

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

2-23-22

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A special meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, February 23, 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 – (via remote)
Tammy Mahoney

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Jocelyne Lampron –(Excused)

ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent-(Excused)
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 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Dutton recognized School Board member Heather Ingham as being remote, asking her to identify herself, her location, and the reason she is not here. Ms. Ingham responded, "Heather Ingham, Newton Rep. I am in my home, alone (although a child may come through) and home due to a medical issue."

Chair Dutton said all votes will be via a roll call vote due to Ms. Ingham being remote.

2. New Business

2.1 COVID Plan Clarification –

Chair Dutton's requested that Dr. Haynes explain the reason behind the [Revised COVID Plan](#). Dr. Haynes said she sent along the revised plan to the Board, which updates some of the wording to match the Motion made at the last meeting by Mr. Fitzpatrick to remove the masking parameters and to move it to mask optional. Dr. Haynes said we wanted to make sure that the wording for that Motion was correctly stated, because what we don't want is to have no plan in place. Having no plan in place really violates the Program Assurances for our ESSER III funding, which would possibly jeopardize the millions of dollars we are getting through that.

The updated plan takes it from six pages to four pages, one being the cover page, so it is really three pages of information. What we've essentially done is gone through and taken out of the plan any of the mention where masks are required and changed it to masks are recommended

but optional. Dr. Haynes went through each page of the revised plan.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that he looked into the Department of Transportation rules, and it is very clear that masking on buses is mandatory. He noticed that field trips say may be limited where it used to say will be limited. He asked Dr. Haynes about requirements of masking for sporting events, and she directed him to the place where the information is in the plan.

Mr. Fitzpatrick clarified what Dr. Haynes said adding the Motion that was previously made said “replace the current plan with mask optional” rather than “replace the masking requirements in the current plan with mask optional” and that is why we are here tonight, to fix that.

Chair Dutton expressed her thanks to Dr. Haynes for making the changes saying they are super clean and clear.

Ms. Mahoney asked if this revised plan allows us to be responsive and keep our kids in school if we have some sort of outbreak?

Dr. Haynes responded we did make some calls to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to figure out what we can do and especially with the Department of Education’s Technical Advisory that came out today saying we no longer can move everyone to mask required. What we can do with our plan, and that’s what is on page 4 regarding the quarantine and isolation guidelines, is make sure that folks adhere to that. We still will need parents to report to us why children are home and if there are COVID cases, as DHHS requires us to report those cases, but we can’t go back to the old plan. We would need the help of DHHS to guide us in any outbreak (COVID or otherwise).

Mr. Angell agreed and pointed out that the Technical Advisory came out only a few hours ago. We are all trying to figure out how to live with it and if we do have another major outbreak. I would expect the State to do an update or come back with some sort of guidance for us to move around in.

Ms. Mahoney added that the State Board of Education ruled that we cannot be remote anymore for COVID-19 outbreaks and Dr. Haynes confirmed that saying we cannot go remote for COVID reasons anymore, only for inclement weather, or if parents request it. So, we are hemmed in a bit.

Mr. Baker asked what happens if we can’t staff schools, how does that affect the person’s contract with the Teachers’ Union?

Mr. Angell said if they’re out on medical leave, we still have to pay them, and we would get substitutes or put contingency plan in place if it was widespread.

Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve the Revised COVID Plan, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

3. Public Comment- None

4. Other Business

4.1 Announcements

4.1.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

4.1.2 The Second (Voting) Session of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, from 8 AM-8PM at the Swasey Gymnasium for Kingston residents and at the Newton Fire Station-8D Merrimack Road for Newton residents.

5. Adjournment Chair Dutton adjourned the meeting at 6:14 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Phyllis Kennedy

School Board Secretary/District Clerk

