

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**November 5, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday November 5, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Jon LeBlanc, School Board Chair, in Room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:           Janice Bennett  
  Jon LeBlanc, Chair  
  Corey Masson  
  Roberto Miller  
  Nancy Ross

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

EXCUSED:                               Wendy Miller, Vice Chair  
  Dustin Ramey  
  Monique Richard, Student Council Representative

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA** There will be **no Budget Committee Report**. **Add 9.a Negotiations**.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the October 21, 2015, special meeting, public and non-public meeting minutes. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Four in favor; one abstained – Mr. Miller.

**MANIFEST**

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #9-\$1,038,610.67; Payroll #10 - \$802,320.98

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** Dr. Blake reported that the final logistics have been worked out for the Nellie Mae Foundations’ Lawrence W. O’Toole Award Presentation. The awards ceremony is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM at the High School. Formal invitations have been sent out. Governor Hassan is expected to attend as well as the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Education. Two hundred fifty people will be attending including Sanborn

faculty. There will be a small reception following the ceremony. All costs are covered by the Nellie Mae Foundation.

Dr. Blake reported that a group from Colorado visited and toured the Sanborn schools and spent time with the teachers to learn about the competency based system. Dr. Blake reported it was very successful. He said there were 27 attendees, a panel discussion was held. He reported receiving positive feedback. Dr. Blake said that the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) will be visiting Sanborn tomorrow. They will be visiting the High School and Memorial School where they will be observing performance assessments being conducted in the classroom. "Very exciting."

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Negotiations Committee Mr. LeBlanc reported that the Negotiations Committee has met with the SREA approximately 6-7 times. The first tentative agreement was signed tonight. The agreement goes to mediation November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT** Mr. LeBlanc stated that at a recent SB meeting during public comment a statement was made that some SB members have been cavalier in spending taxpayer money and have not been looking hard enough for savings. He said that he takes offense to that statement, as should every board member. He said the every decision made at the SB level is reviewed and discussed as to how it will impact the students and the impact on the taxpayer. Mr. LeBlanc said that just because the SB does not always agree with fringe groups, does not mean they are neglecting the taxpayer.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Jack Kozac of Newton said that currently Sanborn staff pays 10% of their health care premiums. He suggested that the staff contribute an increased 5% per year for the next five years to be more in line with what the general public pays for their healthcare.

Mr. Jim Baker of Newton stated he has been attending the SB meetings for about a year. His experience has been that conversation concerning purchases has been very minimal. He said that at times the conversations have been very intense. But to say that happens the majority of the time, he disagrees with.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT** Mr. Corey Masson said he attended the Fall 2015 Sports Ceremony at the MS. He said it was very impressive. He said over 160 students participated in athletics representing 40% of the student body. He said it was great to see everyone and was impressed by the amount of parents participating. Mr. LeBlanc said that there was a play coming up directed by a high school student. He did not have the specifics. He stated he would get back to that later.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. District Report Card** Dr. Blake reported that work continues on the District Report Card and as data is available the report card will be complete. Ellen Hume Howard gave a presentation on the latest version of the District Report Card. Topics include the Strategic Plan, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, an Executive Summary, the PACE Assessments, an overview of the NWEA data, upcoming timelines, SAT scores, breakdown of students going on to college, college statistics, Smarter Balance, Music Engagement – how many kids play instruments, athletic breakdown, teachers as coaches and the reasoning behind it, ways kids are leaders, college rank and class size, Professional Development, competency based studio group, grants received by the district, how community ties in. Ms. Hume Howard asked “does this feel like Sanborn to you?” Mr. Masson “great job”. Mr. Masson requested a skeleton copy of the report card and asked if there was the potential to see data points? Yes. Ms. Bennett stated that two local, major universities are taking SAT’s off as a requirement to admission – Salem State University and U Mass. Lowell. She said you just never know. Things that were so important before, are not important now. Dr. Blake reported that this is part of a trend and that it is slowly eroding. The SATs are not a great indicator of what a student will do in college. Ms. Hume Howard referred to a quote which will be part of the report card, “Don’t limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.” Michael Turmelle, HS Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director asked Ms. Hume Howard if there will be a page on the amount of Sanborn students receiving college credits? Yes, it will be under the “17 Reasons” section. Dr. Blake reported that one Sanborn student graduated with 12 college credits last year. Ms. Hume Howard said they would like to pursue an Associate Degree at Sanborn. Dr. Blake said he met with the Dean of the Education Department of SNHU. They’re looking to form a partnership with Sanborn. The partnership would be two fold – SNHU students would learn about Competency Based Learning at the College level, and Sanborn students would take SNHU college classes. “Lots of possibilities.” Dr. Blake said he is writing an article for next week on AP courses versus college credit courses.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**a. CIP Approval** The five year Capital Improvement Plan was discussed. Mr. Masson stated that in the FY13-16 CIP 86 items were requested for CIP and three were funded by CIP for a total of \$78,486.00. 34 were not funded for a total of \$3,622,014. Mr. Masson questioned why the amounts requested vary in amount by extremes. He stated he was concerned about the “peaks and valleys”. He thinks the CIP should be consistent year to year in the amount requested. He asked why some items appear in some year’s requests and not in others. Mr. LeBlanc pointed out that that needs in the district change from year to year, that Committee Members change from year to year and that focus may change in regards to funding projects. Ms. Coppola said that priorities change – it is actually a juggling act. It is very rare that we are able to fund all projects. The Capital Improvement Plan is a five year plan. Ms. Bennett stated that the District takes care of needs as they arise, you can’t always plan for “ice dams”. Ms.

Coppola stated that projects pertaining to Life Safety are always the highest ranking. Mr. Miller stated that the CIP is a work in progress. Mr. Miller suggested the Board focus on FY17 requests. Ms. Bennett made a motion to approve the 2017-2021 CIP, Ms. Ross seconded the motion. A discussion followed concerning the old HS campus. All in favor to approve the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan.

b. Middle School Roof Update Ms. Coppola reported that the roof trusses are being delivered Friday and Saturday. Construction begins on Saturday. "Everything's a go." They are currently deploying equipment to the site.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT** none

**WRITTEN INFORMATION** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Ms. Annie Collyer of Newton said Dr. Blake's report on SNHU on dual programs was very exciting. Ms. Collyer asked if SNHU teachers do have classes at SRSD, who will pay the cost? Ms. Collyer asked the SB to work with the NKTA. She said the NKTA is not a fringe group. She said because they ask questions does not mean they don't support the schools. She said they are looking for transparency and more understanding. She said it's not us versus them. She said they'd like to see full disclosure and fully understand cost vs. benefit. She said the CIP represents approximately 5% of the budget/per year. Ms. Collyer said that Mr. Masson's suggestion of flat funding is not an option. It has to be what you're going to spend each year. It would be great if money could go into a revolving fund, but that's not the case. Maybe that's something we could work at the state level - how much you could retain.

Ms. Tammy Gluck of Newton said the Sanborn Drama Club, would be presenting a play next week, A Handful of Rainbows, November 12-15, at the HS. It is a comedy. Ms. Gluck said she shared an article on the NKTA face book page about class size. She said the community wants small class sizes, that's why they moved here. Ms. Gluck read an excerpt from the article. It stated that class size matters; it matters a lot.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT** Ms. Bennett said she appreciated the article Ms. Gluck emailed the SB. Ms. Bennett said that the research comes up every year that the smaller the class size is generally better off. She said there is a direct correlation every year that it is beneficial for smaller class size. Dr. Blake said the article was published in the Washington Post.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next **joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and the Budget Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Library **at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

**Adjournment** At 8:36 PM Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

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.*