

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

10-20-21

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

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

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

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Jocelyne Lampron

#### **ADMINISTRATORS:**

Thomas Ambrose, SRSD Superintendent  
Matthew Angell, SRSD Business Administrator

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairperson Dawn Dutton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. ACTION ON MINUTES – Review of Public Minutes of [10-6-21](#)

**Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of October 6, 2021 moved as written by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Ingham.**

No discussion

**Vote: All in Favor**

3. COMMUNICATION-

- 3.1 Distribution of Manifests Documents-Chair Dutton circulated the Manifests for signatures from Board Members.
- 3.2 Nominations- None
- 3.3 Recommendations- None
- 3.4 Superintendent's Report- He will be addressing his report in agenda # 7.3 tonight.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Policy- Ms. Ingham reported the group met on 10-6-21 and highlights as follows:

In attendance: Chair, Heather Ingham, Tammy Mahoney, Dawn Dutton, Matthew Angell and Superintendent Thomas Ambrose.

Chair Ingham called the meeting called to order at 5:10 PM in Room 121 at Sanborn Regional High School/Middle School Wing.

Superintendent Ambrose said there are so many policies to update due to recent legislation that we will probably need another meeting, as we may not get through all of these.

Ms. Ingham asked for a Motion to review the Minutes of [8-17-21](#) , seconded by Ms. Mahoney. No discussion. Vote: All in Favor

After discussion, the Committee agreed to bring the following policies to the Board for a 1<sup>st</sup> Read: DAF-Administration of Federal Grants, BBB-Board Elections, BBBC-Board Member Resignations, BEC-Non-Public Sessions, BEDG-Minutes, EEAEA-Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing, GBCD- Background Investigation and Criminal Background Check, IHCD-LEB-Advanced Coursework/Advanced Placement, IMBC-Alternative Credit Options.

They will continue discussing BBBE-Unexpired Term Fulfillment and ILBAA-High School Graduation Competencies.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM

The next Policy meeting is scheduled for 11-3 at 5:00 PM.

- 4.2 EISA- Ms. Mahoney reported that EISA met today and she will summarize at the next Meeting on Thursday, 11-18-21 at 4:30 pm.
- 4.3 Finance-Mr. Fitzpatrick reported the group met today and they approved a \$38,168.75 Budget Transfer from the health insurance line item into the oil line for different schools

to cover the rising costs of heat. The next meeting will be an off-schedule meeting TBD followed by the 11-18-21 meeting at 3:30 PM.

- 4.4 Facilities-Mr. Baker reported the group met on Wednesday, 10-6-21. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM. In attendance were Jamie Fitzpatrick, Pete Broderick, Superintendent Tom Ambrose, Business Administrator Matt Angell and Jim Baker.

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the Sept 1 meeting. Matt Angel gave his Business Administrator's report: The new boilers at Bakie are almost ready to be brought on line including delivery and installation of the new burners. Jamie Fitzpatrick asked about the old burners and if they could be saved should any burners fail in the future. Matt stated that he had the old boilers taken apart and salvaged as many parts as possible. We have two identical boilers at Memorial School. Matt will check into what if anything needs to be done to the burners to preserve them in storage. The chimney liner at Bakie is installed.

The water pump that services the school lunch and drinking water failed and has been replaced with a stainless steel pump. The Bakie School will be evaluated to determine if the electrical system is adequate to support all the window air conditioners a parents group has proposed to donate. An electrical engineer needs to be hired to do this evaluation. Some playground equipment at Memorial School that is more age appropriate for students at Bakie School is being evaluated for moving there.

At the High School, some siding at the roof in the front and by the library is decaying. Also, a deteriorating concrete retaining wall by the loading dock needs to be evaluated. Matt would like the committee to do a review of structural engineering firms like those that we did of architectural firms to select one to work on this and other capital improvement projects.

We also reviewed the Trust and Revolving Fund balances as of August 31, 2021:

- The Special Education Trust Fund Balance is \$241,201.96
- The Capital Improvement Fund Balance is \$223,062.18
- The Unanticipated Educational Fund Balance is \$150,211.45
- The Facilities Use Fund Balance is \$171,433.80

The combined total is \$785,909.39

Matt presented a report of the Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2023-2027 and submitted a list of multiple items for review including estimated best guess costs and sources of funding. Actual costs on most will be determined by bid. The CIP covers a 5-year timeline for maintenance of facilities and replacement of equipment. Yesterday, in a call for preparation of this report, Matt stated the CIP will be completed soon and will be included in the Strategic Plan which the Superintendent has stated is nearing completion.

The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 3, 2021 at 3:30 PM. Please consult the SAU17.net website for access or location details.

- 4.5 Public Relations- Ms. Mahoney said the group met on 10-3-21 and the next meeting is 11-3-21 at 4:30 PM.
- 4.6 Personnel- Ms. Dutton said the group met today at 3PM and we worked on six job descriptions that we will be bringing to the Board with many more forthcoming. The next meeting is 11-18-21 at 3PM.
- 4.7 SST- Superintendent Ambrose said they have not met.
- 4.8 Budget- Ms. Bashaw said the committee met on 10-7-21 at 7PM. Matt Angell presented answers to some questions the committee had asked regarding the previous year's budget in anticipation of the upcoming budget season. Mary Cyr and Annie Collyer asked again for audits of the Athletics and Special Educations Departments. The Committee is looking for a new Recording Secretary. The next meeting is a Joint Meeting with the School Board on 11-3-21 at 6PM. The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for 10-28-21 at 7PM unless there are questions before that date.
- 4.9 Wellness-Ms. Ingham said no meeting has been held.
  
- 5. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Ms. Lampron reported the Southern District Student Councils came together recently (after a 2 year hiatus) to bond together on similar topics/discussion which was well attended and very fun. November 19<sup>th</sup> is the New Hampshire Association of Student Councils' (NHASC) State meeting being held at Pinkerton. Due to COVID, we can bring only 15 students for the afternoon. We plan to do Trick or Canning (a Halloween Food Drive) event.
  
- 6. 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT- Chair Dutton suggested moving this comment time to after the discussion of moving the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. (Move to Agenda # 7.2 prior to Public Hearing)
  
- 7. NEW BUSINESS
  - 7.1 Public Hearing on Donations
    - 7.1.1 \$18,005.86 from NH DOE-Office of Nutrition- Mr. Angell reported that this is a Revenue Loss Grant, which equates well to the revenue loss deficit we earned during the pandemic, which was \$18, 0035.00.

**Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to accept the NHDOE grant for \$18,005.86, seconded by Ms. Ingham.**

No public comment

**Vote: All in Favor**
    - 7.1.2 \$5,500 from parent group to Sanborn Basketball Program – Mr. Angell invited

Mr. Dawson (Athletic Director) to report on this automated basketball-shooting machine purchased by Sanborn parents for \$5,500. They will cover the costs of the equipment at the time of the purchase.

Mr. Dawson said a sample of the machine was delivered and it essentially turns shooting in to a fun game for kids, which will be helpful for students at every level.

**Ms. Ingham made a Motion to accept the \$5,500 donation of the basketball-shooting machine, seconded by Mr. Baker.**

No public comment

Mr. Fitzpatrick said thank you to the parent group and all agreed.

**Vote: All in Favor**

- 7.2 COVID School Plan for 2021-2022: Update to mask expectations for indoor school events (sports games, fundraisers, etc.) - Superintendent Ambrose invited Dr. Haynes to review the modification to the plan. Dr. Haynes said this change occurs in the Visitor Section of the plan and involves school wide events that involve mixing of students from multiple buildings or people from different communities with the addition of adults in the building at the same time. Examples are Parent-Teacher Conferences, Open Houses, Concerts, etc. Masking will be required for those visitors and tonight we are asking for Board approval on that. To review the Updated School Plan for 2021-22, [please click here](#).

**Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to approve the modification to the COVID School Plan for 2021-2022, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Ingham.**

Superintendent Ambrose summarized the history of events leading to the decision.

Mr. Dawson discussed Athletics as it pertains to the decision. Athletes do not have to wear masks but spectators will.

Discussion ensued.

**Vote: 6 in Favor, 1 opposed (Bashaw). Motion passes.**

- 7.3 Discussion of Moving 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to Memorial and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to the Middle School-

Superintendent Ambrose thanked everyone for attending, saying he and the SRSD Administration are facing a few obstacles: the COVID Pandemic and the Biden Administration proposing adding Universal Pre-K for public schools. Therefore, tonight's presentation is to share ideas/information and not to make any Board decision on the moving these grades. We are looking for input from the community to figure out the best solution. To see slide presentation, [please click here](#). Mr. Ambrose invited each School Principal to give an update on their school along with the Athletic Director. Dr. Haynes closed with a curriculum overview.

1<sup>st</sup> Public Comment (moved from Agenda Item #6)

J.J. Defeo (Newton) - As a student I am strongly opposed to the idea of moving the sixth graders to the high school campus. There are a few reasons; I will cover the most because I am time constrained. The first thing is that I don't know how you're going to fit the sixth graders into an already crammed Middle School and if your solution is to take more room from the High School, then I don't know where you're going to get that from either. There are already Math teachers in the Science wing, Social Studies teachers in the English wing and the organization of the school is already really not ideal and to cram the teachers we have now into the building and to take away any classrooms, even if on paper, it may seem okay and practicality is not based on my observations, a very achievable goal and this would cause sever issues come August if there are not rooms available for teachers. That would cause a real problem. Not to mention, taking more space from the high school, would be moving the wall upstairs, which would cost more taxpayer money just because we finished that a few months ago and we would have to move that and that would cost more money and we've already spent money on this and I think that that's not a very effective use of town tax dollars. Secondly, and what I think is much more important, is the mixing of High School and Middle School students. This is happening, like it or not, it really is a lot the Superintendent mentioned, this in his email and his presentation and said the problem was mostly rising in the bathrooms in his email at least, and I'd like to just say interaction is happening in every piece of the school day; during transitions, arrivals in between lunches and even during some classes where scheduling has forced Middle School students and High School students to share the same spaces at the same time. This is happening in places like gym, chorus. This is a real thing that's happening in the school. I cannot see a legitimate way in this plan, at least one that is in the packet that is planning to address even a fraction of these different ways that interaction is happening. The Superintendent also mentioned in his email that they were looking to hire three new paras to help with enforcing separation based on their new definition of it, but that won't really help that much. Hiring more pairs to do that job was part of the original moving plan that moved the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders here and that has not really helped any. Why is this interaction bad? The interactions have the ability to be catalyst for things that are not particularly good to happen to or to fall into the hands of younger children and that definitely does happen whether we like that or not. Adding sixth graders to the high school campus will only amplify the issue causing scheduling conflicts, more Middle School students and thus more interaction with younger kids, which is not a good thing. There are more minor reasons but those are my largest concerns and I think the school board should focus on them. This whole situation is because of the lack of long-term future planning from district administration and I fail to see how this move will be any different in that variability, as the first one I hope the school board will hear my concerns.

Nicole Tedaldi (Newton)-I am a 33 year resident of Newton and a Sanborn Alumna. First, I would like to say that I am not happy with the way that this presentation is presented in regards to pre-k. Currently the ages that we are required to school are ages 6 through 18. I need to remind everyone here that Kindergarten is not even a requirement. It is not a mandate, it is not anything. So I think universal pre-k is very immature to be talking at this phase. Nothing has been passed yet, this is just

hypothetical. Words matter, context matters, integrity matters. I just do not see the reason that our district will be able to handle Universal pre-k. So I really like to not bend ourselves into a pretzel to accept every single one of the federal administration's agenda's. I do fully sympathize with the athletic situation. I really do. My heart goes out to the 6th graders. I am a big advocate for kids to participate in sports, so I get it but I really do not feel that shifting these kids around is a viable solution. It just feels like you are moving some kids around like a chessboard. In my opinion, it is not a good idea to move them. It is not even a good idea that seventh and eighth graders should be there but I understand why it was done. These kids unfortunately are not 100% separate there are as we discussed as there's ways that they do interact. I do not care how many paraprofessionals, hall monitors or resource officers you hire. What you cannot control is the social influence that older kids have a draw to the younger kids. So many parents here I think would agree that all the younger kids always want to be older, they want to act older they want to imitate older kids. There's no amount of control that we can do that a lot of words like supervising monitoring and so forth. It sounds more like a prison actually than a school and that doesn't sound very nice to me either. My suggestion would be to find a new school for both pre-k and k, house 1-5 at Bakie like it always has and move 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to memorial for now, if that's an option. Thank you

Michael Gannon (Kingston)- I am going to echo a little bit of what Mr. Dawson had to say. I am here just to talk about athletics. I cannot wait for the 6th grade to get up here strictly from an athletic standpoint and I understand academics how important they are, the social aspects of which I've had the opportunity to witness the past two years on a fairly extensive basis, but the sports programs that we've had; I'm not blowing a horn but I'm in my 17th year coaching here at Sanborn and I do three sports a year. I have done 49 consecutive teams. It's a lot of bus trips and again I understand the issues with COVID; declining attendance, more options for kids, but without the 6th graders when we pulled them out of the facility of the middle school, we lost a third of the participants in sports. Mr. Dawson mentioned we had this phantom soccer club. I was the coach of that phantom team. We started out with eight kids. It was a co-ed team grade 7 and 8. Eight kids came out of 200 kids roughly. We had four teams with the sixth graders, two boys' two girls. I also coached track and in 2018, we had 106 kids on the team- that's about a third of the school population. This past track season we had about 17. I also coach basketball I do the girls' Basketball team I take the b team JV team if you will and a couple years ago when we had them we had four teams; boys' had 60 kids over 60 at tryouts for the boys' team. How many do we have signed up? The other day Mr. Dawson there were five at the meeting but there is more. Mr. Dawson had an announced meeting here at the school if you are interested in Basketball come on down talk to us about it. He had this terrific meeting to get him interested to sign 15, which is good for maybe one team now. Yeah there are going to be some more but he point is the kids aren't coming out and that's the third thing is that they're just having other options to do stuff in 6th grade. Without the 6th graders, our athletic program is dropping and maybe I should not say this but I will. I was talking with the Soccer coach the boys' high school varsity coach and he kind of saw us out there and he said how do things look? I said "Coach, I've seen the future; there isn't one." I meant it sincerely. We need to do something to get the kids up here.

Mary Feener (Newton) - I was not prepared to speak at all but I agree with Mr. Gannon. The sports- we need to do something about the sports and the sports are going to help the mental health issues that are going on, The socialization, these kids need this big time but I am also not in favor of moving the sixth grade up. I have no dog in that fight so I am beyond that but I have a Middle Schooler now who was impacted by this change and I think the problem is financially, we made the right move, socially we made a bad move and we need to fix something. These kids are struggling and thank goodness for sports but I've got a kid who's talking about a co-ed team maybe for Basketball because there's not enough players. Sports are wonderful and we just we really need to think about the social end of it, which we really seem to be missing. I do not see that we have the space and Mr. Malila could certainly use more help because the kids need support to grow. Also, there have been rumors about 6 block changing to bring up our test scores and academics. I think there is a special group I need to sit on regarding getting rid of electives and we need to really think about all the students that are struggling and the students that are excelling and find a way to socially support them and educate them safely.

Leah Brown (Newton)- So on the mental health thing; I do not think you are going to see an improvement whatsoever. I think you're actually going to see a decline in putting sixth graders in the high school. You are mixing 18 year olds with 11 year olds. Like somebody else said, they're highly influenced. I mean for one you already have issues with bullying to begin with. I have reached out multiple times because my daughter who's in fifth grade right now has been bullied since Kindergarten and to think of that happening in high school. I mean, I went to high school here. I know just with the four grades that were here there was barely enough room for all of us. I mean that was a time ago but I mean having seven grades here and they're going to be mixed no matter what and you're going to deal with bullying and when I was here I know nothing was done. I had my parents calling the school time after time and heads returned I ended up being taken out of school. You're going to see this intensify like nothing else and then what's going to happen when these kids mental health go down and down and then the suicide rate goes up and up because of all the bullying. I do not think it should be a factor because of sports just to bump the sixth graders up. I mean you'd have to have multiple school officers in this school for seven grades in one school. I mean would have to look at all different options like what about modulars for some grades instead of using the money to put up walls .I mean my first year in high school, we were at the seminary and we had modular. I mean put this sixth grade keep them at the Memorial, put third grade at Memorial like we get to look at other options other than bringing another grade here. On the bus, what about the relationships that could happen between an 11 year old and an 18 year old? I mean these are all options that are very scary to think that my 11 year old will be coming here next year and I will not be happy if a lot of these things happen and everybody is just okay with all this mixture and not considering all the things that would go wrong just over sports.

Chris Bashaw (Kingston) - I am a father of three. I have kids in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade currently. Professionally as a side note, I am on the SAU 17 School Safety Committee for some issues that come up. I just want to start by saying I do not have an answer and I do have a unique ability to probably give everyone here something tonight to disagree with so I'll throw that out there. I did want to share a couple of experiences is that I did have a unique opportunity to go to school in two different school districts when I was



growing up. One of them was a more traditional. it was actually a K-8 and then a 9-12 situation and then I also went to high school and middle school in a school that had a shared middle high school with 6th,7th and 8th graders on the top floor in high school on the bottom floor and a lot of common shared spaces such as cafeterias, gymnasiums uh art classrooms, home economics those types of things and I never really noticed any issues between the two that I would that would really ring out to me. Now, ideally I do not like the idea of the 6th graders being with the high school students. I wish that wasn't needed but we're not such an affluent community that we can just will everything that we want and if we were such an affluent community, I think a lot of us would probably be pushed out of here and not be able to raise our families here, so I understand the delicate balance that we have. I will say, athletics was very important for me growing up. As somebody who has a 6<sup>th</sup> grader right now who cannot participate in school athletics, they are going out to other private programs and who knows they may miss their opportunities to get migrated into the school athletics program, which I know for me was a big thing it's probably the only reason I made it through the academic portions was my motivating factors to be able to participate in athletics so I do think it is important even tied into the education piece. I will say from professionally from the social dangers as well as the potential physical dangers one of the things I see more and more often and I have more concerns. I am less concerned about the potential lack of physical barriers between these age groups, whether it be even on shared buses, which I grew up with 6-, 12 on buses and the things I've seen. I understand the world has changed, but I will say I think our kids are in larger danger from the lack of barriers that we most of us allow our children through communications through cell phones, smartphones and social media platforms that I think bleed over into personal and school life. So, if we get forced into a situation where we have to make a decision, I'm much less concerned about the physical barriers that I think are more manageable than the items that we are allowing to happen outside of the physical brick and mortar building. Thank you.

Melissa Hilfer (Kingston)- I have many concerns of course. I've worked in the district in numerous capacities. I've been fortunate enough to work besides some truly dedicated professionals at every level. I've worked with numerous children and families throughout the district and I've enjoyed that immensely. I continue to do that work because I find such value and hoping that our children will grow from our efforts. Many people tonight have spoken very passionately about how they feel; that athletics are a gateway to improving the mental health and the overall well-being of our students and athletes and I don't disagree but I have to advocate very strongly and say that I really and truly feel that 11 year olds do not belong in this building. I understand that there are many factors at play. We have been in unprecedented times, which is a phrase I have grown to hate, but what we are dealing with is some truths that haven't changed. Eleven year olds are often impressed by things that an adult would find foolish. They are often impressed and enticed into behaviors activities otherwise that their families would wish that they weren't and sometimes when we can put up those physical barriers, whether it be a separate school building or maybe a wall or what have you, we can prevent some of those activities. we're going to have a harder time and I don't doubt that the people in this building, the middle school the high school whichever school these students are attending will do their utmost to prevent things but you can't have eyes everywhere. You truly cannot. You're going to have these kids mixed in on the buses. We've already seen this year some extreme challenges with busing. We've all had late drop offs, late pickups, bus routes canceled and redirected.

There's going to be holes. There's going to be a hole somewhere where we don't see what's happening and I'm just very concerned that when we have 11 year olds who are barely through puberty if at all are now rubbing shoulders in some certain circumstances with functional adults. I just feel that it's deeply inappropriate. I feel like we need to look at all potential options. I think we need to be honest about what the plan is going forward what is that going to mean. Do we stand here in a meeting like this next year asking whether or not we should put the fifth graders up here too and I don't want what's happening now. I have a seventh grader here but I understand like I said many others do we had to make that choice. I would not send my daughter here next year. Thank you.

Kristen Stogryn (Kingston) - I don't think that sports is an adequate reason to shift an entire grade up to the school. I understand that the sports teams are lacking and quite honestly this affects I have a six-footer that plays hockey and cannot play should there be a middle school team this year I still wouldn't want him here. I have another child behind him that is so involved in hockey already that ideally he would also like to play on the middle school team should the time arise. I think that we have to look at why the numbers are declining sports teams wise, if it is because we don't actually have the students or if it's because the students who play sports are going to private run clubs like Synergy like the Spartans hockey team like the basketball program at the Y. Are these children choosing to not play in the middle school because of the regulations and the rules because it prevents them from playing on outside teams and whatnot, or is it just that there is no interest. These kids are interested in other things. Sports teams are going to be and flow. There is always going to be a year where you have a huge teams then the next year, you might not. I have seen this in my children's hockey teams and the teams that we play outside of school. Some years you have 15 kids on a hockey team, some years you might have 11. It changes because people try different things they go to different teams. I just don't think that this is an adequate reason and should be the focus as to why sixth graders need to come up here. You are mixing too many kids together, the grades just don't work. I just think that they should stay where they are in seventh and eighth grade and maybe we need to look at our sports programs and see why people aren't joining them and why the kids aren't wanting to play within the school.

Kevin Holt (Kingston)- I wasn't going to speak tonight but I've heard a lot of people get up and primarily discuss sports and I completely understand that as a former middle school coach and having all three of my children play athletics here at Sanborn and thoroughly thrive in that situation. Mr. Gannon was right not only is it affecting middle school it will eventually affect the high school. There are many other reasons to make this move including academics. The first young gentleman who got up to speak was a product of a sixth grade that had a complete social studies program. He had social studies five days a week for 181 days he not only learned history; he learned about civic engagement, he learned how to make an argument. We cannot do that having social studies two days one week, three days the next week and splitting that time with science on top of that they're not learning certain things. They're just getting the surface of science as Mr. Broderick being a former science teacher would know. You need time to investigate in science. The sixth graders do not get that under the current setup at Memorial. Maybe we can fix that at Memorial. I'm not sure but if they moved up here they

would definitely be in a content-based program and they would be getting a much deeper education. Thank you.

Superintendent Ambrose thanked everyone for their comments and for being decent and reasonable in their conduct with such an emotionally charged topic. This is not the last time we will talk about it. We are listening to you and thank you for coming.

Mr. Baker (School Board)- said we have heard a lot of information. We have a lot to think about. I want to stress though for this school year, the Board and the Administration dedicated a lot of time, money and other resources into improving curriculum and academic intervention and Mr. Holt just talked about the importance of academics right now. It seems to me it is time to focus on improving academics. There seems to be some advantage to the moves we are discussing including some academic benefits and with sports. Our district priority needs to be on addressing academic defects caused by COVID and on implementing academic intervention. I am glad we are having this discussion. I think we need to keep having it but my concern is another move is not essential at this time and it is going to be a distraction from improving academics and that's really where we need to focus.

Mr. Fitzpatrick (School Board) said let us not make this move for some of the heartfelt reasons that were given and there is certainly a lot to listen to and think about there. I want to highlight what somebody pointed out that Kindergarten is not required and Pre-K is probably pretty immature; it is too early to bring kids in. I do not think that is a reason. If in fact the law changes then we'd have to obey the law up until it is determined to be an unconstitutional law. I am glad this is an open discussion and that there is not vote needed to make a decision because it is not pressing; it is a risk that is out there and it is good to talk about that as a community. Regarding athletics, we also have another community (Fremont) that sends their kids here to the High School and we know they are doing an evaluation of different schools. We have seen on their website they have posted what dollars for tuition have been proposed to them from three different communities and our community is about a 5K difference from another community who was lower. If a Fremont electorate was going to be making decisions based solely on money, they would say I am going to the other place but maybe there is a lot more than money to consider: community integration, sports teams. The comments about mental health are right. We should also consider how we keep our Fremont community with us and what additional things (besides money) can we offer. Thank you to the people who spoke.

Moira Bashaw (School Board) - said to the parents out there, we hear what you are saying. I am a parent of a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grader so no matter what decision is made, it is going to directly affect me. I have two nieces in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and one in 4<sup>th</sup> grade so I understand your concerns and I want you all to know that many of us do have children who are going to be affected by this decision and it's not something we take lightly. Over the weekend, I received a lot of phone calls from people who really wanted their 6<sup>th</sup> graders moved so it is very split in what people do and don't want so it's a very difficult decision. We do hear what you are saying. Another factor is making sure these students are prepared if we do decide to move and we do need to consider that.

Peter Broderick (School Board) said a little history: the Kindergarten came about from a warrant article that the two towns voted to have. We still will need to be prepared if Universal Pre-K comes and know the cost of the whole ball of wax. We have the benefit of

some time, we are not voting on this tonight. We are going to make the best decision we feel for the school district because that is our job to make sure the students get the best education.

Dawn Dutton (School Board)-I want to echo what Maura was saying that there are four parents on this Board so we all have skin in the game . We are looking at this as Board members and as parents and my perspective on being a Board member is these kids are all our kids, so we have to take that into account when we make our decision, it is not all about dollars and cents, it is about the kids.

Ms. Ingham (Board Member)-said I definitely want to echo what Dawn and Maura said. For those that know mw I am a mental health professional and the number one things I look at is the mental health of our kids, so I am really going to take that into consideration.

Ms. Mahoney (Board Member)-I am also a parent although my children are not in school now but I do understand and have much sympathy. I saw the sort of shock that kind of floated with the video and I felt the same shock and a feeling of dismay for lot of reasons but we do understand and we are listening. We hear your concerns and as everyone else has expressed, we will make what we think is the best decision for the students but we continue to solicit your input.

- 7.4 Payment of Vendors through ACH Direct Deposit- Mr. Angell said he is asking the School Board for permission to pay vendors electronically. He cited a recent event in Peterborough, NH where 2.3 million was stolen by cybercriminals. Using the ACH method, SRSD processes will be put in place that will prevent any such theft from taking place. The fiscal benefit will be savings on postage costs, envelopes, etc.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that having a policy in place that ensures ACH processes are documented and validated by those in the office who perform those tasks is critical.

Mr. Baker added that exposing routing numbers are also a concern, which Mr. Angell addressed with the process for authorization.

**Superintendent Ambrose asked for a Motion to approve moving forward with ACH vendor payments providing a policy is put in place that staff involved in AP duties will sign off on. Motion moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

No further discussion.

**Vote: All in Favor**

- 7.5 Newton School Resource Officer- Mr. Ambrose gave an update on a Newton Resource Officer to be shared between the Town of Newton, the district and the Seacoast Learning Collaborative (SLC) who have rented the Middle School. The proposal is that the SLC will pay half of the 80% position and we will pay 40% per lease agreement with the SLC. The attorney is reviewing the Agreement. The officer will be housed at Memorial and go over to the SLC when needed.

- 7.6 Policies- Superintendent Ambrose suggested these 1<sup>st</sup> Read policies be adopted for a 1<sup>st</sup> Read tonight and he will answer any questions over the next week and then do the 2<sup>nd</sup> Read at the next meeting.

**Ms. Ingham made a Motion to move the list of policies for a 1<sup>st</sup> Read, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

No discussion

**Vote: All in Favor**

- 7.6.1 Policy [DAF](#)-Administration of Federal Grants
- 7.6.2 Policy [BBB](#)-School Board Elections
- 7.6.3 Policy [BBBC](#)- Board Member Resignations
- 7.6.4 Policy [BEC](#)-Non-Public Sessions
- 7.6.5 Policy [BEDG](#)-Minutes
- 7.6.6 Policy [EEAEA](#)-Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing
- 7.6.7 Policy [GBCD](#)-Background Investigation & Criminal Backgrounds Check
- 7.6.8 Policy [IHCD-LEB](#)-Advanced Course work/Advanced Placement
- 7.6.9 Policy [IMBC](#)-Alternative Credit Options

**Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to have the Policy Committee bring to the Board in November, the Divisive Concepts policy, seconded by Mr. Baker.**

Discussion ensued.

**Mr. Fitzpatrick amended his Motion to have the Policy Committee review the Divisive Concepts policy on November 3<sup>rd</sup> with the goal of completing that policy as soon as possible, seconded by Mr. Baker.**

No further discussion.

**Vote: All in Favor**

8. OLD BUSINESS- None

9. 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT- Jocelyne Lampron (Newton- SRHS student) - I don't know if moving if moving

up to the High School is a good or a bad thing. I'm not going to tell a parent or the School Board what to do but I just know I've hoped to play 12 seasons of sports in the High School, played 9 seasons in the Middle School, 3 seasons of Field Hockey, 3 seasons of Basketball. Two seasons were with Mr. Gannon, a great coach who tries to build up everyone's spirit and it becomes less of a sport and more of a family. We won two tri-county championships for Field Hockey two years in a row but I wouldn't have had that opportunity had I not built the ability to play Field Hockey in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is not a sport like soccer where you are able to play from a little kid so having 6<sup>th</sup> grade to be able to learn really helps. I really value sports and alot of people do. If I had not been able to play in 6<sup>th</sup> grade it really would have impacted things. I do see Middle Schoolers in the school. I don't really have an issue wiith it and most Middle Schoolers don't have an issue with it. Some of them say hi, I say hi back, just a friendly interaction. I haven't seen a whole lot of issues with it other than when we have to move out of the way so Middle Schoolers can pass safely back to their wing. I valued my Middle School experience and the Move Up Day we had too.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting is a Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee scheduled for **Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM** in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

11. NON- PUBLIC SESSION- RSA 91-A: 3 II (k) (c) - Mr. Broderick made a Motion to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (k) (c), seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

**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

**CONTINUING PUBLIC NEXT PAGE**

**Sanborn Regional School Board Meeting**  
**October 20, 2021**  
**Continuing Public Minutes**

**Mr. Broderick made a Motion to exit the Non-Public Session at 10:02 PM per RSA 91-A: 3 II (k) (c), seconded by Ms. Bashaw.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

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

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

**Mr. Broderick made a Motion to reduce the Superintendent's salary by \$10,000 and add it to the Districts contribution to the 403B, add an additional 9,500 contribution to the 403B, and extend his contract one additional year. Motion seconded by Ms. Bashaw.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM**