

# SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021

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A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

### **SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Jim Baker, Chair  
Peter Broderick  
Dawn Dutton  
Jamie Fitzpatrick (via remote connection)  
Larry Heath (via remote connection)  
Tammy Mahoney, Vice Chair  
Charles Melvin, Sr. (Excused)

### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Jake Tedford

### **ADMINISTRATORS:**

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent  
Matthew Angell, Bus/Administrator  
Robert Dawson, HS Athletics Director

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Jim Baker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Roll Call attendance asking remote participants Larry Heath and Jamie Fitzpatrick to identify their locations and also identify who may or may not be at the location with them. Both replied with the request.

2. ACTION ON MINUTES- Review of Minutes of [1-6-21](#)

**Chair Baker asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of 1-6-21. Motion moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Broderick.**

Mr. Baker asked that on page 23, the second paragraph be amended from Chair *Baker asked for a Motion to Chair Baker made a Motion.*

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor with Amendment**

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1 Distribution of Manifest Documents- Chair Baker noted that the Manifest is being signed by Board Members.

3.2 Nominations-none

3.3 Resignations- Superintendent Ambrose reported the following:

Bakie School: Candice Keenan/Teacher-Grade 3

Memorial School: Renee Phelan/ ELA Interventionist

**Chair Baker asked for a Motion to accept the resignations. Motion moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

3.4 Superintendent's Report- Superintendent Ambrose said Most of my Superintendent's Report is actually going to be covered this evening under the update on the district reopening plan in 7.4. Most of our work over the last couple of weeks has been about COVID-19 and being open for in-person instruction so I'm just going to defer until that item on the agenda because that's really the primary focus.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Policy-Ms. Dutton said she reported at the last meeting on the 1-6-21 meeting.

4.2 EISA-Ms. Mahoney will report at the next meeting on today's meeting.

4.3 Facilities-Mr. Baker said Facilities met today and we reviewed the Trust and Revolving Fund balances. The Special Education Fund is \$241,168.81.

(These are the balances as of December 31, 2020). The Capital Improvement Fund is \$223,031.53. The Unanticipated Educational Fund is \$150,196.05 and the Facilities Use Fund is \$192,304.48. The total of those funds is \$806,700.87.

We discussed some areas at the High School for insertion in the Capital Improvement Plan which involved equipment in the Auditorium, a proposal for a greenhouse and we also discussed LED lights and a solar analysis that would be done involving all the facilities. Some priorities are a heating boiler at the Bakie School that needs attention and the Auditorium was second along with microphones, consoles for light and sound and the screen at the auditorium itself.

- 4.4 Finance-Mr. Fitzpatrick will submit a formal report of the last meeting in February.
- 4.5 Public Relations-Mr. Heath reported that the group met on 1-13-21 and all committee members were present. They reviewed the previous Minutes which were approved and then discussed letters that would appear in the Annual Report; a COVID-19 statement and the Superintendent's letter. Both letters were approved. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021.
- 4.6 Personnel-meeting cancelled
- 4.7 SST-Superintendent Ambrose said the group met last Monday, 1-11-21. We talked about a variety of topics including the enrollments and programming. The SST is looking at having a military option, an ROTC type option and so they were exploring that and discussing it. They want to avoid any potential duplication with other sending districts of those programs so they were looking at that. I brought up and continue to advocate for HVAC, electricity, plumbing and cosmetology because those are three areas that the SST does not offer that I feel that they should. It looks like some of the rules might change for the building trades so that electricity could be a component of the building trades which is an easier path to adding a program and also if you think about it, hiring an Electrician to teach a program is pretty tricky because the amount of money that they make as an Electrician is so much more than what you'd make running a school program, it's really challenging. It's like finding a nursing teacher or a school nurse even can be tricky so it was a good meeting and they continue to work on their enrollments and figuring out how to get the right number of students in the right seats in the program and keeping them in for the two years. A lot of kids will go for a year and then say, "Okay I did it but I don't want to do it for the second year" and we're trying to improve retention which is important for any kind of program. It's a big commitment to spend two years of high school in a program and they're doing a really good job. They have a new director there and she's doing a really good job trying to recruit and retain students.

4.8 Budget- Ms. Mahoney said the Budget Committee's hearing was last Thursday, 1-14-21. There weren't any changes made to any warrant articles. There were 4 people present in the audience and two of them were Board Members.

4.9 Wellness-no report

5. Student Council Representative Report- Students of the Life Skills Program under the direct supervision of Miss Alley, our ELO Coordinator, have begun a partnership with the Plaistow YMCA. Students are building skills and independence in the local community. The high school officially rolled out the Remote Academic Support Program for its 228 student (36% of SRHS students) on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The 3-teacher team is working every period each day to support remote students in every content area at Sanborn Regional High School. Through remote advisory and one-on-one academic support, parent communication and organized tracking system, the team is pleased to report a positive start. Student Council recently had a high school admin appreciation day where we delivered coffee treats and letters of gratitude to our high school admin and we're going to do one for the janitorial staff next week.

7.3 Policy for 1<sup>st</sup> Read (moved up on agenda)

7.3.1 Policy JLCA-Physical Examinations of Students- Ms. Dutton explained that Mr. Dawson brought this policy to the Policy Committee due to the the verbiage that physicals be "completed at least once every school year" which has become challenging because of insurance company requirements that specify they can't be closer than 365 days. Mr. Dawson recommends the verbiage "more recent than 13 months prior to the current date" which allows for a bit of leeway so parents can make their scheduling work with their insurance requirements. The Policy Committee agrees with this recommendation

Mr. Baker asked for clarification on what insurance companies every year for physicals; is it once a year?

Ms. Dutton said it is every 365 days plus 1 day, so it keeps pushing out the date. So giving them an extra month gives them the leeway.

Mr. Broderick asked if this is for student athletes. Ms. Dutton said yes.

**Mr. Baker made a Motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Read of Policy JLCA-Physical Examination of Students, seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if this only applies to student athletes.

Ms. Dutton read the portion of the policy being changed which does pertain to student athletes.

**Mr. Baker made a Motion for a 2nd Read of Policy JLCA- Physical Examination of Students moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

- 7.4 Update on District Reopening Plan- (Athletics - moved up on agenda). Mr. Dawson reviewed the status of COVID-19 cases in the last 2 weeks; down from 15 cases at the high school (8 being athletes) to 2 athletic cases and at the Middle School, 5 cases (4 being athletes) down to zero cases. So, there has been a marked decline in cases and he has received many heartfelt emails from parents requesting that their child/children be in school. He recommends allowing student athletes to return in person and participate in athletics due to the significant decline in the numbers across the board. The benefit of having the students be able to play and learn in person if they choose outweighs the risks that we are dealing with right now.

**Chair Baker made a Motion that student athletes are allowed to either return to in-person learning or choose to stay remote. Motion seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.**

Ms. Dutton asked what the percentages are of students that chose to go remote.

Mr. Dawson said initially 95% of our varsity athletes chose in-person learning (some had IEPs and we also had students who previously had COVID and with new state guidelines were able to come back) and 50-65% of our sub-varsity athletes chose to sit in-person and opt out of their teams temporarily.

Superintendent Ambrose said we have done a great job of being prudent and careful. We are one of the only school districts that have all students who want to be in person 5 days a week. Many other districts have cohorts (1/2 of students in school for 2 days a week) so there is a huge difference between what we are doing for in-person learning and what other people are doing. We have more students together which does mean more people quarantining if we have to but I feel fine about it because we are cautious. If we evidence of transmission in sports, we will have to come back to the Board to discuss it again. We want athletes to enjoy their season but ask that they be careful as to not have to quarantine and miss 2 weeks of sports. So think carefully about your decision to be remote or in person.

Ms. Dutton asked about still reviewing the situation every 2 weeks.

Mr. Ambrose said yes, it will be reviewed every 2 weeks.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if one of our teams had forfeited due to COVID concerns.

Mr. Ambrose responded that the Middle School games couldn't play.

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

6. 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT- none

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Public Hearing to approve donations per RSA 198:20-b and Policy KCD

7.1.1 NH Department of Education-\$265,400-Mr. Angell explained that this Department of Education grant is the 1<sup>st</sup> portion of the COVID preparedness. At the last meeting, we approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> portion (309K) but we first had to prove expenditures for this one which we are doing tonight. (The original public hearing had been cancelled). This is \$200 per student for any sending district in the state).

Mr. Baker asked if Fremont would also get the money.

Mr. Angell replied yes, and that he and Superintendent Ambrose are in discussion with Superintendent Hutton about our invoicing them so we can be paid (per state regulations).

**Mr. Baker made a Motion to accept the \$265,400 grant from the Department of Education. Motion seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

7.1.2 John and Lara Bletzer-\$5000- Mr. Angell explained the donation is to be used for children/students in need dispersed at the discretion of the Superintendent. Mr. Ambrose expressed his appreciation for this second donation (they donated 5K last year as well) and he will work with the Guidance Department to

determine the best use (hats, jackets, and boots for children) and perhaps other assistance for students at upper levels.

**Mr. Baker asked for a Motion to accept the \$5000 donation From John and Lara Bletzer, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his appreciation as well.

**Call Vote: All in Favor**

Mr. Angell asked that the record show there is no public present to Speak during the public hearing.

7.2 Approval of Donations Not Requiring Public Hearing

7.2.1 NH Charitable Foundation-\$1500- Mr. Angell explained this \$1500 donation is for nursing supplies at the Bakie School. The NH Charitable Foundation manages lots of different Trusts by accepting applications from organizations that might benefit. The school nurse applied for some funds and received this money.

**Mr. Baker asked for a Motion to accept the \$1500 from the NH Charitable Foundation, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

7.3 Policy for 1st Read

7.3.1 Policy JLCA-Physical Examinations of Students-**covered earlier on agenda**

7.4 Update on District Reopening Plan- (Continued) - Mr. Ambrose reviewed *The Consideration for Transitioning between School Instructional Models* put out by the Governor in September. To view, [please click here](#). He reviewed the 3 criteria for being remote or in-person. They updated the document to basically say the criteria for community-wide transmission is not as important as school-wide transmission and staff capacity to conduct classes and school operations.

The updated paragraph from the Governor's office is as follows:

**Updated Guidance 11/20/2020:**

***In some circumstances, schools may take a less restrictive approach than what is suggested in the table above. For example, if a school is operating with a full in-person instructional model and able to manage with low school impact despite a "substantial" level of community transmission, then schools can very reasonably hold course and continue with in-person instruction if resources allow. This suggestion is based on data and experience showing that as of November 18, 2020, there has been minimal transmission identified in the K-12 school educational setting – more than 530 students and staff associated with K-12 schools being diagnosed with COVID-19 since the beginning of school which has affected more than 230 different school facilities, and despite the occurrence of some limited/small clusters, there have been no larger outbreaks that have occurred in non-residential K-12 schools.***

Superintendent Ambrose asked the Board whether they want to discuss the possibility of staying remote after February vacation. They can discuss now or in 2 weeks, adding if we had not been remote over the holiday break our cases could have been a lot worse and his recommendation is to stay remote because people are going to travel.

Mr. Broderick (as the Health Officer) offered a website [vaccines.nh.gov](https://vaccines.nh.gov)

Discussion ensued on the February vacation decision and it was decided to discuss in two weeks.

Mr. Baker asked for a "snapshot" of daily COVID rates for the future 2-3-21 meeting so the Board and public are aware of statistics. Mr. Ambrose also gave the [Daily COVID Rates](#) link on the SAU 17 website.

- 7.5 School Board Communication w/ Public Regarding Warrant Articles- Mr. Ambrose said he met with the Public Relations Committee and shared several documents with them for the Annual Report; COVID statement and Superintendent's Report. He asked if the Board would like the PR Committee to draft any letters in support of the Teachers' Contract, the warrant articles or anything else you want to come from the whole Board.



Mr. Broderick said more information is better; put it on the website and in the Carriagetowne News.

Mr. Ambrose said the PR Committee would like to draft a letter that has the facts, etc. He would run it by a lawyer to make sure it is not in any way electioneering. It is important for teachers to see the support.

Ms. Mahoney said the Board needs to instruct the committee to speak for them as in years past, they had asked the committee to refrain from doing so.

Mr. Baker clarified this is in addition to the votes of support on the warrant.

Mr. Broderick said it is a matter of public record; we support it, we voted for it so there is latitude to report on the facts.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said I would think that the Board is able to publicly and politically support any article and warrant, there's no restriction on the Board doing this as far as I'm aware. It's the school admin that is restricted. Furthermore, I don't think it's possible for a Board Member to be restricted in their speech and support.

Mr. Ambrose clarified that there are 2 exceptions; as a board member you can write anything you want as a citizen, that's your right. As I Superintendent, I have more latitude to speak in support of warrant articles but I don't do it without checking with an attorney. I would clear anything that Tammy, Larry and I would write with him for correct language.

Mr. Baker asked that any drafts be shared with the Board first and Mr. Ambrose agreed that is good idea especially in keeping with transparency.

Mr. Ambrose asked for a Motion on the PR Committee drawing up the statement.

**Mr. Baker asked for a Motion to have the Public Relations Committee draw up a statement for the Board regarding information on the warrants, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

No further discussion

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

8.

OLD BUSINESS

8.1 New Warrant Articles- Mr. Angell introduced the following which do not deal with money but ask for a special meeting should the Collective Bargaining Agreements fail. He read them as follows adding that he would need the Board to vote on them after which he would print the warrant and have them sign it.

Mr. Ambrose explained the history of the Special Meeting.

Mr. Broderick brought

7.5.1 Article 5. Special Meeting – Professional Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Sanborn Regional School District if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 4 cost items only?

Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board In Favor:    Opposed:   

**Mr. Baker asked for a Motion to place Article 5 on the 2021 Warrant, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

Mr. Fitzpatrick said there are risks to these agreements passing. Generally speaking, I don't support this type of language because presumably whenever those dollars were negotiated that go into those agreements, the risk that they fail is part of the negotiations. Given the extreme circumstances this time around and uncertainties of COVID, I support this and would recommend that it go on the ballot.

Mr. Baker agrees with Mr. Fitzpatrick. If a group can count on a do-over every year then there could be disincentive for them to try to get more than they think is appropriate.

Mr. Broderick said in 20 years in public service, I have never heard of a judge allowing for a Special Meeting.

Mr. Baker clarified that it is a very high bar to get it done.

**All Board Members say "yes" to placement of Article 5 on the 2021 Warrant.**

**Mr. Baker made a Motion to recommend Article 5 on the 2021 Warrant, seconded by Mr. Broderick.**

No further discussion

**Roll Call Vote- All in Favor (6-0)**

7.5.2 Article 7. Special Meeting – Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Sanborn Regional School District if Article 6 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 6 cost items only?

Recommended by the Sanborn Regional School Board In Favor: \_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_

**Ms. Baker Mahoney made a Motion to place Article 7 on the 2021 Warrant, seconded by Mr. Baker.**

**All Board Members say “yes” to placement of Article 7 on the 2021 Warrant.**

**Mr. Baker asked for a Motion to recommend Article 7 on the 2021 Warrant, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

No discussion

**Roll Call Vote- All in Favor (6-0)**

8.2 Signing of 2021. - Mr. Angell presented the warrant for signing by Board Members.

9. 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT -None

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda- Please submit agenda items to Mr. Baker by 1-28-21

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 10.2.3 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 20, 2021** and end on Friday, **January 29, 2021** 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.

10.2.2 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 3rd at 5:30 PM** in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School **followed by the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual School District Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium.** The snow date is Thursday, February 4, 2021.

**The Second (Voting) Session of the Annual School District Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021** from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Swasey Gymnasium (Seminary Campus) for Kingston voters and in the **Newton Town Hall** for Newton voters.

11. NON-PUBLIC SESSION-RSA 91-A: 3 II -no meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM

Minutes Respectively Submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy  
School Board Secretary