensitive and can wait.

Accounting System Focus

M. Angell will now be focused in this area, now that the budget is complete, and he has time available again.

There are issues that need to be addressed and M. Angell gave some examples of these conversion and growing pains with the new system.

Their Support team is identifying that their implementation team did not cover what they should have covered.

Food service system "Point of Sale" system is starting to fail

Cost will be approx. \$12k. In CIP for purchase for next year. But machines are starting to fail now, so will need to be addressed this year rather than next year.

Future Considerations:

Septic pumps needed at Bakie – Awaiting quotes

Memorial is being pre-heated with burners for more efficient use of Heat Pumps

Replacement pumps under warranty for Bakie Boiler have been received and installed and are working properly

Open Items

Seminary Building Roof is not being pursued any further

High School roof – waiting contractor quotes to address some of the issues

Still have not been able to caulk the windows by the Silo

M. Angell provided new invoice information on book receipts

Bookshelves – taking this item off the table. Will not be pursuing.

Book Purchases – M. Angell has provided more invoices on book purchases.

ACH Payment plan - M. Angell reviewed a revised proposed procedure after feedback from Committee members. They will now train and have everyone in the business office sign off on the procedure.

Budget Adjustments:

To cover the cost of out of district placement. Moved by M. Bashaw. 2nd by J. Fitz. Approved unanimously

FISCAL YEAR - 2021-2022

Account #	Account Description	Amount Increased	Amount Decreased
10-1210-19-55610-3-27-00000000	Tuition In-State - Special Education		\$38,104.00
10-1210-19-55640-2-25-00000000	Tuition Non-Public - Special Education	\$38,104.00	

Chase Field maintenance – dig out infield, and level out. The existing Sod will be retained. We will need a couple truckloads of loam to level as baseline's are elevated and present risk to players. Only 1 Quote is available. Time is of the essence to be able to ensure field is ready for the coming season. Request is to waive the policy of multiple quotes. Existing Quote is \$33,448.

J. Baker asked who would be giving OK to use field to ensure that the field does not get torn up after the investment. M. Angell said D. Doyle will be ultimately responsible to make the decision (B. Dawson will be part of the consultation in making that determination).

Motion to approve Budget transfer and Waive policy and bring to the board for final approval. M. Bashaw Moved. J. Baker 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Covid Spending Work sheet

J. Fitzpatrick asked what the Covid spending has occurred (without regard to grants), what are we spending on Covid. M. Angell reviewed prior spending from FY21. We are not presently coding expenses for Covid. M. Angell said he could do a cost analysis. We are presently not charging anything to any grants today. M. Angell to provide a summary of our present spending on Covid. The next Facilities meeting will be held on 2-16-22. Time TBA

4.4 Facilities -Mr. Baker reported that the group's meeting was cancelled in January, and they have not met. The next meeting is 2-2-22 at 3:30 PM.

4.5 Public Relations- Ms. Mahoney said Public Relations will meet on 2-2-22 at 4:30 PM.

4.6 Personnel – Ms. Dutton said the group met on 12-15-21 at 3PM and we reviewed job descriptions as follows: Paraprofessional, RBT Paraprofessional, Pre-k Special Ed Coordinator. They were all voted on and accepted unanimously. We met this afternoon, and I will report out at the next meeting. Our next Personnel meeting is on 2-16-22 at 3PM.

4.7 SST -Mr. Ambrose said there has been no meeting since the last report.

4.8 Budget- Ms. Bashaw said the Public Hearing was held last week on 1-11-22 and the Budget was presented. One member of the public was present. We will meet on 1-20-22 to vote on warrant articles.

4.9 Wellness- Ms. Ingham said the group met yesterday and we will have notes for our next meeting on 2-2-22.

5. Student Council Representative Report- Ms. Lampron reported this month is National Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Day and our coordinator Ms. Alley has been trying to make a big mark with her ELO program. She gives us all an opportunity both with her ELO program and her internship program to do what we really want to do, whether it is painting with something random or whatever (one student wanted to use a 3D printer to use and Mr. Angell was able to provide for the request made. Ms. Alley is highlighting all the ELO projects/progress made in recognition of this month.

There is also an Artist in Residence program going on right now where little wire trees are being made. The Art Department and Woodworking Department are working in conjunction to make this happen. Brian Kelly is the artist, and his work is amazing. The students as a whole believe that there are a lot of decisions being made at the Board level without asking students for feedback. There are many students who would really like to make a difference in the community and in what happens in their school, so I don't know if you can do anything about that, but I wanted to bring that to the table.

6. 1st Public Comment-

Emma Crowe- I'm a senior at Sanborn and I'm here speaking as a student today. I really wanted to give a student's perspective on the whole COVID situation going on inside the school. I know that's been on the agenda the last few meetings. Like Jocelyne said earlier, we are the ones that are really saddled with a lot of the decisions here and I would really appreciate it if our voices were heard. I sent an email after the last meeting talking about how a lot of students, when they're sick at home with COVID, they have no support. I ended up being one of those students right after I sent that email. My mom got COVID two weeks ago. I stayed home until I got tested just to make sure I didn't bring it into school didn't want to spread it more than it was already spreading. I only missed three days. In those three days I missed five college courses, two AP classes, all of my honors courses and two of my calculus classes. I know that FLT is there to help us with that but because of the clubs I'm in, my FLT is taken up. So, falling behind as a senior was really hard and having no support outside of the classroom to help me was also really hard. Now imagine if you're a student who is missing five days, the full five days, or 10 days. Some people are missing fourteen just because of how sick they are. They have no support at home, so what I'm here today to suggest, I don't know if anybody suggested this yet, is that even if we don't go remote for whatever reason, we have a remote option for kids like that because where I'm a senior, I don't have the months to make up. I'm here for four or five more months and then I'm off to college. This could be the difference between me graduating, me keeping my merit scholarships to colleges. It is a really intense time right now for us to be missing school like that. I did everything I had to do. I emailed my teachers. There's only so much they can do. They're swamped with so much work that not everybody got back to me. So, I would really urge

you guys to listen to what I'm saying and like Jocelyne said earlier to really take into account the students opinions, because we're the ones dealing with it. Really look into doing a remote option for the students that are stuck at home for as long as they are and do your best to do what's good for our education because we really need it right now.

Vanessa Matias (Kingston) - I sent this letter to the board but i just want to read it and I probably won't get through all of it, so I'll try to blast through it but I'm here to just make an initial comment now and I'll make a comment later after Tom does some questions and answers but it's just regarding the third and sixth grade move to the plan that you guys are talking about. In my opinion, there's still some things in question. We have Fremont's decision, the financial impact that that's going to go along with that. Does it make sense to make another big decision for our district when we have such an important decision pending that could require additional changes to be made. Mandatory pre-k, if it's going to pass and if so, what does that look like. How can we plan for something that hasn't even been discussed or outlined? Enrollments and I'm curious later and I'll talk about this a little bit more but COVID has impacted our enrollments in a way that we didn't expect. Does it make sense to consider a new NESDEC survey to fully understand how future enrollments could possibly be impacted. Last thing we want to do is find out the enrollments take a different trend and now we have a new issue arising and is spending short money for something like a new NESDEC survey for proper future planning more sound than not? Intervention. It hasn't even fully been implemented. How do we know that we've even got the best plan until we give it time to roll out? Would changes impact the decisions we're discussing tonight and then last and certainly not least, no other changes have been discussed amongst the board with the public except for the plan on the table. As with everything there's always impacts you cannot account for. I can't think of a better way to help firm up the decision, if it's the proper one but by discussing other ideas and systematically ruling them out one by one with that process. How can you truly believe you've made the right decision without that process? I don't want to discredit the concerns the administrations have. We know that moving not moving the sixth grade with the seventh and eighth grade transition was going to create issues, both academic, sports extracurricular aspect and I truly understand why the administrators would like to know if that move will be happening sooner than rather than later. I have a child in fourth grade who is going to be directly impacted either way. I just don't feel today is the right time to make a decision and here's why: They say the most important thing to do is about history is to learn from it. Obviously, you can't plan for things you don't know about but there are plenty of things still hanging in the balance that are just a year out. If you feel like any of my previous questions that I sent to the board or points addressed here would have any impact to your decision, I ask that you just don't vote yet. Slow down, don't rush your decisions. Make sure you consider all the impacts before you make such drastic changes and allow yourself the time to properly plan for the future to the best of your ability. For your decision tonight not only impacts the students but also the staff, teachers, and parents. Let's not be back here in another year or two from now.

7. New Business

7.1 Approval of Overnight Field Trip for National Choir Event-Moved to beginning of meeting.

7.2 Acknowledgment of High School Donation (KitchenAid Mixers)- Mr. Stack invited Principal Malia to the podium to report on the donation as it is both a Middle and High School donation that came about because of an amazing Middle School student. Ellie Paris realized the need for KitchenAid mixers after seeing her teacher, Ms. Belcher carrying her machine back and forth to school. She was able to elicit seven gently used mixers from people as donations (via social media with the help of her mother) to be used in the Wellness program at both schools. Mr. Malia added that it is wonderful that Ellie saw the need and took action. This is a great example of what we want our kids to do in the community.

Ms. Ingham made a Motion to accept the donation of the mixers, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

The Board discussed ways to publicly acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Paris.

Vote: All in Favor

7.3 Acknowledgment of Wednesday, 3-23-22 as full day for SAT Testing- Dr. Haynes reported that due to SAT testing the High School on 3-23-22, the early release scheduled for that day would have to be cancelled and changed on the calendar.

Superintendent Ambrose asked for a Motion to change 3-23-22 on the calendar to a full day, moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Vote: All in Favor

7.4 Announcement of Dates for Strategic Plan Focus Group – Dr. Haynes announced the dates being held for focus groups for the public to weigh in on the Strategic Plan being developed. Those upcoming dates are 1-26-22 from 3-4 and 1-27-22 from 6-7 on Zoom.

7.5 Approval of MS-27-Proposed Budget State Form- Mr. Angell reviewed the form that the Budget Committee will sign.

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to approve the MS-27, moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick, and seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Vote: All in Favor

8. Old Business

8.1 Review and Recommendation of 2022 Warrant – Superintendent Ambrose clarified that we are looking for the Board's recommendations on each article.

Article Four-Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to approve to approve Article 4, seconded by Chair Dutton.

Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his support for the Article saying all parties came to the table with the express interest of getting what was best for all shareholders in the district; the students, the teachers, and the taxpayers. We need the support of the community to pass this.

Mr. Ambrose seconded his comments.

Vote: All in Favor

Article 5-Special Meeting- Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

Ms. Ingham made a Motion to approve Article 5, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Baker clarified that this is the re-do article if the previous warrant doesn't pass.

Vote: All in Favor

Article 6-Unanticipated Utility Cost- Expendable Trust Fund

Ms. Bashaw made a motion to approve Article 6, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said this is a reserve account that will only be used for these utility funds if we come up short. Absent that, we would have to pull it from other areas of the budget which we could have some problems with so here we are trying to set us up with reserves only for utility going forward.

Vote: All in Favor

Article 7-Device Protection Plan Revolving Fund

Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve Article 7, seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said parents can opt into paying an insurance plan for their child's device protection. If the child then causes damage to the device, it is paid out of this insurance pool. If a parent opts out of the device protection plan, they would be responsible for any damage to the device.

Vote: All in Favor

Article 8-Capital Reserve Fund-Unanticipated Educational Expenses

Mr. Baker made a Motion to approve Article 8, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

No discussion

Vote: All in Favor

Article 9-Capital Reserve Fund-Capital Improvement and Maintenance

Mr. Baker made a Motion to approve Article 9, seconded by Ms. Bashaw.

No discussion

Vote: All in Favor

8.2 Update on 2021-22 COVID Plan

Superintendent Ambrose gave a brief update of the current community and school data with total active cases at 39. (Bake -3, Memorial -13, Middle School-6, and the High School-17). The total community cases are 194.

Mr. Ambrose asked to amend the COVID 19 School Plan under "Determination of Masking Status" from five days absent in a row to three days instead as follows:

If 10 percent (or more) of students are absent in a building for three days in a row, that building will move to a "Mask Required" status. This status remains until the school has 7 percent or less of its students absent for three school days in a row.

If the absence rate at a school reaches 15 percent on any one day, that building will immediately move to a "Masks Required Status". This status remains until the school has 7 percent or less of its students absent for three school days in a row.

Once a building's absence rate falls to or below 7% for three school days in a row, students and staff will go back to "Mask Recommended" status.

Mr. Baker moved the Superintendent's amendment, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the accuracy of the number of absences for COVID and the Superintendent said they are very accurate as they all illnesses, not appointments or anything else.

Ms. Ingham asked if going down to three days would make for flip-flopping back and forth. Mr. Ambrose said it organically goes up and down, but this is a surge, and our process is good.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said the Exeter Hospital COVID information provided is reliable and their cases of absenteeism is coming down.

Mr. Broderick supports this as the surge goes up so does the immunity.

Ms. Bashaw said this should be a good thing.

Vote: All in Favor

8.3 Discussion of Potential Move of 3rd and 6th Grade-

Chair Dutton asked if the 2nd Public Comment could be after the Superintendent speaks on this topic and they agreed.

Superintendent Ambrose said the Administration is perfectly happy to go in whatever direction the Board chooses. We are not getting Universal Pre-K for next year, so the urgency has abated but Bakie School is very full, and 6th grade is running on a middle school model in an elementary school. He has received many questions both for and against. He will post all of the Q& A the on the SAU17 website. He read many of the questions and answered them. We need to plan the school year for next year and with that the Master Schedules, so we need the Board to make a decision at least for next year, today.

9. 2nd Public Comment

Vanessa Matias (Kingston)-One of the questions I asked was what are the size capacity of each building and the answer that I was given is Bakie is at 400 and just about at capacity. The Memorial School is at 260, just about capacity. The High School was built for 1100 and currently houses 775. So just looking at the anticipated enrollments gives me concerns. What is the buffer that we have built in? We should invest in another NESDEC Study and look at the enrollments. The last thing I want to say this reconfiguration is not light work for parents to consistently move children from building to building with times that change along with schedules and things like daycare arrangements, etc.

Emma Crowe (Sanborn Senior)- I have a few friends that couldn't be here and asked me to reiterate a few things. You just went over the COVID Plan. What support are we going to give the kids at home? It is great that the numbers are looking better but kids are suffering at home right now. Some kids are high risk in one way or another and have flare-ups. So, what kind of support is in place for those students?

Kevin Holt (Kingston)-I am in favor of the move for 3rd grade to Memorial and the 6th grade to the middle school. The issues that the 6th graders present are better served and met by a middle school staff. Memorial School is a wonderful staff. They've handled every challenge thrown at them. They're one of the best staffs in education, but they are torn in two different directions.

Terry Hart (Newton)-I have two children currently in 2nd and 3rd grade. I am severely opposed to moving 6th grade up to the high school setting. As somebody who went to a school that reorganized and ended up in a 6-12, the things that I saw, the things that I witnessed, the things that I experienced I do not believe that this is a good move. I don't think the 7th and 8th grade belong here either but to start moving 6th grade up here too. You also insist that the building is built for over 1100 students and we're somewhere in a 700 student capacity and I'm hearing from students that there really is no room. There's a lack of bathrooms. I understand that there's particular students in the middle school that because the bathroom that's available to them isn't always accessible to them, that they're holding their urination longer. I mean these are these are things that are just going to end up causing further problems if you go and add another grade to this. Sixth graders just do not belong in that setting. I'm not saying that older kids are a bad influence But they're definitely at a critical stage in their mental development where they try to impress and it's just not a good situation for them to be around. I know everyone wants to talk money and we're going to save this but sometimes there's a lot more to look at than money and children's mental health could end up costing us more money down the line whether it's privately publicly or what have you it's just it's not a good idea to put sixth grade up here with high school students.

Marc Bolte (Kingston)-I don't agree with the move. I have four children in this district, one who is currently in 5th grade and super anxious about this just wanting to know what is going to happen but also really anxious to come up here from an elementary setting. I question whether the facilities here can handle another grade with only one cafeteria, one library and minimal restrooms for the middle school. I went to a school where the schools were connected and each had their own gyms, bathrooms that were all separate.

Jocelyne Lampron- (Student, Newton)-I enjoyed the Middle School experience. Move Up Day I was very excited, but it was humbling too not to be at the highest level anymore. We realized we were younger and didn't have authority anymore. Whether you are in the middle school or high school, you are going to be open to opportunities of things that parents don't want their kids doing. Things will happen whether you want to or not. If things are done the right way, it can be a good thing for our district and for kids who aren't able to play sports or aren't able to really have the middle school experience. Regarding COVID, at my recent basketball game, we played a game with five kids and although we didn't win, we worked really hard, but it could have been a different story had we not worn masks because we chose for the safety of our team to wear them. If one kid goes out, there is no point to practice, and we really want to have our season.

Board Comment

Chair Dutton-I have been thinking non-stop about this since it came up in October and this is big. My heart is racing. I have a 5th grade daughter that this directly impacts. No matter what decision we make, not everyone is going to be happy, but we have to make a decision. I have thought long and hard about this. Two of my children have had traditional middle school experience and when I think about my 5th grader, no matter which way we go there are a lot of really great points. I have tried to email everyone back that emailed me. I hope I didn't miss anyone. I wasn't on the Board when the reorganization happened. I think we made a mistake in not keeping 6th, 7th, and 8th together. The middle school experience is extremely important for all three grades. It is not all about athletics or clubs. There is a lot about academics and to Mr. Holt's point, this is something I have been thinking about as well with a 5th grade daughter. To Jocelyne's point, these kids are going to get the exposure whether they are in the building or not because of social media, snapchat and all of those fun things. I don't let my kids have them because I don't want extra exposure. I have a daughter and a niece in 8th grade. I am not hearing stories about them having interactions with high schoolers. I am not getting concerns about bad things happening, not that they don't happen. I am for keeping them young as long as possible, but we need to prepare them with the middle school experience. They're ready for that by the end of 5th grade. They need to learn new expectations, accountability, and things to set them up for success in 7th grade, 8th grade and into their freshman year. They're trying to figure out who they are and with all this we need to keep them together. By keeping them

at Memorial, they are missing out on opportunities for PLCs and collaboration. Ensuring student achievement is very different than ensuring instruction. We we're a district that has worked really

hard to allow students opportunities to demonstrate competencies and we need to afford the teachers the correct support and professional learning communities in order to make it happen by bringing the sixth grade back together with seventh and eighth grade. We'll have six through eighth plc's taking place allowing for cross-curriculum reading and writing opportunities to be structured and focused this is the academic rigor and progress that parents, community members, and board members have been requesting for our students and our students deserve. I feel like by bringing six seven and eight back together, we can give them that. Trust me, if I felt like there was a great concern and I heard the concerns but if I felt like if I had those concerns, I wouldn't even be talking about moving our kids but given the experiences that my older two daughters have had, I don't have the concerns with moving them to this building.

Ms. Bashaw-This is a really difficult decision to make. When I ran for school board last year, my brother said half the people were going to hate me. Maybe I should have listened to him but that's OK, I'll embrace this decision that I get to make tonight. I am impacted by this decision as I have a 4th, 5th, and 6th grader, so I currently have a son that is missing out on the middle school experience being a 6th grader. I have begun to see some changes that I wouldn't have seen a year ago. Memorial School has been phenomenal. I have nothing but good things to say about it. Coming from Kingston, I was nervous when my kids were moved over to Memorial last year, but it has been a wonderful experience. Tonight, my decision has to be made on the resources that I have in front of me. It's not what it could or what we should have done two years ago when we reorganized the district. There are great things. Would I love to have my kids in their own middle school? Sure, that would be great but that's not the decision that I have in front of me. I don't have those resources. I've spoken with various community members, a lot of parents over the last couple of months. I've had a lot of phone conversations with people and really talked to a lot of people and I'm going to try to address some of the concerns that I've heard from people. It really has been pretty split of what people want. I would say maybe more people are in favor of the move than not, but I think everybody has some really valid concerns. First point I want to make is public comment matters, it really does. When I came here in October, one of the things I feel like I kind of came into the thought of the sports and what my son's missing out on. I know there's a group of sixth grade girls who are really great soccer players and they missed out on an opportunity this year. A comment was made though when a student came up and spoke. He did a really great job speaking and then another community member came up and made the point that that was based upon the academics that he had and for me that was really important and that really made me say what I'm not really even thinking too much about the academic portion of it. So, I do want you to know, the community members, that we do listen to what you're saying because that has been a comment that's really stuck with me. I also want to ask people and say you know; I do take to heart what people are emailing and then I ask that you continue to email the board no matter what the subject is, be it masks, a move of the high school or anything. We do value your input so please continue to do that. I do think that these kids are missing out in the sports, and I fear that by the time they reach 7th grade, I think these kids are going to lose interest in sports and there are some new sports that they're going to get in 7th grade that maybe they're not going to try in 7th grade. Maybe they would have tried it in 6th grade but they're not going to in 7th grade sort of as someone already spoke to. In 7th grade, they're at a harder point to try some of these new things. The concern of students, mixing a 6th grade with a 12th grader; I'll be honest I'm way more concerned about online bullying and what's happening online than I am what's happening in our building. Do we need to try to keep them separate and do we need to try to do our best to control it? Sure, but I think that there's a much bigger problem out there that we really need to be addressing and I don't know that it's necessarily just a school issue. I really think it happens more outside of school than in the buildings. So, to be clear I'm not saying that a 6th grader is not going to see a 12th grader on the way to the nurse, it might happen but kind of what I'm hearing that this year things have changed. We've been able to have more resources to try to minimize some of the issues that we've had. Also, if we move the sixth graders up, we would be adding an assistant principal which would really help the current principal to free up some of his time.

I also want to make a point what the Superintendent said that we would be moving a position from Bakie to the middle school which would be for the assistant principal. I want to be clear or just kind of make a point that I don't want anyone to think that Bakie is losing anything by this because I have the question of what happens to Bakie. They're just going to lose someone, but they will have a lower enrollment so that's where that comes from. They're not going to have the need because they'll have a lower enrollment. So, I just kind of wanted to make that point. Why now? There's been so much uproar. I've heard parents come up and speak tonight, or before about changing schedules and whatnot. Well things are already up in the air. There's already been so many changes. I don't want to settle down again and then have to make another change later. We talked about the master scheduling. Now is the time to fit those 6th graders in. It is easier now than to do it down the road. I really think that for me is a big thing. We need to do it now. We want our administrators to be able to move on and talk about other things and really get into academics, mental health. I think we're going to be having a much bigger mental health crisis coming up much as we kind of talked about last meeting with the masks. We want our administrators to spend more time talking about academics and not masks or do we move or do we not move. The space issue. I have concerns. Are we going to have enough space at the building? So, I completely hear the community on this. Are we going to have a boom? I was on board with the NESDEC study when it was done. I and I met with the education commissioner a few years ago and we were right on target with what the state was experiencing, so I did buy into that. I think with COVID, we don't know what's going to be happening. We have a lot of people who are going to be working remotely, people who are move moving into the district and maybe it's not just kindergarten is moving in. We might have families with high schoolers moving in. So, what are we going to do if we get that boom? What I did find out is that when they built this building that they actually built it in a manner that we could fairly easily put on an addition if we need to, so I think that there is that possibility if we have a boom that we need to put an addition onto this building. So, I'm not going to say that we're not going to have an issue. I don't know where the enrollments are going to be but also to be clear I'm not stating right now that we should be exploring that I'm just stating a concern that we might be running out of room and that that is something that we should be considering if that time comes and that there is that possibility. I know for me personally, that was a relief when I heard that the builder actually had that plan and I believe he did the building in Windham and I think that Windham actually did put an addition on. I'm not sure if that's correct or not. My last point here is building a community. I think that we have a lack of community. I'm not sure that we're different than anywhere else but I think being 7th and 8th grade is sort of this pit stop from getting into high school there's not enough time for people to really get some traction in this school. I think it would be cool my son's basketball coach on the rec team he's on, she had a great idea where the kids were going to go see a middle school game in a high school game and it really built in some community spirit. I know I'm also on the PR committee and we talk about how do we get more community members involved and people that just not parents, like people who don't have kids in the school system. I think it would be great if we could get more parents to come in, we have some great plays I bring my parents to the plays. I think we need to get the community more involved, and I think that if we can start that with a 6th to 8th grade, I think that will introduce these kids to some of these other community things also accessibility to better facilities here. The gym here is much nicer than it is at memorial school they have access to the art room. Hopefully, soon the wood shop they're going to have access to a lot more things than they have at memorial school and I think that's all I have to say.

Mr. Broderick-There's no right or wrong here. We can talk from now until the cows come home there's no right or wrong. It's almost like what's the minimum damage we're going to do if there is damage. I'm not saying there is. What I'm hearing is the Bakie school is oversized, it's going to be more opportunity for the kids both scholastically and sports, the kids are, e going to be better prepared to go to the high school. I've got two parents so far that said I don't like it, but I think I'm going to have to make the decision to do it and that carries a lot of weight with me. These are the decisions that you know you say, hey I'll run for school board, then you find out hey you're going to have to make some decisions that people love to talk to you when you're down to Rite Aid about. I think it's the thing that we should absolutely do.

Ms. Ingham-I think you and Moira said a lot of what I was feeling. I think academically it's the right decision. I do worry about mental health and social-emotional but as Mr. Bashaw said at the previous meeting in October, I'm less worried about the walls that surround our children than what's happening outside. I've talked to 6th grade parents currently right now and social media, they're being bullied. There are all the things that people are worried about that are currently happening in the memorial school and that's coming down to the 5th and the 4th and I do think the 6th graders as Mr. Holt said should be with kids their own age. I am concerned about our community. I feel like we are a fractured community, and I was not on the board when this happened for those that know me know, when we did the reorganization, I really questioned why we didn't move the 6th graders in the first place because I knew we were going to kick the can down the road, and we were going to be here. We're here for enrollment purposes, and we're here for some other reasons, but I am concerned for everything that I'm hearing but if I am looking at it from an academic and a social emotional, I do think the 6th graders need to be with the 7th and 8th graders.

Mr. Fitzpatrick-So, no surprise I'll be the contrarian. Really, when did that stop. So, I don't discount the comments that have been made I thought they were very eloquently made and heartfelt. I think that the points that are being made are valid points and valid concerns, so I don't mean to belittle them at all, but as in everything in life, there's a balance and when I put the information in my mind on the scales, they tilt the other way and the reason for me they tilt the other way, isn't necessarily because we're mixing younger students with older students. I think it was said by both Heather and Moira quite well and Dawn I think you mentioned too, the social media and the bullying is happening and the damages and the impacts to our children are far greater through that than there are within the walls of the school. So, I don't think that that would be a valid reason in and of itself. My reason is more aligned with we have got an awful lot on our plates and an awful lot of that is academically based in helping our kids and this is one more thing to be put on a list of things that we're trying to do, when frankly in my opinion notwithstanding the hard work and efforts, we're not getting done what we've already committed to all right so we have to get in we have to implement an integrated curriculum. We don't have that yet. We need to implement letter grades. We've started that but we don't have that yet, there's still work to be done on that. As a matter of fact, we just decided in the Excellence in Student Achievement meeting that we need a two-hour meeting to have that discussion coming up, so there's still a lot of work to be done there. We've voted in and said we're going to implement an intervention program and we haven't really done that yet. We haven't been able to get the people hired we haven't been able to get set up the programs. We've had some presentations as to what's going on in the Excellence in Student Achievement committees, but we don't have a full-fledged program in Learning Recovery yet Notwithstanding the best efforts of people, when we went remote, learning stopped. Our kids are behind. We don't have a learning recovery program yet. So, those are those are some of the more student-focused items. We still have district-focused items. We're implementing a new alma system and we're running into issues and being able to implement that and to get all the teachers on board and to be able to get the parents on board so that we're having proper communications back and forth and exchanging information about our kids so we can do better with them. We have a new accounting system that we're still struggling to get the information together so we can report on and be more transparent to the community as to where we stand. We're in the midst of a five-year plan. The surveys have gone out. We're having further meetings, so we have a five-year plan that we're working on. We're in the midst of creating a capital improvement program. We're in the midst of creating or going through an accreditation process that is going to be a two plus year process. There is an awful lot going on and so when I talked to the superintendent, I told well this one's not going to be so hard for us to do and with all due respect, I hear that and I see what's on the plate and if everything's a priority nothing's a priority and if nothing's a priority, these things aren't going to get done. When I weigh these things in the balance, I say I want to do this first. The reason 3rd to 6th discussion came up and rightfully so was we were looking at what seemed to be a near assurance that we were going to have a build back better bill that was going to pass, and we are going to be forced on a mandate from the federal government with no recourse to have to make a move and if we had to make a move, we need to talk about that we need to get the community in. The comments that we don't have a strong community are dead nuts on and we have to do things as a

community to improve that and just if you look at the scope of what we're looking at here it's big. We have for school board meetings; we have a fairly good representation of the public. For a representation of the general public that's being directly impacted, it's not a big number. When Ms. Bashaw mentioned in the budget committee meeting presentation of the budget committee, 37-million-dollar budget, one person from the public showing up, we have a community issue. I think that's real also I don't know that moving grade 6 to the high school now solves a community issue. I think right now people's heads are still reeling. You've you had people say look I wasn't involved in this initial decision so there are decisions were made I was involved with it, I voted for it the reorganization as it was but that was controversial. It has split the community to some extent. COVID has split the community to some extent, it split the community to a lot of extent in terms of what the impacts are to me. The list that I just gave that's my priority. That's what I want to see done first if in fact we have to come back and we have to go one more year and then revisit this because all these are done. I think as Mr. Broderick said the comments made by people that have kids there are impactful. I'm not sure that I won't be in favor of this in the future but right now I just don't think it's a time. The build back better is stalled, it's not going forward at least not in the condition it's in. There's zero chance it's going to pass with an implementation date of 23. It is more likely, if it does pass it'll be broken out of this bigger program and the implementation date will be in 24 to 25. We have time to focus on what I think are the higher priorities and that's what I would counsel. That is the best thing for us to do as a board and that would be the direction that I'm going.

Ms. Mahoney-Everyone has made really great points. I have children that went through the school district. They both attended Bakie all of their years and the middle school as well. They were certainly ready to leave Bakie after having been there five six years, I guess if you count kindergarten and move on to the middle school setting and it's a good point that 7th grade is a difficult year and making that sort of transition over to this building. I hadn't really thought of that when I have been contemplating this. Some of the points that Jamie made resonated with me. I am more in the camp of I feel like we just reorganized. My feeling is I would rather let the dust settle a little bit and have people become comfortable. I feel from the community and from the people who have reached out, that there's not a large degree of comfort yet with the having the 7th and 8th graders having moved to this building, so unless I would be open if I heard some compelling arguments. I did hear some compelling arguments. I guess I'm more on the academic side, I'm more with what Jamie articulated about. I am more interested in hearing how what we plan to do will help our kids academically and it sounds like there are some measures that we can put into place for the 6th graders now to have them have more of the experience of the different specialized teachers. So, I would rather explore that. This it feels to me like another huge disruption and I kind of feel like I haven't heard a lot of support for that. I hear more people saying let's just slow down and can't we talk a little bit more about this. That's kind of where I am right now, and I do agree with Jamie that we have a lot going on and we have a lot of other priorities. My opinion's not set in stone yet, but that's really where I'm leaning.

Mr. Baker- I read everybody's letters that came in and the arguments against doing this versus the arguments for doing it. I listened to Moira and Dawn and very earnest passion and reasons why they think it should be done but I'm looking at this from a historical point of view. When I got on the school board in 2017, no one was talking about academic performance and to me that's the purpose of a school to is to educate kids. These other things are important, the social- emotional part of it is important but the sports are important because it's part of the social- emotional also. Health team building, but the primary focus of the school is to educate kids. The reason that the middle school was closed, and the elementary schools were reorganized is not just because of the NESDEC analysis. The NESDEC analysis told us that we weren't going to get in trouble in terms of capacity if we did that, but the important reason to do those changes were because this school district doesn't have the money to fund the performance that we all want to see happen here. We had a history of teachers contracts failing, we had a history of default budgets.

You can't run a school on default budgets and teachers contracts failing. At the same time, we knew that we had problems with our curriculum. We knew that we had problems. In my mind with the philosophy that was running the school. So how can we fix that? We have to we have to have a change in philosophy and

we have to have money so when you look at what happened we were spending money on facilities that we really didn't need while we were neglecting other facilities that we did need and there was a long tradition of neglecting facilities. I looked at the capital improvement plan when I came on the board. They were talking about investing four million dollars to bring the middle school up to where it was usable and that wasn't everything that was needed. The gym was undersized. There are all kinds of problems beyond that, but it would have been usable at that point. So okay, where's that money going to come from? It's not there. The taxpayers have been very generous in supporting the school system but there's a limit. So how can we get the money to make the changes that had to be done. You consolidate the middle school into the high school, you merge the elementary schools. That was a million four dollars every year that doesn't have to go into our budget. A million dollars of that went into the intervention program and almost immediately after that COVID hit so we had this plan to do this intervention. Finally, the community was talking about outcomes for students, about academic performance. We have to deal with COVID for a year. We had to try to keep the schools open for a year and we're still trying to keep the schools open. We hear all the time about how tough it is to staff these classes. Principals are teaching classes. Principals are spending their time with kids who are stressed out because of this whole thing. There's just so much on our plate like Jamie and Tammy said. What I want to focus on, and I believe what this community needs is school district to focus on is raising the standard of excellence in our school system and that involves more money for teachers. But where's that money going to come from? So, we have to talk about that it involves getting that intervention implemented and even more fundamentally involves fixing our curriculum. We don't have an integrated horizontal curriculum and what that means is, if you go to one class in the third grade and you could go to another class in the third grade, you might be getting different taught different subjects. When you go from the third grade to the fourth grade, you're supposed there's supposed to be a core curriculum that's communicated to you. You're supposed to learn and and be complete with and when you go to the fourth grade that's the expectation and the same thing in the fourth grade, you're going to get a certain core curriculum and then you're going to move to the fifth grade. We don't have that we don't have that here, it's being worked on. It's being worked on hard. The intervention plan is there. We've hired intervention teachers. We're hiring paras. We have the structure to do these things these important things but we're not there yet we can, and we can add something else to that mix which in my mind is important to a lot of people, but a lot of people don't want it. It's also like Jamie said and I agree, another distraction. The school district needs to get fully immersed in fixing these academic problems. For a long time, we have been below the state averages in our academic performance and because of COVID, we've dropped even further. We can't wait for this anymore; we need our administrators to be a hundred percent focused on fixing these academic problems and to me this is something that would be that would if it is something that's doable and there are these benefits then it's something that definitely should be looked at. But I think it's very premature right now, to vote for this. I just don't see the urgency. The pre-k situation is off the table for now. There are alternatives too to do this as far as moving kids to different schools. One letter that a parent wrote was talking about slightly larger class sizes, not big, huge class sizes, slightly larger class sizes and how that would free up space in Bakie. Every year the DOE comes out with statistics all across every school system. Every year I do an analysis on student teacher ratios and on teacher pay and the correlation. Sanborn has one of the lowest student-teacher ratios of any school in our region. It is 10.4. The state average is 11.7, if we were at this 11.7 student teacher-ratio that would be one million three hundred thousand dollars in savings every year. That could go to increasing teacher pay. We need to increase teachers' pay but we can't do it on the backs of the taxpayers. That doesn't work. The schools that pay teachers more have larger class sizes. Bedford's 13.4 student teacher ratio Oyster River is 11.8 a little bit above the average. Pinkerton is 13.1. The average pay at Pinkerton is 91 000 a year. Only Oyster River has healthcare better than our health care benefits. They pay 91% we pay 88%. Some schools pay as low as 50% towards their employees' health care benefits. These things all matter, it's all one big pie. It's not just money, it's resources. We're going to get these

resources from? It's how are we going to develop the standard of excellence that we all want in our schools how are we going to pay for it? That is the job of the administrators to do that standard of excellence to make that curriculum work and to implement that intervention plan and that's where I think we need to focus as a school district. This sixth grade, third grade move if there's if there's benefits to it, we've heard that there are, and I don't discount that but primarily I see it as a distraction and especially important now we need to stay focused on the critical needs that will have the most impact and do the most good and that's my two cents.

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion. Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve the move of the 3rd grade to Memorial and the 6th grade to the Middle School, seconded by Ms. Ingham

Mr. Fitzpatrick no matter what decision is made, there are going to be unhappy people and there is no way to avoid that. So, everyone around this table, regardless of their position is trying to find the right answer as best they can.

Vote: 4 in Favor, 3 opposed (Baker, Fitzpatrick, Mahoney). Motion passes.

10. Other Business

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

10.2.2 The Filing Period for positions on the Sanborn Regional School Board, the Sanborn Regional Budget Committee and the District Moderator will open on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and end on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.** The candidate filing forms may be obtained at the SAU Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. located in the Christie Building at 51 Church Street in Kingston. The School District Clerk will be available on the last day to file until 5:00 p.m.

11. Non-Public Session-RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (k)-

Mr. Broderick made a Motion to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) (k), seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

12. Adjournment- Chair Dutton adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Phyllis Kennedy

School Board Secretary

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**Sanborn Regional School Board
Continuing Public Minutes**

1-19-2022

Mr. Broderick made a Motion to exit the non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Time: 8:32 PM

Mr. Broderick made a Motion to seal the Minutes in perpetuity, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor