

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday October 21, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by Jon LeBlanc, School Board Chair, in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:           Janice Bennett  
  Jon LeBlanc, Chair  
  Corey Masson  
  Wendy Miller, Vice Chair  
  Nancy Ross  
  Monique Richard, Student Council Representative

ADMINISTRATORS:                 Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools  
  Carol Coppola, Business Manager  
  Jodi Gutterman, Student Services Director

EXCUSED:                               Roberto Miller, Dustin Ramey

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA** Dr. Blake requested that under 9. School Board Committee Reports, **b. SST Committee** be added.

### MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the October 7, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes. Mr. Masson seconded the motion. Four in favor; one abstained – Ms. Bennett. Mr. LeBlanc asked that under SB Comment his comment reflect “Mr. LeBlanc stated there have been 3-4 SB work sessions where drug awareness was discussed **and that was one item that the SB asked for focus in preparing the upcoming budget.**”

### MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #8-\$292,441.34  
Payroll #9 - \$829,824.80

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** Dr. Blake reported on the receipt of the \$100,000.00 Nellie Mae Foundation Lawrence W. O’Toole Award. The District is in the process of putting together an awards ceremony scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>. Currently the District has an early release day

scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The plan is to move the early release day to November 30<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the ceremony. Possible attendees will be the Governor and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Education. Formal invitations will be going out once the plans have been finalized. Dr. Blake said that he has begun conversation with the Leadership Team discussing the parameters on what can/cannot be done with the Award money. A board member asked if the ceremony would be open to the public. Dr. Blake said more information would be available after the Nellie Mae Foundation reviews the ceremony plans.

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT** Monique Ricard reported on the homecoming. Seniors came in first; freshman came in second place; sophomores were third place; and the juniors came in fourth place. Student council is working on a dance to be held October 30<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes. Prizes will be awarded. November 6-7, Student Council members will be traveling to Waterville Valley to attend the NHASC Fall Conference (upon SB acceptance of field trip).

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Budget Committee: Ms. Ross reported that the Budget Committee met October 15<sup>th</sup>. The survey has been completed and is available on the District website. The budget process was discussed. It is the hope of the Budget Committee to receive the proposed budget prior to the November 18<sup>th</sup> joint meeting. The BC Chair has requested to be notified once the budget is ready. Presentations will be made at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and a question and answer period will be held. The BC Chair has requested each committee member to put together three issues facing the District. Some of the issues included: ways to increase student desire to learn; quality of education in the District; and hear-say about mothballing the seminary. The next BC meetings are scheduled for: December 3, 10 and 17.

b. SST Committee: Dr. Blake attended the SST meeting October 19 at SAU16. The next joint meeting will be held November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM at Exeter High School. Legislators will be on hand to answer questions. Dr. Blake reported that last year's SST budget was based on 654 students. Actual student count: 721 students. Cost per student was originally based on \$2326/per student. Actual cost is \$1871/per student based on the enrollment. SRSD caps the number of students attending SST to 100 students. Dr. Blake anticipates next year's budget amount for SST to be the same. Dr. Blake said discussion was held regarding college courses and college credits and that the school is moving away from AP classes to college credits. Dr. Blake spoke of the advantages for students in taking college courses and receiving college credit. He spoke of the overall monetary savings to the students as well. Dr. Blake cited this as a significant benefit to the student. College credits range from \$750 to \$1500 per credit. The

credits can be transferred to the student's college.

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT**

Mr. LeBlanc said that he would be enforcing the "three minute rule" for public comment. His hope is to bring the focus of the meeting back to where it's supposed to be. Mr. LeBlanc read from a letter that he submitted to the Carriage Towne News:

#### *We Are All Connected to Public Education*

*I am writing this letter to discuss our community and its relation to public education and taxes. There are groups within the Newton and Kingston communities who state that over 75% of the community has no direct connection to the Sanborn Regional School District (SRSD). These groups point out that only 25% of the community has children who attend schools in the district or who have a family member who is directly employed by the school district. Using this statistic, these groups argue that the community has little vested interest in continuing to fund education through their taxes, and therefore funding to the schools must be reduced in order to cut taxes to satisfy the "majority" of the public who don't have a direct connection to the schools.*

*I contend that 100% of the community members DO have a connection with the public schools. How many of our community members have attended some level of public education in their lifetime? I'm willing to bet that close to 100% of you have. That public education you received was funded through taxes that your parents, neighbors and community members paid at that time so that you could go to school. The Public Education system is similar to the Social Security system. In Social Security, you pay into the system and when you retire you get the benefit that is paid by the younger generation on your behalf. In public education, you get the benefit when you are provided an education as a child and then, you pay your taxes as an adult so that future generations are able to receive a public education just as you did.*

*Public Education is a basic right of every citizen of this country. It has been and continues to be what drives us forward as a nation to continue to lead in the global economy we live in. The students being educated today in our public schools will be the business owners, the employees and the productive members of our communities in the future. They will be the ones who will make their homes in our communities, work at or start businesses in our communities, purchase products and services from businesses in our communities and also pay the taxes in our communities that will help fund the next generation's public education experience. Every community member has a significant stake in supporting investment in public education because it is the vehicle that produces the citizens who will continue to allow our communities and our nation to thrive.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Annie Collyer said she agreed with most everything Mr. LeBlanc read/said. Ms. Collyer said she stands for quality education that is sustainable. She asked the SB to justify their budget carefully. She urged improved communication between the School Board, Budget Committee and the voters. “Let’s not battle one another.” Ms. Collyer said she is not against schools.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Miller stated that the kids that are attending our schools now are the ones that will be living in the community as adults. People can’t afford to live here, she can’t afford to live here.

Mr. Masson applauded Ms. Miller, Mr. LeBlanc, the Newton and Kingston Police for pulling together tonight’s meeting and working toward aligned communication. He stated tonight was an effective, quality meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Overnight Field Trip – High School: Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the NHASC Fall Conference Field Trip to Waterville Valley, NH. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. Middle School Roof Update: Ms. Coppola reported that all parties have come to an agreement for repairing the MS roof. There will be a kick off meeting next week. Trusses will go to manufacturing next week. The project is two weeks behind the forty day schedule. Ms. Miller asked if there was an update on the insurance. Ms. Coppola said she received a phone call today and the insurance company would be sending her information.

Ms. Coppola informed the SB that the draft CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) was in the SB packet. She asked the SB to review the projects so the SB can vote on the plan at the next meeting. Mr. LeBlanc asked if the Facilities Committee discussed the CIP – no not yet.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT** none

**WRITTEN INFORMATION** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Mr. Jim Baker said he echoes what Ms. Collyer said. He said that at no time did the NKTA suggest a cut to any budget. He said they suggested a lower increase – not a cut. He said last year’s budget increased over \$1 million. Mr. Baker stated it is clear that some members of the SB are not working aggressively to reduce and find savings in the budget. Mr. Baker said that was his opinion/perception. He urged the SB to slow the growth of the budget.

Ms. Gannon requested a copy of the CIP if approved. She asked that the BC receive a copy of the CIP prior to the November 18<sup>th</sup> joint meeting.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Bennett stated she has been on the SB for 15 – 16 years. She does not need a tutorial on how to show commitment. She said she always asks what something will cost and what will be the impact to the taxpayer.

Mr. Masson asked, are we all house poor? Tax poor? He said he moved to Newton because of the small community, small class sizes and the tight knit feeling. Mr. Masson asked where we rank in per pupil cost. What's the magic number? Is our pricing high? Low? He said we need to compare apples to apples. Ms. Bennett said the problem is in Concord. Citizens have to question our legislators. Ms. Miller said there are a lot of houses in foreclosure. People can't afford to be here. Ms. Miller reminded everyone that the Hide and Seek program is open to the public Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the YMCA. Hide and Seek is a mock teenage bedroom where parents tour the bedroom looking for drug activity. Parents are taught what to look for in their children's rooms. Ms. Miller said she highly recommends it. "Great program." Dr. Blake said he was looking forward to the Hide and Seek program. It shows the places parents miss in a kid's room.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 Ila Early Retirement** Ms. Ross made a motion to enter into non-public session at 8:52 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in Room 137 at the **Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. LeBlanc  
School Board Secretary

*Minutes of the School Board meetings are unofficial until approved at a subsequent meeting of the School Board.*