

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2021

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A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

- Jim Baker (Vice Chair)
- Moira Bashaw
- Peter Broderick
- Dawn Dutton (Chair)
- Jamie Fitzpatrick
- Heather Ingham
- Tammy Mahoney

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Jake Tedford

ADMINISTRATORS:

- Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
- Matthew Angell, Bus/Admin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by School Board Chair Dawn Dutton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ACTION ON MINUTES

Review of Public Minutes of [4-7-21](#).

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of April 7, 2021, moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Mr. Broderick.

No discussion

Vote: All in Favor

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Distribution of Manifest Documents- Chair Dutton circulated the Manifests for signatures from Board Members.

3.2 Nominations- None

3.3 Resignations- None

3.4 Superintendent's Report- Mr. Ambrose reported as follows:

- Bakie Special Education- I met with the Special Education staff as a follow-up to the 3-12 meeting regarding their coverage struggles due to the pandemic and we are working as an administrative team to support them. As teachers come back from leave, as we look toward May 3, we are transitioning some staff to Bakie and moving substitutes there as they become available to help out. The staff have expressed appreciation for the Board agreeing to put a Special Education Coordinator at Bakie which had a big impact on morale, so they wanted me to share that with you.

- Math Teachers- I met with the math teachers at the high school today and had a very positive conversation with them about scope and sequence for math at the high school (similar to the conversation Dr. Haynes had regarding K-6) and they want to get together and figure out a text and a curriculum to start in the fall. Dr. Haynes is meeting with them next week and I said we would support them, even if we have to cobble money from the high school budget or my budget. This is a big process to pick something out but they have been looking at a few different programs already as they feel the Algebra I and II sequence needs a more traditional program. I will have more to report in the next few weeks.

- May 3rd Return of Students-We are really looking forward to their return. The only remaining remote students by school will be as follows:

Bakie-10
Middle-20 to 40
Memorial-<5
High School-42-50

The feedback we have received is that parents appreciated that the district said, “you need to come back to school unless you have a medical condition”. Because there are a lot of students that were hedging and when they heard they didn’t really have a choice, they said, “all right, I will go”. I am really grateful the Board has been so supportive and also for our teachers and everything they have done to make this happen. We have 6 more weeks to go. The more help we can send Bakie the better. If folks in the community are available to substitute teach, please email Diana Rooney at drooney@sau17.net

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Policy- Chair Dutton said the next meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 5:00 PM
- 4.2 EISA- No report
- 4.3 Facilities-Mr. Baker reported the next meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 3:30 PM
- 4.4 Finance- Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the group could meet on Wednesday, 4-21 at 4:30 PM which they can. That meeting will take place in Room 121 of the Middle School wing.
- 4.5 Public Relations-Chair Dutton said the next meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 4:30 PM
- 4.6 Personnel-Chair Dutton said they met today and she will report out at the next meeting.
- 4.7 SST-no report
- 4.8 Budget- no report
- 4.9 Wellness- no report

Ms. Ingham asked about next meeting with Fremont on May 11th and since it is via Zoom, would we be meeting in person that evening?

Me. Ambrose said yes, we would meet here and zoom in together. Then we can cover any agenda items we may have.

5. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Tedford reported that *Penny Wars* has begun and each grade has their own jar, so go seniors and good luck everybody else. *National Honor Society* welcomed its new members this past Monday and new faces will be joining what has been a great group at Sanborn for a long time. *Spring carnival* will be next Friday April 23rd. It will be a safe and fun event for every grade, all staff and all students.

6. 1st PUBLIC COMMENT- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Acceptance of Donations

7.1.1 Public Hearing to Accept System of Care (SoC) grant of \$250,000 for Student Services from several organizations.

Director of Student Services Jodi Gutterman and Director of Counseling Heidi Leavitt gave information regarding this competitive awards which they applied for and received recently. She hopes the Board will support and accept it. They gave details on the grant as follows:

- The technical name for this System of Care Grant is the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) Expansion and Sustainability Cooperative Agreements which is funded by different agencies; US Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services, Office of Social & Emotional Wellness within the Bureau of Student Wellness at NHDOE
- Grant will allow us to bridge the gap between families and students for social-emotional learning and mental health.
- This is a 4-year grant. We are in year 1 and there will be additional funding for years 2, 3, and 4 with \$250k every year to support this initiative.
- The requirement of the 1st step is to hire a project manager who must be an SAU level administrator and will work year-round in overseeing the initiative and developing the plan. In addition, we

would want to hire full-time social worker and a part-time social worker and to also provide some professional development opportunities.

- There is a match requirement to this grant award which means that the district has to match 25% in the second year, 50% in the third year and 75% in the fourth year. These increments do not have to be cash contributions, they can be in-kind contributions which means we can use partial salaries for myself and Ms. Leavitt, salaries for other individuals working to support this position and this initiative. We can use facility funds for office space of the individual that will be the project manager, social workers' professional development costs that are incurred. Those are some examples. We are confident that we can get to the match with all in-kind contributions.

- The State's goal and hope is that this is a sustainable grant and that within those 4 years, the district chooses to move in the direction of maintaining these positions. It can all be done in kind or we can match some with cash depending on the direction of the School Board.

Ms. Leavitt discussed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey where we look for some of the levels that are students are experiencing with their families regarding depression, mental illness and she gave statistics (35% depression, 5% homeless, 6% family member incarcerated). A social worker would help bridge the gap between school and family to help them access services that are in the community, offer group meetings support and evaluate our district's programs to help us meet the needs for any gaps we may have. Ms. Leavitt added that the benefits of this grant will meet the needs of our students in so many ways.

Mr. Baker asked about the depression statistic to clarify that it is 35% and asked how many students responded to the survey. He then asked about the sustainability of the program after the funding goes away.

Ms. Leavitt said it is 34.5% (depression) and that was a pre-pandemic number. It is worse now. The numbers of students who respond to the survey are approximately 500. As much as they would benefit from the social worker's long term, she understands the financial impact of that. What they can offer while here, is their recommendations for what programs and staffing work most

effectively in our district and how teachers can help with those programs.

Mr. Ambrose thanked the speakers and reviewed the grant details, especially the in-kind matching which he believes will all work. The timing of this grant could not be better for this community and the question will be in 4 years about sustaining it. If we accept this, we can have that conversation in year 2 to check in on how it is going. We have very limited community services for mental health in this district. This grant funds \$250K annually for 4 years.

Ms. Gutterman said the State has already said they would fund 300K at a minimum for years 2, 3, and 4 because we have lost so much.

Mr. Fitzpatrick as for clarification on the attempted suicide vs. the seriously thought about suicide. Ms. Leavitt said 34.5% attempted and 19.4% seriously thought about.

Mr. Fitzpatrick also asked what they mean by bridging the gap between family and student? Ms. Gutterman said to bridge the gap between support within the school and the limited support the community can offer families. He asked about ancillary costs related to the hiring and if this was would help as an audit of Special Education that the Finance Committee had talked about doing.

Ms. Gutteman detailed those funding costs. Mr. Ambrose clarified that this would be an audit of the Guidance programming but not a fiscal audit of Special Education.

Mr. Broderick asked if any of these would be tenured positions? Ms. Gutterman said essentially no as they are funded through the grant.

Ms. Ingham said as a Social Worker she is ecstatic about this as many parents have come to her for consultation and we don't have enough services in the community. Many kids are suffering and the studies show the numbers are through the roof.

Mr. Ambrose said he will be discussing more at a later date on response to intervention, staff training on social-emotional issues, and clinical coordination of support for students between the community, the home and the school.

Ms. Mahoney said I am completely supportive of this and know more than I'd like to about the difficulties that COVID has wrought on our student population, including college students, which I know we are not talking about. It is just awful and I really appreciate your bringing this to us because we definitely see the need and need the help. It is great.

Ms. Ingham asked about the number of crisis calls Guidance that have come into the school since the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Leavitt said she does not have a number off the top of her head, but every day we have parents that are reaching out for referral information, sitting in ER's, etc.

Ms. Dutton said it is extremely challenging to find help and finding a way to bridge the gap is huge so thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.

Ms. Ingham made a Motion to accept the System of Care Grant for \$250,000. Motion seconded by Ms. Bashaw.

No further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

7.1.2 Acceptance of grant for \$2,750 from Consolidated Communications Awarded to High School teacher (Devin Helmke).

Mr. Angell reported that teacher High School Devin Helmke obtained this grant which in his words will be used to connect Sanborn to the "Internet of Things" project and seeks to engage high school students in this project-based curriculum, centered on growing the explorations of this stem course where an estimated 30 students will learn and the "ins and outs" of internet connected devices. See grant information [here](#).

Ms. Mahoney made a Motion to accept the grant for \$2750 from Consolidated Communications, seconded by Ms. Ingham.

Mr. Baker asked whether this grant would add additional costs to the district related to bandwidth or the internet?

Mr. Angell said it would not add costs.

Vote: All in Favor

7.1.3 Acceptance of Tents (value of \$4,157) for Athletics Teams from Sanborn Athletic Boosters

Mr. Angell said the tents double the size, are heavy duty and have our logo. Two were designed for the Track Team but will be used during weather for the other teams.

Mr. Angell said the Sanborn Athletic Boosters gave us these tents and asked for a Motion to accept them, moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Ingham.

No discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

7.2 Approval of June 16th as last day of school for students

Superintendent Ambrose said he sent the Board [a proposal](#) that includes June 16th as the last day of school for students. Also included was a proposal that has been sent to the Union for consideration that says if our staff have leftover personal days, instead of taking them during the school year while students are in school, considering how tight our staffing is, they can take them at the end of the year. This is an allowable exception in the teachers' contract; I can approve days to extend a vacation. Usually they don't carry from year to year and they expire, so we are trying not to encourage them not to use them during April and May because we are having such tight staffing numbers. If they have already taken them, then we will have them do independent Professional Development pre-approved by Dr. Haynes and the administrative team.

Mr. Broderick is opposed to this because saying personal days are to be used if something comes up that they need to do. For us to tell them to take them at the end, when by rule I believe we can't even ask them what they are being used for, makes him uncomfortable. I would leave that alone.

Mr. Ambrose responded that while he respects his opinion and experience in this area, we are in an unprecedented time and people are not taking personal days because they feel bad about not being there and don't want their colleagues to be shorthanded. They are not allowed to take them at the end of the year by contract, so if we don't allow them to use them at the end of the year, they will use them during April and May and I am asking the Board to support the proposal which is a stop-gap that the Union has agreed to as a one-time exception.

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion for discussion, moved by Ms. Bashaw and seconded by Mr. Baker.

Mr. Fitzpatrick agrees with Mr. Broderick about precedent saying we should be very clearly stating that this is COVID related because I am concerned that we keep the kids in school and if this is somehow going to impede it then I want to support it. I also want to be clear that we are not setting a precedent.

Mr. Broderick said I will support it if we change the Motion to say it is COVID related.

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to approve the proposal as written as an exception due to COVID and not setting any precedent in these unprecedented times. Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Mr. Broderick said decisions we make today tie to future boards, so if we didn't word it the way you just did, it could come back to bite you.

Ms. Bashaw said she agrees completely, but it could also flip to the other side for the teachers where they could be afraid we could say "you didn't need those personal days in the 2020-21 school year so why do you need them?"

Mr. Ambrose asked if Mr. Fitzpatrick could amend his Motion for clarification purposes to say the following:

Motion to approve the plan as proposed with an understanding that it is non-precedent setting due to COVID-19.

Mr. Fitzpatrick agreed with the new verbiage and amended his Motion, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Vote: All in Favor

Superintendent Ambrose asked for a Motion to add that June 16, 2021 is the last day of school for students.

Ms. Ingham made a Motion to approve June 16th as the last day of school for students, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

No discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

7.3 Tuition Rates for 2021-2022

Mr. Angell recommended the following tuition rates.
To view, please [click here](#).

Mr. Baker asked about Fremont's capital costs increasing.

Mr. Angell said the net capital costs are increasing because the state aid is decreasing. He detailed state aid.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked for the amount of people that tuition in outside of Fremont.

Mr. Angell said we don't have any.

Ms. Bashaw asked about the teachers who were allowed to bring their children to our district, do they have an option to continue?

Mr. Ambrose said when the board voted to approve that they could bring their children tuition-free, it was for the 2020-2021 school year. That has expired but if they wanted to bring their children they could tuition them in at I believe 50% off. Very few people took us up on the offer due to the uncertainty and instability of the whole situation.

Mr. Baker asked about calculated rate versus adopted rate.

Mr. Angell said the calculated rate is what was determined this year and the adopted rate is what was determined last year.

Discussion ensued on the state average cost-per-pupil.

Chair Dutton asked for a Motion to accept the Tuition Rates for 2021-2022, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Bashaw.

Discussion ensued on Fremont cost and Mr. Ambrose brought up the actions taken to reduce costs and the work put into the process of consolidation in the district which is a cause for celebration.

Vote: All in Favor

7.4 Approval of Photography Services

Mr. Angell reviewed the 6 proposals that were received based on the following criteria:

- cost to the parents
- Commission back to the district
- level of service provided

The 2 lowest contenders were Geskus and Lifetouch. Based on the other criteria Mr. Angell is recommending Lifetouch as our 3-year service provider.

Chair Dutton commented that she liked that Lifetouch comes with a Shutterfly download which for parents would be a big bonus.

Ms. Ingham agreed that the digital download is great as are the prices which are significantly lower than the competitors.

Ms. Dutton asked for a Motion to approve Lifetouch as the photography service for the next 3 years, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Bashaw.

Ms. Mahoney asked for reviews of Lifetouch and Mr. Angell said all the building Principals used Lifetouch in the past and they are all satisfied with using them as well.

Vote: All in Favor

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Athletics Update

Superintendent Ambrose read [the update](#) from Mr. Dawson.

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT- none

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting **is a Joint Board meeting with Fremont scheduled for Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom**. Check SAU 17 website for Zoom link to be provided closer to the date. To participate remotely please see the links on the homepage of the website at www.sau17.net

11. NON-PUBLIC SESSION-RSA 91-A: 3 II (a)

Mr. Broderick made a Motion to enter into Non-public Session per RSA 91-A II (a), seconded by Ms. Mahoney.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

12. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Dutton adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy
School Board Secretary