

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

March 3, 2021

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A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Jim Baker, Chair
Peter Broderick
Dawn Dutton (Excused)
Jamie Fitzpatrick
Larry Heath (via remote connection)
Tammy Mahoney, Vice Chair

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Jake Tedford (Excused)

ADMINISTRATORS: Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
Matthew Angell, Bus/Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Jim Baker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Roll Call attendance asking remote participant Larry Heath to identify his location and also identify who may or may not be at the location with him. Mr. Heath replied with the request saying he is in his home office alone.

2. ACTION ON MINUTES-

Review of Minutes of [2-3-21](#) (Pre-Deliberative), [2-3-21](#) (Deliberative), and [2-10-21](#).

Chair Baker asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of 2-3-21 (Pre-Deliberative meeting). Motion moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

No discussion

Roll Call Vote: 4 in Favor (1 abstention, Broderick)

Chair Baker made a Motion to accept the Minutes of 2-3-21 (Deliberative Session). Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

No discussion

Roll Call Vote: 4 in Favor (1 abstention, Broderick)

Chair Baker made a Motion to accept the Minutes of 2-10-21. Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Mr. Baker asked to amend agenda item 7.4 (3rd paragraph) on page 10 to read, *seconded by Ms. Dutton.*

Roll Call Vote: 4 in Favor with amendment (1 abstention, Broderick)

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Distribution of Manifest Documents- Chair Baker reported that the Manifest has been circulated and signed.

3.2 Nominations- Superintendent Ambrose reported the following:

<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	Actual Salary <u>2020-21</u>	Budgeted Salary <u>2020-21</u>
<u>High School</u>			
Melissa Hilfer	English Teacher (One-year contract)	\$18,879 (Pro-rated from \$43,351)	\$65,944

Chair Baker moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Hilfer. Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

No discussion

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

3.3 Resignations- None

3.4 Superintendent's Report- Mr. Ambrose reported the following:

- This is the last meeting for Mr. Heath and I want to acknowledge him tonight for being a wonderful part of the School Board here at Sanborn and to thank him for all his hard work in being a part of the team and supporting the students and families in our community. Mr. Heath has seen us through a really incredible transition from the early days of our talking about the reorganization to finishing the whole project which is quite an accomplishment for an organization. Thanks you for playing an important part in that Larry!

- On Tuesday, March 9, 2021 our communities will be asked to vote on a number of warrants including professional Staff (teacher) contracts, administrative contracts, and the overall school budget. We are writing this letter to share facts with our communities prior to voting day. The Sanborn Regional School District has proposed a budget of \$35,525,942 for the 2021-2022 school year. This is a reduction of \$890,430 from the 2020-2021 budget. Should the proposed budget fail, the default budget will be implemented. The default budget is \$2,000 higher than the proposed budget. The proposed budget has been unanimously supported by the school board and the budget committee. There are two Collective Bargaining Agreements on the 2021 warrant. The Professional Staff Contract has a raise of 1.5% in year one, and 2% in years two and three plus steps. The Administrative Contract is a four year agreement that includes a cap on health insurance costs and has a 1.5% increase in year one and 2.75% increase in years 2-4. Both of the contracts have been supported by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Overall, Sanborn Administration, the Sanborn Regional Education Association, School Board and the Budget Committee have worked collaboratively to balance class sizes, save money through efficiencies such as the reorganization of the district, and keep teacher salaries from falling further behind while recognizing the hardships our communities have faced during this pandemic. We continue to work toward the goal of cost efficiencies while supporting our staff and students.

We invite you to join us in supporting the warrant articles this year on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Swasey Gymnasium (Seminary Campus) for Kingston and at 8D Merrimac Road (Fire Rescue Station) for Newton voters.

Thank you everyone for all their hard work Every year there is a lot to do, but this year was probably the hardest I the last 100 years. I think it's really important to recognize that, particularly with the teachers' contracts that they've done an amazing job this year. Our administrators have done an amazing job too and I really could not be more proud of my team.

Mr. Broderick asked when COVID-19 hit, how long was it before we were up and running?

Mr. Ambrose responded, it was four days. Our team at Sanborn did a phenomenal job. We found out on a Friday that we were going to be remote and by the following Thursday we were fully remote. Once back in school, we had to go remote a few times due to cases of COVID and teachers having to quarantine. We have been in school 5 days a week (in person with a remote option) since mid-October. Most districts are only open 2 days a week. Our teachers have been fantastic.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said I want to echo what Mr. Ambrose said and I said the same thing at the Deliberative Session. The teachers have gone out of their way. I know there is frustration. We have schools in this State just getting back to 2 days a week now and we have had our kids pretty much in school just after the 2nd week in October, with one exception which Tom mentioned. They've done a good job for the community and for the kids and we should be passing this. I know the community's hurting. I know that there is angst and lost jobs etc. but we need to keep our teachers and they've done yeoman's work for us through this COVID and I would again ask people to support the warrant for the Professional Staff and the Administrators as well.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Policy-no report

4.2 EISA- Ms. Mahoney reported as follows:

The group met on February 10th. In attendance we're myself, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Dutton, Mr. Ambrose, Dr. Haynes, Mr. Malila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. McCluskey, and Ms. Desrochers.

Dr. Haynes walked us through a demonstration of the Alma systems report card template and provided a walk-through for navigating the Parent Portal for us. Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that he thought the template was well laid out and simple to navigate. Ms. Dutton requested more emphasis on consistency with the Insufficient Work Submitted (ISW) grade which Dr. Haynes and Mr. Ambrose said is in progress and working and we will have to be consistent on that. Mr. Malila reported on the High School Diploma / Schedule committee. They have had their first meeting which was two weeks prior to our meeting. They'll be meeting again and they may have met by now.

At that meeting they established 3 subcommittees to work on reviewing and revising the graduation requirements and the Diploma with Distinction. The first two subcommittees; Career Workforce and Post-Secondary Schooling are to examine the needs of those students and how to best prepare and support them. The third subcommittee is Other Schools and that subcommittee is going to review other graduation and diploma requirements of other schools and for comparison purposes. The committee is composed of 18 members; 6 administrators/coordinators, 7 teachers from different departments, 1 support staff and 2 subcommittee members. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Dutton and 2 district parents, although some other members are also district parents. We just kind of listed them in their sort of main category.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 24th. Thank you.

Mr. Ambrose added that he asked Mr. Malila to add a Fremont Board member (who is a parent) to the committee as we haven't done that and it is important. Also, at the next EISA meeting, we are going to have a presentation about our new math program and that is also really important because they have worked really hard to figure out what to do for the elementary level instruction so that would be a good meeting for the community to watch, particularly parents.

4.3 Facilities-Mr. Baker reported the following:

The Facilities Committee met on Wednesday Feb 10th. The meeting was called to order at 3:30PM. All members were present.

The Committee reviewed the Revolving Funds balances as of Dec 31, 2020. The balances were as follows: Special Education Fund \$241,168.81, Capital Improvement Fund \$223,031.53, Unanticipated Education Expense Fund \$150,196.05 and the Facilities Use Fund which increased by \$11,666.67, the monthly rent of the Middle School, for a fund total of \$191,954.48. The total of the four Funds is \$806,350.87. That is a net increase over this time last year of \$193,206.07. This increase is made up of two Reserve Fund warrant articles approved by voters last year plus the Middle School rent and interest on the accounts.

The Committee viewed a proposal prepared by Special Ed teachers Kevin Beaudoin and Jim Enright. The proposal was presented by Mr. Enright. The proposal was for the construction and use of an 8' x 12' greenhouse. The academic purpose would be to provide students with a variety of hands on experience integrated with classroom learning. For example, the students would experience what it takes to grow food, the impact of nutrients as well as healthy food choices. They would learn about plants and vegetables, research, writing and presenting and some math activities like money management. The project would be financed by fundraising. The estimated cost is \$2011.00. A Go fund me site has since been established. The Facilities Committee was asked for site approval and we approved the requested site. The location is adjacent to the paved road that runs behind the High School, abutting the walkway to the rear entrance of the cafeteria.

The Committee discussed several items that need to be added to the Capital Improvements Plan. We heard about the status of two boilers at Bakie School. You'll recall that evening, the School Board discussed the boilers and approved the hiring of a mechanical engineer to advise on what will be needed. We discussed a maintenance vehicle replacement plan and the need for replacement security cameras at Bakie. The School Board also discussed the video cameras at the Feb 10 meeting. Also, Memorial school is in need of parking lot recoating and striping. We discussed problems with a sewer line at Bakie which needs repairing. The parking lot at Bakie needs resurfacing in some areas and seal coating plus restriping.

The Business Administrator also advised on some completed maintenance - a couple of failed heat pumps were replaced at Bakie. The walk-in Refrigerator at Bakie was repaired. The refrigerator was manufactured in 1990. The refrigerator may need replacing with a new, more efficient one. A new water filtering system has been installed at Memorial. The High School Chimney needed servicing due to a filter problem. At the Seminary Campus, the fire suppression system has been turned off in the grounds and tech buildings. The grounds building is being used as storage and the tech building is not being used. The propane tanks have also been removed from the Grounds building.

The next Facilities meeting date will coincide with the next school board meeting which will be discussed later this evening. Please consult the SAU17.net website for scheduling and access or location details.

4.4 Finance- Mr. Fitzpatrick reported as follows:

The Finance Committee met this afternoon, so I don't have a full report but just some of the highlights. With the most recent storm, 3 leaks were found on the Bakie roof, so we're taking a look at that. Matt's got people coming to look at what we need to do in terms of repairing those. Mr. Angell also went through some comparisons with us of what previous estimates were on some of our larger projects and what the costs were; on the Memorial Roof it was \$54,000 estimate and \$54,000 cost, paving was \$65 000 estimates \$65,279 actual cost.

We had a long discussion on camera systems as we've had a server fail in Bakie and we're looking at upgrading analog cameras into digital cameras, so there's discussion on that. There was a budget request change for \$34,000 coming from Health and Dental to Data Communications to cover the Comcast billing. The original estimates on the Comcast billing did not include taxes and fees and the taxes and fees on the Comcast billing are actually that high so that was voted to make that budget adjustment and Mr. Angell also pointed out that he's anticipating another; approximately \$440,000 in COVID funding from a State grant so those are the high points of the meeting and I'll have it finalized and put in officially after tonight.

Ms. Mahoney clarified that when Mr. Fitzpatrick said Budget Adjustment, he meant Line Item Transfer. Mr. Fitzpatrick said yes.

Mr. Broderick recommended that in future discussions, the COVID grant money, being unanticipated, be applied to expenses caused by COVID so it doesn't hit the tax rate. Mr. Angell agree that it should be addressed.

4.5 Public Relations-no report

4.6 Personnel-no report

4.7 SST-no report

4.8 Budge- no report

4.9 Wellness- no report

5. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- No report

6. 1st PUBLIC COMMENT- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 Acceptance of Robotics Donation for \$3,500.00 – Mr. Angell reported the donation came from the non-profit company *First Robotics* from Manchester, NH. Teams of students throughout the country build robots to do tasks and they have huge competitions.

Chair Baker asked for a Motion to approve the \$3500 donation from First Robotics, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

No discussion

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

- 7.2 Acceptance of Life Skills Greenhouse Donation for \$2, 226.00 – Mr. Angell reviewed the previously mentioned Life Skills program whereby teacher leaders, Jim Enright and Kevin Beaudoin attended a Facilities Committee meeting to ask for the greenhouse for the Life Skills students. They have already raised \$2, 226 towards that goal and I suspect we are going to get a little bit more.

Mr. Angell asked the School Board to accept the \$2,226 donation towards the project, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Mr. Heath.

No discussion

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

- 7.3 Grades 11 & 12: Inviting Students Back from Being Remote- Superintendent Ambrose prefaced Mr. Stack presenting the agenda item by saying we try not to add things to the agenda on the day of a Board meeting but Mr. Stack and Dr. Haynes came to me with some concerns about students who were struggling to at the High School (juniors and seniors) and the number of failures is concerning so we felt this conversation couldn't wait until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Stack said since we came back from the holidays in January, we started to focus as a team on our course failures by grade level and department. We have been tracking and seeing a trend that we're not proud of and it is a much higher percentage of our students not passing some of their classes than we would lie to see; 17.5% of all of our courses that are

being offered. We recognize with COVID there are a lot of challenges and we are taking steps to address that but digging deeper into the data, we started seeing a difference between remote students and in-person students, primarily students who are remote and just not engaging despite our best efforts to get them to show up on that computer every day. Their parents are equally as frustrated.

Mr. Stack asked the Board to allow juniors and seniors (who are remote) the opportunity to return to the building, if they would like, so we can try to provide additional supports for them. He shared the following data:

	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Number of In-Person Students	122	118
Number of In-Person Students Failing 1 or More Courses as of 3/1/2021		
	61	57
Number of Remote Students	54	55
Number of Remote Students Failing 1 or More Courses as of 3/1/2021		
	34	29

Mr. Ambrose clarified that we are asking the Board to make an exception to allow students who are failing in grades 11 & 12 to come back to school if they choose to right now. That also means if they have younger siblings that they're caring for at home, they would be allowed to come back as well because the family may not be able to manage that change right now. We have seniors who may not graduate and juniors who may not be able to take certain courses if they don't pass.

A future discussion for the Board will be spacing issues if we allow the 25% of students who are remote to eventually come back.

Mr. Baker said we are talking about kids who elected to be remote who had to stay remote for a certain timeframe.

Superintendent Ambrose said yes, until after April break

Mr. Broderick said we must give failing students the opportunity to make sure they are successful.

Ms. Mahoney said she agrees and would like to have all the students come back but it is a resource question so I think a phased-in approach is good. It would be my opinion that we should let everybody come back that wants to as soon as we are able to do that.

Mr. Stack reviewed spacing protocols and recommendations for the future saying we want to do this as quickly as possible but in a safe manner.

Superintendent Ambrose said I want to reiterate that my concern wasn't necessarily the social distancing at the high school facility, it is Bakie and Memorial.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said I support bringing back and don't have any issues with that. I do want to state that we need to set expectations because we might have kids in school that know of other Boards in other districts that are waiving everybody whether they are failing or not and letting them pass because we feel bad. I don't feel bad. The expectation has to be you've got 3 months to fix it, let's work together to fix it but don't sit there thinking that somehow there's going to be amnesty at the end that says, I really don't have to do anything. You need to address the issues and you need to take ownership of your grades and your courses and we need to work with our students to get them to pass.

Mr. Broderick agreed saying it is important that we communicate that to them. They have to realize that they have to do their job.

Mr. Stack agreed and said we do hold our students to high standards and these kids are not showing evidence.

**Mr. Broderick made a Motion to support the decision to bring back students in grades 11 and 12 who are in need of assistance.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baker.**

Mr. Stack asked for a date to start.

Mr. Baker suggested the wording "as soon as possible".

Mr. Broderick amended the Motion to support the decision to bring back students in grades 11 and 12 who are in need of assistance as soon as possible. Motion seconded by Mr. Heath.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

8.

OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Athletics

8.1.1 Sports Update- Mr. Ambrose read [the Athletics Update](#) from Mr. Dawson. His recommendation is that we stick with status quo; spring skills and drills continue with planning for the spring season.

8.2 Bakie Boiler Update- Mr. Angell reported that our insurance company has asked us to take 1 of our 2 boilers off-line because it sprung a leak and since then, the remaining boiler started weeping so that forced us to look at repairing or replacing the boilers. We appointed H.L. Turner Engineering who has come out to inspect the boilers and give us an opinion as to whether they need to be replaced. I also asked them to look at designing a new boiler system with the consideration of future upgrades. We delivered our existing building plans to H.L. Turner and also separately obtained a repair quote and a replacement quote of just the affected boiler. The repair quote of that affected boiler is \$37,960. To replace that 1 boiler is \$63,000 but that doesn't address the remaining boiler that is weeping. So, right now we are waiting for H.L. Turner to start producing information.

Mr. Baker asked if H.L. Turner would tell us the viability of repairing versus replacing because that's close to half the cost of replacing.

Mr. Angell responded yes, it is important to have an independent party other than the school district as to what direction to move in.

Mr. Broderick asked how much it was to repair both.

Mr. Angell said the existing boilers are from the late 70's/ early 80's and the problem is finding sections of that particular manufacturer.

Mr. Baker asked when the report from H.L. Turner would be expected.

Mr. Angell responded later this spring as it is an in-depth study. I would rather delay and have a proper solution than a quick one.

Mr. Ambrose asked if the boiler will hold up.

Mr. Angell hopes it will or they will have to rent one (9K a month) and he explained the best option it to take our time because replacing it now may not allow us to take advantage of money coming down from the state for HVAC that will aid in ventilation for Bakie.

Mr. Heath said we should wait for H.L. Turner's recommendation.

Discussion ensued on the boiler and how they are built, repaired and fueled.

Mr. Baker said the Board feels investment in a new boiler is well worth it versus the repair and we are waiting to hear what they recommend for a specific boiler. Why the wait till May for the report?

Mr. Angell said they just received the last plans yesterday and it takes time to go through and digest the information. I also asked them to give me a proposal on the HVAC component.

Superintendent Ambrose said we will call a meeting if there is an emergency but there is synergy in the air and we should wait.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked to have the specs and building designed share with him.

Mr. Angell will share them with him but they can't be shared outside of the Board.

- 8.3 Rescheduling Date of Next School Board Meeting—Mr. Ambrose reported at the last Board meeting, I mentioned moving the meeting scheduled on St. Patrick's Day to March 18th so we could assign committees and that day will work after all since a Ross Green webinar previously scheduled, will be attended by Ms. Leavitt. I think Ms. Dutton wants to attend that webinar but I will ask if we can record it.

Mr. Baker made a Motion to move the School Board meeting previously scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th to Thursday, March 18th moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

9. 2nd PUBLIC COMMENT- none

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Next Meeting Agenda- Chair Baker said to add an item to the agenda by submitting it to Mr. Ambrose or him by the Thursday before a meeting.

Mr. Ambrose added that it is important for the public to know that the next meeting (3-18-21) will be the organization meeting where new members will be seated, the Board will choose a new Chair and the subcommittees will be addressed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that if there is a recount for the vote, the organizational meeting might not have all the members.

10.2 Announcements

10.2.2 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM** in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School

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 at 8D Merrimac Road (Fire Rescue Station) for Newton voters.

11. NON-PUBLIC SESSION-RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) (k)- **Mr. Baker asked Mr. Heath for a Motion to enter Non-Public Session. Mr. Heath moved that we enter a Non-Public Session for RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (k), seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

12. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy
School Board Secretary

Sanborn Regional School Board

Continuing Public Minutes

March 3, 2021

Mr. Heath made a Motion to exit the Non-Public Session per 91-A:3 II, (d) (k). Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Mr. Baker made a Motion to extend the Purchase and Sale Agreement between Sanborn Regional School District and Mr. Eric Chinburg for the Seminary Campus until December 31, 2021 and we accept Mr. Chinburg's offer to pay \$5,000 of the estimated costs of holding that property for those additional months through that period. Motion seconded by Mr. Heath.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Mr. Heath moved that the Non-public Minutes be sealed in perpetuity, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor