

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

November 19, 2014

A joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and the Sanborn Budget Committee was held on Wednesday November 19, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in the library at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett, Chairperson
 Jon LeBlanc
 Corey Masson
 Wendy Miller
 Dustin Ramey, Vice Chair
 Nancy Ross
 Isabella Dunham, Student Council Representative

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Barry Gluck, Chair
 Allen Felisberto
 Beth Scanlon
 Patricia Stephan
 Roger Clark
 Cheryl Gannon
 James Doggett

EXCUSED: John Morano

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #9 - \$507,990.70; Payroll #11 - \$872,926.95.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Blake thanked everyone who had a part in the budget process. He stated that Sanborn is unlike other districts he has worked in the past. He stated that this is the first time he's seen

such collaboration between a School Board and a Budget Committee working together to produce a budget to go before the voters. It is a supportive process. Tonight he will speak about where the district is and where it's been. He said the District is in the final year of the five year strategic plan. He stated that the Strategic Plan has been very successful. He had an intern in his office do an analysis of the Strategic Plan accomplishments last year. At that point, the District had met approximately 75% of its goals. He stated that Sanborn is a different district than it was five years ago. It is a much better place for students to be. He said that Sanborn has been recognized as a leader in the State of NH for their work on the competency based education model. He said the District has seen a lot of savings in the energy efficiencies put in place at the District buildings. Students are performing at higher levels. "Sanborn is a proud place to be." The turn-over rate of staff is small. Recently, there were approximately 350 – 400 applications for an elementary position. He said the Seminary Ad Hoc Committee is currently trying to determine the best use of the Seminary building and old high school campus for both towns. Dr. Blake introduced his Administrative Team: Vicky Parady Guay, Ellen Hume Howard, Steve Riley, Bob Ficker, Brian Stack, Michael Turmelle, Sandy Rutherford, Deb Bamforth, Jon VanderEls, Donna Johnson, Annie Rutherford, and Michelle Catena.

Dr. Blake went over the budget timeline. He gave a budget reduction overview. The proposed budget is \$35,335,083.00 – a 6.71% increase over last year's budget. Dr. Blake trimmed 3% from the budget requests to arrive at the 6.71% increase.

Dr. Blake introduced Brian Stack, SRHS Principal. Mr. Stack stated it was his 9th year at Sanborn. He spoke of the many changes in the school and community. He spoke of the culture (ways our students interact with peers and adults in the community), competency and collaboration. Mr. Stack said the high school did not have any new budget requests this year – no big ticket items. He reported on a grant the District received for a Student Assistance Counselor to work with HS and MS students. Ms. Scanlon asked Mr. Stack to elaborate on the Student Assistance Counselor position. Mr. Stack replied that the position is fully funded by a two year grant (with no cost to the District). The candidate will have a Masters Degree in social work. They will be more versed in drug and alcohol counseling and mental health. Mr. Gluck asked how the position will be different than a guidance counselor. Mr. Stack replied that the person would have specialized training that a guidance counselor doesn't have. They will have more experience in social, emotional, mental health and substance abuse issues.

Dr. Blake introduced Sandy Rutherford, SRMS Principal. Mr. Rutherford gave an overview of some of events the MS participates in. This is the third year that the MS has participated with the Pease Greeters (Pease Greeters welcome men and women in the armed forces who pass through Pease International Airport on their way to or from any area of conflict); this is the second year the MS has participated in Souls for Souls. The MS received \$1,000.00 in \$50 gift

cards from Walmart for purchasing supplies. Mr. Rutherford spoke of the STAR Math Program, the addition of a health classroom, an increase in band participation. He spoke of the accomplishments of the MS sports teams and the annual staff basketball game. Mr. Rutherford spoke of the learning teams at the MS. In the past, there were two teams at each grade level. Now there is one team each in the sixth grade and seventh grade. There are two teams at the eighth grade level. He would like to see two teams again in each grade level.

Dr. Blake introduced Deb Bamforth, DJ Bakie School Principal. Ms. Bamforth spoke of competency based learning. She spoke of early intervention – how quickly can we support kids to build a strong foundation? Ms. Bamforth spoke of the Title I program. She spoke of students who receive early intervention and how these students require less services as they progress through the grades. She spoke of the overall good vibe in the community associated with SRSD.

Dr. Blake introduced Jon VanderEls, Memorial School Principal. Mr. VanderEls addressed the Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools and how SRSD possesses these characteristics. He spoke of teachers building goals based on the school goal which is based on the District goal. He spoke of the high standards and expectation and how Sanborn continues to raise expectations. He spoke of effective school leadership and of team leaders who consistently ask tough questions. He said Sanborn continues to be an exemplar for Professional Learning Communities. Mr. VanderEls spoke of Professional Development (teachers that are experts sharing with other teachers). He spoke of the strong PTO support (\$17,000) which provides funding for the Artist-in-Residence program and field trip transportation. Memorial School was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School and received the Gold Circle Award. He spoke of the supportive learning environment – seeing kids engaged.

Next up was Ms. Ellen Hume-Howard, Curriculum Director. Ms. Hume-Howard spoke of the transformation of the District over the last four years. She told how teachers are being retrained in assessment and instruction. She spoke of the District being invited to participate in four top grants in the State. She reported that the District has received over \$370,000.00 in grants over the past several years. “We are working really hard to make a difference.”

Ms. Pomykato, Director of Student Services, told the group she has been with the District for twenty years and she’s very proud of that. She said she always felt that Sanborn was a “diamond in the rough” and is now proud to see that Sanborn is being recognized as being a leader in the State. Ms. Pomykato spoke of the extraordinary staff of Sanborn. She spoke of the need to expand the preschool program to include a classroom at Memorial School. She spoke of the District’s responsibility of educating homeless students and the costs associated with that. The Special Ed Department recently lost another \$51,000.00 in grant money. Ms. Miller asked the cost of adding a preschool classroom at Memorial? \$72,234.00. Students who attend the preschool program and do not have an IEP pay tuition to attend preschool.

Dr. Blake introduced Ms. Vicky Parady Guay, District Athletic Director. Dr. Blake congratulated Ms. Parady Guay on her recent appointment to the Plymouth State (PSU) Athletic Hall of Fame. Ms. Guay reported that all grades (K-12) attend PE and Wellness classes. Topics include nutrition and sleep. She reported that the number of sports participants in MS and HS remain strong. She spoke of the sports accomplishments at both schools. Ms. Guay is requesting an additional assistant football coach. She stated that the freshman boys football was kept separate this year from the Varsity program. She spoke of transportation costs. In order to save money on buses, often times she combines 2-3 teams on one bus. The teams have shared rides with other districts as well in an effort to save money.

Dr. Blake introduced Ms. Carol Coppola and Mr. Steve Riley. “Kudos” to Ms. Coppola on her efforts to make the District energy efficient and the costs savings associated with the efficiencies she has implemented. Dr. Blake commended Mr. Riley on the great conditions of the buildings and fields. Mr. Riley stated that there is a major increase in the cost of electricity. Rates are increasing from six cents per kwh to eleven cents per kwh. Ms. Coppola reported that included in the budget is a request for a 3.5% increase for all non-union employees and all administrators. There is a 5.4% increase in health insurance. Two more buses have been requested to help facilitate getting all Sanborn students to sports and after-school activities.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ross thanked Ms. Coppola and the Administrators for putting together such a comprehensive budget. “Exemplary as always”. Mr. Ross thanked everyone for their presentations and for all the time and effort that went into preparing the budget.

Dr. Blake wrapped up the meeting by stating that 72% of the SRSD Budget is staff salary and benefits. He stated that other districts budget up to 80% for staff and salary.

Mr. Gluck stated that the Budget Committee has a webpage. He welcomed the public to ask questions and comment. He stated that the meetings are always open to the public.

Dr. Blake stated “Kudos” to Carol Coppola who spent a whole lot of hours over the weekend preparing the budget. It may not be perfect, but there is a ton of information in it. He asked that people take the time to review it, “enjoy it”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on Wednesday, **December 3, 2014, at 7:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.**

The next **Policy Committee Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, **December 3, 2014, at 6:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on Wednesday, **December 17, 2014, at 7:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next **Fremont/Sanborn** Joint Meeting **TBD**.

Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the joint SB and Budget Committee meeting at 9:14 PM.

Ms. Miller 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.