

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Emergency Meeting
Via Remote Connection

Monday, November 30, 2020-4:00 PM

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Meeting ID: 952 5194 9900

MINUTES

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An emergency meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held remotely on Monday, November 30, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Jim Baker. The following were recorded as present:

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Baker, Chair
Peter Broderick
Dawn Dutton
Jamie Fitzpatrick
Larry Heath
Tammy Mahoney, Vice Chair
Charles Melvin, Sr. (Excused)

ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
Matthew Angell, Bus/Administrator

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair Jim Baker with a reading of the [Right-to-Know Checklist](#) followed by a Roll Call attendance asking participants to identify their location and also identify who may or may not be at the location with them. All responded and the Roll Call attendance was complete. Mr. Baker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Baker turned the meeting over to Superintendent Ambrose who said well first of all I just wanted to say that the matter requiring a non-public prior to this meeting has been resolved. It was regarding a

personnel issue, a specific person, so Mr. Baker and I met and discussed the number of COVID cases that have come in today.

In the conversation, we felt it just needed to be a public conversation because we had already resolved the two situations that I wanted to discuss in non-public so we just wanted to let everyone know why there was a non-public on the agenda. The long and short of it is that we have had an uptick in COVID cases and the purpose of this meeting is to have a conversation with the board about what to do. I just wanted to give you the data as it exists right now: As of today, Kingston has 16, Newton has 17 cases and Fremont has 27. Bakie School has 1, Memorial has 2 and the High School has 1, but I just want to explain to people that it's not the total number of cases it's the impact that it has on staffing and the students. Superintendent Ambrose reviewed the details of that process; contact tracing and quarantining and explaining that 136 people are affected at this point. We (the administrative staff and myself) recommend being remote for the rest of this week (12-1-20 through 12-4-20).

Mr. Baker clarified that the majority of the 139 people at this point are either waiting on test results or quarantining because they've had contact, but we don't know whether they actually have COVID or not.

Mr. Ambrose replied yes, that's why we're recommending being remote for the rest of this week so we can get a better handle there. With many people getting tests simultaneously, combined with the Thanksgiving holiday, it is making for slow results. There is a likelier possibility of being able to continue school in the following weeks if we go remote now. We don't want to return too quickly.

Mr. Baker asked about staffing and Mr. Ambrose said it is "dicey".

Discussion ensued about rising cases and how best to keep student safe.

Superintendent Ambrose commented about giving Student Services Director Jodi Gutterman more latitude in that she needs to provide some in-person services but I would ask that she try to do as much as possible remotely and in-person only if it is absolutely necessary and under carefully controlled circumstances.

Discussion ensued on needs of students in Student Services.

Ms. Mahoney suggested the next meeting should be remote for safety purposes and Mr. Ambrose agreed. Notice regarding next meeting was discussed.

Ms. Dutton said after school activities should be remote.

Mr. Ambrose asked for a Motion for school to be remote until the end of the day on Friday (12-4-20) and that Ms. Gutterman will work with Special Education students on a case-by-case basis. Motioned moved Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Broderick.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Superintendent Ambrose brought up sending students to SST or having them stay remote this week. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Ambrose made a Motion that students be allowed to attend SST although school is on remote. Motion moved by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Dutton.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Discussion of the Board meeting on 12-2-2 ensued. Mr. Ambrose said if the district is closed then the board meeting should be remote. There are some budget reductions around staffing that people have concerns about and I would invite them to email me their public comments so I can read that aloud during the Superintendent's report. Please email me your thoughts by noon on Wednesday (12-2-20).

Ms. Dutton made a Motion to suspend after school activities while school is remote this week, seconded by Mr. Heath.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 4:37 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy

School Board Secretary