

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

4-13-22

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A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dawn Dutton, Chair
Jim Baker
Moir Bashaw
Rick Edelman
Jamie Fitzpatrick, Vice Chair
Heather Ingham
Tammy Mahoney

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Jocelyne Lampron- Excused

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

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

2. Action on Minutes- Review of Minutes of [4-6-22](#)

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes. **Mr. Baker made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 6, 2022, seconded by Ms. Ingham.**

No discussion

Vote: All in Favor

3. Communications

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

3.2 Nominations- None

3.3 Resignations- Superintendent Ambrose reviewed the following resignations:

Memorial School

Jill Lizier Assistant Principal

Ms. Mahoney made a Motion to accept the resignations with regret, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

We regret losing Ms. Lizier but are happy that to say that she has accepted a well-deserved Principalship.

Vote: All in Favor

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

- Grading Survey- thank you to everyone who filled out the survey for grading. We had a spirited and healthy debate about it in the EISA committee meeting today. The results will be posted in the next couple of days and discussed at the May 18th School Board meeting.
- Facilities Committee- the Committee toured the Seacoast Learning Collaborative (SLC) which is the old Middle School today and will report on it at the next meeting.
- April Break- With the April break a week away, I want to say I hope everyone has fun and gets outside. We will look forward to seeing all the students when they return.

4. Committee Reports- None

5. Student Council Representative Report- Ms. Lampron was excused to participate in a sporting event and sent her report which Superintendent Ambrose read as follows: There is a lot of fun and exciting events happening at our school right now. Sports are in full swing, our middle school drama program put on Mrs. Candlewicks magical wax museum. Next week is Spring Carnival and student council is doing penny wars and raising money for Ukraine.

(See Item 7.1 and 8.2.1 on the agenda, moved up in recognition of Mr. Parks having to leave early.)

6. 1st Public Comment

Elizabeth Lanaville (Kingston)-Thinking back to last week's school board meeting, these are the concerns that I have. Bakie School had conferences last Wednesday. How are working families who wanted to attend both if they go to work, have to go to conferences, and wanted to come to the to the board meeting. Was this an oversight? Tonight, Memorial has conferences. So again, is that another oversight? Who's looking at the calendar? Why weren't conferences expected to change because there was a school board meeting tonight? A little bit of more information. I was looking on the SAU 17 website, where I'm going to quote exactly what it says. Where else in the area's competency-based instruction and grading being implemented? Competency-based instruction is a New Hampshire law RSA 193: c 3 as well as a Department of Ed policy 306 261. it is also already implemented in a number of school districts in the area including Epping, Oyster River, and SAU16 which includes Exeter, Stratham, and Brentwood. We have

heard at the meeting before last, that Mr. Ambrose doesn't care about what other districts do. Do you still feel that way about the grading topic? Are teachers comfortable with the shift to letter grading? Sanborn has always been known as a progressive district with competency-based grading. How are teachers feeling about taking tremendous steps backwards? If we want to retain veteran teachers, we should stop telling them how to grade their students. Is this what our teachers want or is it another admin push? I just want to thank a few teachers my children have had: Ms. Welver's kindergarten, Ms. Vendenberg, (no longer in the district), first grade Ms. DesRosiers, second grade, Ms. Doucett, third grade also all of the preschools preschool teachers: Ms. Khalil and Ms. Giaconda, plus all the support staff in preschool OT, PT, and speech.

Mr. Ambrose responded; I am not comfortable with people taking my comments out of context. I said that I don't care what other districts do with regard to early release days, but I did not say that about other educational initiatives. We frequently talk to other districts about what they're doing, and we collaborate regularly with area district schools. Thank you.

Mary Feener (Newton)-I am just finishing up from last week. I just want to say to the board and administration; we hear rumors of cuts and replacing teachers and librarians with paraprofessionals. There's always some level of truth in stories. I don't think we have complete transparency. Don't get me wrong, our paras are amazing and underappreciated. We have been told intervention hasn't happened because we can't get people to accept the positions. We can't retain employees, so why are we not renewing contracts? These teachers do so much more than teach our children. They are our children's backbone, lifeline, and support. Their school is their second home to them. When staff changes are made it directly impacts them. I took it upon myself to get a glimpse of what happens behind closed doors. My volunteer time at the school has been eye opening with a lot of good happenings in areas of opportunity. The lack of amenities and support for the middle school staff is disheartening. Yes, there is shared space in the high school wing, but it isn't really practical for them to use. I personally had been on the committee about merging the high school and middle school campuses. It was brought up about the lack of space for teachers in meeting rooms. We already have space issues. Now, there's going to be three grades to utilize the space. I was a bit outraged, and I sought out some of the teachers. I found them eating and having a meeting in their classroom. Some of the most amazing teachers could see I had my knickers in a bunch. They agreed more space is desirable, but they politely corrected me and explained to me how it's more important for the kids to have the space they need, then they can make do without complaints. Might I add, thank you to the eighth-grade team for being amazing and showing me the positives. Can you imagine if your employer didn't provide a break room or maybe a small fridge because it used a lot of electricity? Sounds like a great place to work. Thankfully, it is a great place to work because of our hard-working staff and dedicated teachers that do their job. We're fortunate to have Principal Malila who's doing a fabulous job. I'm glad he's going to be getting a Vice Principal for support, it's desperately needed for the Middle School. So, my point on that making sure we're using our resources wisely. We talk about how we're getting the rent from the middle school, but we also paid rent when we had a space. Is that a good choice? It very well maybe, but these are just things that jump out to me. Again, we want to make sure we're making our choices and using our resources wisely. We collaborate and work together the entire community will benefit. You did send out something about the grading. My question is can you just stick with something? I don't care. I like the ABCD because I'm old school, but I'm old and then alma; what I'd like to say about alma is how do you add two-fourths to a 3.68 on products and the grade go down? And all you hear is, well it's alma.

Kristen Stogryn-(Kingston)- I am speaking about the Strategic Plan and the 5-year plan. Mostly regarding the survey that was sent out and the grading system. I have seen a lot of feedback from parents and talked to other parents. The survey that was sent out which I use google, so every time I get a survey and I fill it out, I don't have an issue. It wasn't until someone pointed out the other day that these surveys that are being sent out cannot be accessed if you don't have a google account. You have to create one just to fill these out.

(Mr. Ambrose said many did fill them out that don't have Google accounts and to call the central office for assistance from Tech. If that person would like to call me and submit the response, please do).

Several people also mentioned that they didn't get the text alerts that were mentioned last week that were going to go out about the survey. They've received others, like I've received some closing school closing ones and bus issue ones but I didn't get anything about the survey so I don't know if that's a glitch in the system as well but might be something. As far as the grading system, I brought two little papers here from my little second grader that he brought home in the last week. He has one paper, here he has everything right on it and he got a p. He has one paper here where he got two things wrong, and still has a p. The grading system is almost too subjective, and I feel like it doesn't give the kids, I have a neighbor that had said to me my kid was told basically p's are the e's are unattainable for these kids, even again he brought home another paper he had everything on the paper correct, got the bonus question wrong and got an IP. How does that happen? For a second grader, it's disheartening to see. I would imagine even for a senior; it's disheartening to know that you did everything you're supposed to do, and you still don't get the top grade. So, I feel like going back to the ABCD with the hundred percent you only get sixty you get a d or an f whatever it is, it's a percentage, it's numbers are finite, there's no subjectiveness to it. You either get it right or you get it wrong. It is not based on what the teacher feels like that day, if they think you put enough effort into it. It is what it is. Thank you.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented at the EISA meeting today, we did talk about the results of the survey. Eighty-seven percent of the parents who responded to the survey, preferred the 0-100 grading scale and 54.5% of the teachers who responded to the survey preferred the 0-100 grading scale.

Superintendent Ambrose said those results will be on the website tomorrow.

7. New Business

7.1 Authorization to expend from the Facilities Use Revolving Fund for purchase of Chromebooks, Teacher Laptops and I pads

Technology Director, Gordon Parks reported on his requests for the following:

- Staff Laptops- Mr. Parks would like to purchase 50 new Dell Laptops to start replacing the 100-120 laptops (that are approximately 7 years old) which were not able to be replaced when the 2020 bulk purchase was made. This would be an annual replacement of fifty each year until all are replaced. This would be a every 6-year replacement rotation. The total cost is \$50,666.50 and he would like to use the Facilities Use Revolving Fund.

Discussion ensued on quality, price, rotation, age-inventory, warranty, delivery, expiration of quote, and balance of Facilities Use Revolving Fund (approx. 240K)

Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve the purchase of 50 Dell Laptops, seconded by Mr. Edelman.

No further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

- I Pads- Mr. Parks would like to purchase 20 iPads for D.J. Bakie School for \$6,230 which includes hardware and a one-time cost for the licensing used to manage them. This is to start

replacing the one hundred older models out there that are getting close to end of life. Dr. Kennett asked for these twenty to cover the increased enrollments for Kindergarten.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked about the time the students spend on the ipads.

Superintendent Ambrose said if we want to discuss the use of technology for the K-2 level we can place that on a future agenda and invite Dr. Kennett to address that question.

Ms. Ingham commented I have a Kindergartener and they're not on the ipads a lot. They're doing story time, circle time, and centers. I just had a parent-teacher conference last week with my daughter's Kindergarten teacher and it is a lot of hands-on productive play and learning. I think the ipads are really more for small group work, doing some of the apps on letters, but a lot of it is taught in traditional means of education in my daughter's classroom.

Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve the purchase of 20 iPads, seconded by Ms. Ingham.

No further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

▪ **Chromebooks-** Mr. Parks said this is an annual Chromebook purchase for upcoming freshmen, typically anywhere from 180-200 which allows a surplus for any new students enrolled throughout the year, and loaners to give students who have forgotten their Chromebook. Memorial also needs an additional twenty for one of their classrooms. The total cost is \$54,518.20.

Discussion ensued on the fund this money is being drawn from, warranty (1 year), cost per Chrome (\$221).

Ms. Ingham made a Motion to approve the purchase of the Chromebooks, seconded by Mr. Edelman.

No further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

- 7.2 **Seacoast School of Technology (SST) Presentation** – Mr. Stack prefaced the presentation by saying that 60-100 students participate in the amazing SST programs and earn industry credentials/college credits. He introduced senior Katelyn Cunningham who participates in the Plant & Science program. She circulated binders with pictures related to the program and gave a presentation with highlights of her experiences at SST.

Discussion ensued on the detail of the program; hours, course programs, etc.

Ms. Mahoney shared her firsthand knowledge of students who have attended and thrived in their chosen fields after attending SST and she also highlighted the Culinary Arts program as well.

Chair Dutton said kudos to those students who choose to go to SST as “hands-on” it is a great way to learn, and she is proud of their choices.

- 7.3 **Approval of Program Assurances**-Dr. Haynes presented the FY23 Program Assurances from the NH Department of Education for all the title funding that districts across the state receive (Title 1, 2, 3 and 4) from the U.S. Government and we have assurances that we are asked to sign; signatures

from the Superintendent and School Board Chair that say the money we receive will be used for the purposes they are intended for and will supplement and not supplant any of the regular district monies. Dr. Haynes detailed the title funding and asked for a Motion to approve.

Ms. Bashaw made a Motion to approve the FY23 Program Assurances, seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Vote: All in Favor

8. Old Business

- 8.1 Approval of Strategic Plan – Mr. Ambrose said we received a lot of feedback with 5-6 revisions, and I think we are ready to “land this plane. I want to be clear that this is a living document, and it will need to be revised and maintained as part of our operations at Finance, EISA, Facilities, Administrative team meetings, budget operations and at School Board meetings.

Mr. Fitzpatrick gave a synopsis of the most updated version of the Strategic Plan.

To view the most updated version of the plan, [please click here](#).

Superintendent Ambrose said in order to allow board members to review this most recent version and to have Dr. Haynes present at the meeting (she is away for the meeting on 5-18-22), I recommend we wait until the June 1 meeting to finally adopt it. If board members have concerns or requests after reading, Mr. Ambrose asked that they email him.

8.2 Review of District Needs

- 8.2.1 Running Track – Mr. Angell said we are asking for approval to re-line the High School’s running track. He gave some background on the project, with the last maintenance being done in 2012 and overdue. It would be 130K to re-line it this summer. He reviewed other future costs including a full track replacement in 2031. He is asking for \$128,950 through current appropriations and referenced his three proposals.

Discussion ensued on the details of the track, the current vendor, other quotes, warranties, timelines, deadlines, disposal of materials, etc.

The group asked Mr. Angell to obtain a warranty quote from the track vendor. Superintendent Ambrose said we may need to have a special meeting to discuss it in non-public in order to get this done over the summer or have the Facilities Committee decide.

The group agreed to have Mr. Angell obtain the warranty quote and have a special meeting with him next week.

- 8.2.2 Auditorium Upgrades- Mr. Angell reviewed the submitted quotes for converting some of the 54 main house lights to LED lights.

Mr. Fitzpatrick made recommendations on the properties and practices of LED lights.

Superintendent Ambrose noted Mr. Fitzpatrick’s expertise in this area and agreed with his idea of bringing in an expert that he knows to assist with the inventory and evaluation of

what we need. He added that these auditorium requests are not as time sensitive as the previous requests heard this evening.

Mr. Angell said he recently had an audit of all our lighting, and he can have that person present at a Board meeting. Superintendent Ambrose said we can re-visit this at the May 18th meeting with a full lighting proposal.

8.2.3 Wireless Network Access- Mr. Parks said this request is to replace 150 access points which are mainly small classrooms or small office areas. I have added twelve bigger access points to be put in libraries, small gyms, main offices, and the SAU office. The biggest thing is the six for the auditorium and the large gymnasium. I put out quotes, one to our existing vendor and to another that we use for our firewalls and all our security products on our laptops. They sent me the devices so I could take a look at them. If go with the vendor I want (Sophos), they are \$42K cheaper than the current vendor at \$58,868.88. We have our firewall devices through this vendor and other products as well. All support from them is included in the total.

Discussion ensued on support costs, quotes, expiration of quotes, delivery time, warranty, competitors and the window for ordering and placement.

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to approve the wireless network purchase, seconded by Mr. Baker.

No further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

9. 2nd Public Comment

Sam Fahey (Newton)-I just have a couple general comments on the Strategic Plan. I fully understand the whole living document thing. I'm a nurse, that's what we do too. We make a care plan, we see how the patient's doing, we re-evaluate as we go. But we do that with everybody involved. So, I'm just a little bit nervous where we keep saying it's a living document, that we're going to use that as a way to make a big deviation from this plan, that everybody works so hard on, without full community input as well. So, I'm just nervous that we're going to hit one of those obstacles that we talked about at the last meeting, we're going to pivot to do this and not put in a full look at what the parents and the students and everybody want. So, I just wanted to make sure that is the plan. The second thing is, I have four kids. They're spaced out two years each. My oldest will be going to the Middle School he's going to sixth grade. My understanding is that part of the reason that all happened is so that we have room for the preschoolers, if we have more preschoolers. I find it interesting that several times, we've referred to the school as a K through whatever and if I were one of our wonderful preschool teachers, I would be feeling underappreciated because it's happened several times. Thank you.

10. Other Business

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The **Sanborn Regional Budget Committee** will meet on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 7PM in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

10.2.2 **The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be a joint meeting held with Fremont on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:00 PM** at Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044

10.2.3 On **Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6:00 PM** the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will meet in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

11. Non-Public Session-RSA 91-A: 3 II

Mr. Baker made a Motion to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

12. Adjournment- Chair Dutton adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Phyllis Kennedy

School Board Secretary

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**Sanborn Regional School Board
Continuing Public Minutes**

4-13-2022

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

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to seal the Minutes in perpetuity, seconded by Mr. Baker.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM