

# SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2020

To view the video of this meeting, please visit our website at [www.sau17.net](http://www.sau17.net) and click on School Board Videos under the School Board menu.

A meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held remotely on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chair, Jim Baker. The following were recorded as present:

## SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Baker  
Peter Broderick  
Dawn Dutton  
Jamie Fitzpatrick  
Larry Heath  
Tammy Mahoney  
Charles Melvin, Sr.

## ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent  
Dr. Patricia Haynes, Director of Teaching & Learning  
Matthew Angell, Business Administrator

## STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Jake Tedford

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM by Chair Jim Baker with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by reading, "[A Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State of Emergency](#)", Chair Baker conducted a Roll Call attendance asking each participant to identify their remote location and also identify who may or may not be at the location with them. All members responded to the Roll Call attendance.
2. **ACTION ON MINUTES**- Review of Minutes of [8-19-20](#).

**Chair Baker asked for a Motion to review the Minutes of 8-19-20, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Heath.**

Mr. Baker asked that the Minutes be amended on page 13 to add the explanation of his "no" vote under Roll Call Vote as follows. "Jim Baker asked the Board if the approval of Option 1 was with no travel restrictions."

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor with amendment**

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a Motion to amend the [8-12-20 Minutes](#) to reflect the meeting as a “Special School Board meeting for the two remaining Newton Board Members, Jim Baker and Jamie Fitzpatrick. No other School Board members were present. The meeting was held in the library at the Sanborn Regional High School Library. In attendance: Jim Baker was remote and Jamie Fitzpatrick was in person”.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Baker.

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

3.1 Distribution of Manifest Documents-Chair Baker confirmed with Business Administrator Matt Angell that several more electronic signatures are needed.

3.2 Nominations-Superintendent Ambrose requested approval for the following nomination. To view nominations, please click [here](#). **Chair Baker asked for a Motion to approve the Nomination, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

**Roll Call Vote- All in Favor**

3.3 Resignations- Superintendent Ambrose requested acceptance of the following resignation. To view the resignation, please click [here](#). **Chair Baker asked for a Motion to accept the Nomination with regret, moved by Mr. Melvin and seconded by Mr. Heath.**

Ms. Dutton commented that her children are really going to miss Mr. Girard.

**Roll Call Vote- All in Favor**

3.4 Superintendent's Report-said I have two reports this evening; one is for 7.1 (Opening of School Update) and I want to acknowledge to the public that I think there's some confusion based on some of the emails we received today. Item 7.1 on the agenda is the “Opening of School Update” and what that's really about is every year on the first School Board meeting of September, we give an update on the opening of schools. So I'll just be reading a paragraph from each school and just so the public's aware that the item is not a discussion item regarding whether or not we're remote or in person. I didn't receive any emails regarding the agenda for this evening but I did receive a couple of public comments the reopening discussion meeting and I've contacted those people and they're either going to come to the meeting if it's in public or one asked me to keep their letter for the night that we discuss that. So I just wanted to let everyone know any letter that's been shared with me or the board has been read by everyone and just remind families that if you email the Board and I'm not on the email they send it to me to respond to you. So, thank you for everyone that's been reaching out we really appreciate it and we're so glad that people are involved and happy to read the following letter that kind of will clarify some points for families based on the feedback we've been receiving so I apologize this is a little bit long but I'm going to read this component now and then I'll read the school part on agenda item 7.1.

There has been a lot going on as we prepare to begin the 2020-2021 school year at Sanborn. Many questions have surfaced about Sanborn's current status of remote instruction, and what the district will do going forward. This letter is designed to update you on what's happening and the process for moving

forward.

## **Background**

Since the development of our reopening plans, we have learned that our insurance company requires us to follow the CDC and DOE guidelines/recommendations. This is a significant shift from the previous belief that these guidelines were suggestions.

On July 29th, the School Board made the decision to start the school year in remote instruction based on information at that time and based on two primary factors: safety protocols and staffing. As part of this decision, staff were required to teach their classes from their classrooms. This decision will be revisited on or around October 15th.

On September 1st, the Governor unveiled a new model for decision making for school reopening. This Decision Matrix combines levels of community transmission and school impact in order to determine a district's instructional mode. Based on the model proposed by the Governor, our district is in the Minimal category for the Level of Community Transmission (COVID). We are in the Medium category for Level of School Impact based on the staff capacity to conduct classes. Before evaluating all the requests for leave and/or accommodations, we were at a critical level for staffing.

As of September 2nd, we have 14 approved leave requests and 4 requests in process; this is a significant decrease from the 46 inquiries we received initially. We have worked with existing staff to cover leave requests in order to run school remotely with teachers working from the buildings at this time. We want to thank staff for covering classes, working collaboratively, and helping out by going above and beyond during this challenging time. (It is important to remember that leave requests are being submitted daily).

We all recognize that the low number of COVID cases in our communities is encouraging, however, we have a number of issues that are not related to community transmission of COVID. Based on the Governor's model, the number of staff we have available puts us in the "Strained" category. As a District, we want to be clear that the people who have taken leave are those who have serious health conditions and/or circumstances that are beyond their control. The District cannot deny these staff members access to leave because the leaves are mandated Federal law.

At this point in time we are complying with the guidelines set forth by the Governor, the Department of Education, and DPHS.

## **PPE and Protective Habits**

Protective measures are another area of focus for us during the pandemic. While we have received 300 free face masks from the state for our students to use in addition to the thousands we have purchased. We are responsible for purchasing additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for the District on our own. The CARES Act grant funding that Sanborn received in the spring was used to purchase Chrome books for our students to use. We have not received any additional funding from the state for the purpose of purchasing PPE or cleaning supplies. We currently have a significant supply of PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and other items that are being stored in preparation for a return to in person learning. The district Business Administrator provides the board with an update on PPE at every meeting.

## **Reopening**

Our administrative team has done a fantastic job helping staff to settle in during the professional development days. Many staff are becoming more relaxed and comfortable in the buildings. They are also practicing the social distancing and other safety expectations as set forth in the reopening plans.

## Looking Ahead

The School Board will review all of the variables (staffing levels, PPE supplies, the status of other districts, and available space to allow for 3-6 feet of distancing in our buildings) including the Decision Matrix and Dashboard unveiled by the Governor and DPHS to help make the decision when to transition to the next stage. The SRSD administration will begin drafting a recommendation to present to the board at the October 7th School Board meeting.

Parents have shared that they are concerned about having two days of instruction and three days of independent learning during the hybrid model in the current plan. The administration will be reviewing and recommending hybrid options during the coming weeks.

All of us want our students back in school, learning in-person. The process of bringing students back to the schools will need to be measured and deliberate. We anticipate this process will include a transition from remote to cohorts before opening fully.

We hope this letter addresses concerns and questions related to COVID-19 and our reopening process. I have included a number of important links below for your reference.

## Important Links

SRSD "Learning During COVID-19" Homepage click [here](#)

Staff have a number of options with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may read these options by clicking [here](#)

Reopening plans:

7-12 click [here](#)

Pk-6 click [here](#)

## 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Policy-Ms. Dutton said we did meet today and I was nominated to be Chairperson. You know that Pam has left and we definitely give Pam a lot of thanks for the work she has done over the years, especially over the past 3 years; getting us current on everything, keeping us in compliance. So, we just want to give another shout out Pam- thank you so very much for all of your hard work and I hope that I can keep going and we can keep doing things just as well as you were doing them. We are currently figuring out where we are at and we have to look back at Minutes to see if we had to set goals or if we have to set goals, so we are going to do all our due diligence. The next meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM.
- 4.2 Facilities-Mr. Baker reported that the group met before the prior Board and he gave the report at the 8-19-20 meeting .The next Facilities meeting will be held on September 16, 2020 @ 3:45PM.
- 4.3 Finance- Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that the group met today and covered a good number of items; Fund Balances: Mr. Angell informed us that the transfer of funds to fund warrant articles from the last election will happen in this month, so we will see that additional 75K and 50K going to the funds. We also reviewed the year-end estimate closing numbers for FY20. The last review we had that Matt put up on the screen showed that we were in approximately a 2.3 million unexpended funds or unencumbered funds and of that the intent was from the last meeting was that we would get 1.8 million back to the taxpayers and that the balance of \$515K-518K would go into withholding and the 400K that was withheld last year would flow as part of that number. Matt gave an encouraging update that though he's not finished yet, his initial review of the numbers as he's putting together would say that we're

probably going to be north of that 1.8 million and then anything north of that level seeing as the withholding is already fully maxed out would be a dollar for dollar back to the taxpayers so we're looking forward to get that update. Matt is targeting having that available for the Board meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Then we talked about the three areas that we were kind of focusing on in addition to the normal items that were reviewed and they were the IT area, athletics and Special Education areas. Matt gave us some commentary on that as we're putting numbers together and all those will be will be very well detailed as part of the budgeting process and as we go forward and look at those programs and the funding of those programs. The next Finance Committee is October 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 PM.

5. STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- Mr. Tedford said that Student Council has not met yet as a group but we were going to draw with chalk for the freshmen and make some posters because they are going to school tomorrow to pick up supplies, but it rained today so we couldn't do that.
6. NEW BUSINESS -None
7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1-Opening of school-Mr. Ambrose reported the following:

### **High School**

Student schedules were mailed home last week. Included was a letter from the School Counseling Department with information on how to read the schedule and how to make requests for changes, if needed, using an online form. The first day of school will be September 8 for all high school students. Seacoast School of Technology (SST) will start on September 10 using an in-person format. Sanborn will provide transportation to SST for students who need it, and is currently working with the bus company to finalize plans for this. The distribution of parking passes will be handled differently this fall due to limited parking spots available for student use and the fact that we are in remote learning until October 15. Parking pass information will be made available to students and families in late September. At this time, no passes are being distributed to students. On Thursday September 3, the school will host a virtual meet the teacher event from 3:30PM-6:05PM. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity with their child to attend 15 minute Zoom meetings with teachers for each of their classes. Zoom links will be emailed to students by Mr. Stack on the morning of the event.

### **Middle School**

Middle School staff are utilizing the professional days to focus on a workshop model for remote learning that enhances staff and student interactions. This structure will include a prerecorded mini lesson, breakout rooms and a wrap up. Students will be rotating through various activities while practicing their skills for mastery. Our "Meet the Teacher" event took place on Thursday, August 27th. Students were able to meet all of their teachers while collecting a variety of materials including: schedules, art supplies and technology. It was wonderful to see so many of our students excited to meet their new team of teachers. Our school counselor, Megan Arena, has also been working on our Advisory program which focuses on the social/ emotional learning of students. The goal of this program is to create personalization within the school, and to facilitate a small peer community of learners. A special thank you to Megan for all her hard work with this endeavor. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the

dedication and hard work that the Middle School staff has put into these PD days in order to make the remote learning experience more meaningful.

### **Bakie School**

The Bakie Staff is finalizing everything these next three days in order to begin remote learning on September 8th for all kindergarten-grade 3 students. Our preschool program will begin September 15th. Everything our families need to receive will be distributed at our “Meet the Teacher” event Wednesday, September 2nd. We are also excited to host screening for our incoming kindergarten students this week, so class lists can be finalized and teacher assignments communicated to families by the end of the day Thursday.

### **Memorial School**

Memorial School staff are using the Professional Development days to focus on an improved model for remote learning, establish a foundation for our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work, and provide resources to support Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Additionally, Memorial School hosted its Meet the Teacher event for families and students on Tuesday, September 1st, to get their belongings for remote learning, including technology, and have a few moments to meet our staff. A big thank you goes out to our staff for their energy, dedication, and continued flexibility in this uncertain time as well as our custodial staff that has navigated the reorganization, summer cleaning, and the front office relocation that continues to move forward.

### **Special Education**

The Special Education Department is working on contacting all parents/guardians of students with Individual Education Plans to determine what services will look like, regardless of whether the student is receiving remote services, in-person services or a mixture of both remote and in-person. All these decisions are being made based on individual student needs. Remote services will start next week, September 8th, and in-person services will begin the following week, on September 15th. At this point, every parent/guardian should have received a letter from the school district regarding compensatory services for students with IEPs, per the Governor’s emergency order # 48. Please complete the form if you have not already done so and send it back to the SAU office. If you have not yet received this letter, please contact Kim Murphy.

### **Business Office**

The Business Office is working on closing summer projects, determining year-end financial balances, and creating next year’s budget and CIP plan.

### **Athletics**

While many details (including revised game schedules) are being worked out, our athletic teams are already participating in summer fitness / skill-building activities, and full-on practice / tryouts will start Sept. 8 for the high school, with the middle school teams starting on the 10th.

### **IT Department**

The IT department has finished this week provisioning Chrome books & iPads for grades K-9. Over 1,000 devices were reset, tested, and sent off to schools for remote learning. There has been no update on the shipment from Dell for the new Chrome books that have been purchased with the District’s COVID grant funding from the CARES Act.

Brand new laptops are continuing to be deployed for all teachers at each school. Help Desk has been in full force with staff returning last week. The department will be pausing all projects for the next few weeks to assist staff, parents, and students with any issues that arise with the start of remote learning.

Superintendent Ambrose added that our new Technology Director Gordon Parks has done an amazing job. He has creatively solved problems around bandwidth at schools making it wider in order to support the remote instruction from the buildings and he has done a really fantastic job handling everything. So we couldn't be more grateful for his team's efforts.

Mr. Ambrose concluded by saying he will miss the first day of school bus ride that he takes every year with the Kindergarten students. When we have in-person school again, he will be on the bus.

Chair Baker asked regarding the potential reopening of the school, I just want to affirm that one of the data points we will be looking at is schools that are opening or have opened and what the impact of COVID-19 has on their experience and that we will be tracking that.

Mr. Ambrose responded yes, from my perspective that is one of the most important data points because we want to look at the schools around us that have opened and see what works and what doesn't and then use the information to help guide our process. Our administrators are talking regularly with their colleagues in other districts, so I expect to have available information. We are planning to make a recommendation at the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- 7.2 YMCA Update- Mr. Ambrose said I just wanted to give you all an update because the Board had authorized me to work with the YMCA and I did spend a lot of time working with them. They are offering a program and I just want the public to understand that we worked with them to create a space for them to run their program after one of our Administrators asked if we had thought about the back half of the Middle School because the Seacoast Learning Collaborative (SLC) only run at the front half of the Middle School. So they were thrilled they said it would be an excellent space for them to run a program and they are actually interested in talking with us about running a child care program there after the COVID crisis because it's such a great location for younger students.

The YMCA is taking pre-registrations at this point. We worked really hard to try to get the rate down and the rate at this time is going to be \$200 per week for one child but they are giving a steep sliding scale if you have more than one child. So, what's happening is the YMCA is receiving requests through their website and right now. When people go in there to put in it just says wait list because the program hasn't started yet. They're hiring staff and they're getting moving and they've also sent Matt and I a very reasonable and simple MOU that basically says that they'll run the program during COVID if they want to do something longer we're going to reach out to the Board and that would be a bigger conversation .

Some have asked why the Middle School is good enough for them but wasn't for us. I want to make sure everyone understands that there's no compliance issue as I've said many times. The Middle School is a functioning building that is safe for use. But if we were going to use it for another 8-10 years, it needed a major update but to use it for this school year is totally reasonable and it's totally usable. They said that it's much better than many spaces that they run programs out of so they're really happy about the location which is wonderful for our families because we don't have a lot of local daycare.

The other part of it is that it's important for everyone to recognize that that it is a socially distanced remote learning support program so the YMCA program is designed to provide socially distanced kitchen table experiences for kids that can't have that at home because their families don't have someone for their kids to go with. This is not this should not be a place for parents to send their kids because they want them to socialize. This program is designed for people who are essential workers such as fire police, post office, education, nursing and doctors that don't have child care for their children. We are

only starting with a pre-k -6 program. If they get enough staff and enough students they may want to expand. The other two spaces that we identified were the Swayze gym and another space that we identified that they could offer support out of is the cafeteria at the High School. They wanted to start out with what they could staff which is the location at the Middle School.

It is important for everyone to remember if you have questions, we're not running the program we're just giving them a space to house it. We are trying to help families so I have been working with a number of organizations and so has the YMCA to try to lower the cost. So, the first thing that we did was we contacted Jean Shaheen; that happened through the YMCA to try to find out if some of the COVID monies could be used to help families that need child care. Even if we go to two days a week, people are still going to need three days a week of child care so the cost is significant regardless of whether or not Sanborn is in remote or partially in person. So, I think it's really important to recognize that this is this is a program that's supposed to help people to be able to go to work but it is really expensive right now. I have also reached out to Commissioner Edelblut to see if he could help. There are some funds to help offset it and he has contacted the Governor. In addition, we have also reached out to Mr. Turmelle at the NH Charitable Foundation and he is also looking into money. The

The last option would be for folks to band together and do some kind of a gofundme or fundraising to help families in need and I just want to say to all the community-there are kids and families that really need this child care and if there was ever a time that those of us who can contribute something could come together and help offset the costs. They tried really hard to lower the price below \$200 a week. They just can't afford to pay the people to run the program. We talked for a week and the question really becomes how we subsidize it. I just want everyone to know that I'm personally working really hard on this myself because I know that there are some families that really need this so Dr. Haynes and I will be in touch and we certainly would welcome anyone from the community who would be willing to organize fundraising or support for this. We just don't feel it's appropriate for the District to organize it but we're certainly willing to work collaboratively with anyone who wants to help.

7.3 Athletics Update- Mr. Ambrose said that Mr. Dawson had an emergency and could not be here tonight and he had given his update as part of the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Mahoney commented that Mr. Dawson had a document that he needed the Board to review.

Chair Baker said I believe he was looking for a discussion of extending the playing options based on meeting somewhere in the middle at neutral schools. He read Mr. Dawson's requests as follows:

1. *Based on multiple Zoom calls and emails over the last few weeks, it is apparent that many schools are going to limit spectators at games. Some will allow unlimited fans (rare), many are considering a families only policy (common), and others will ban fans altogether (also rare). It would be my proposal that we limit spectators at our contests to parents/guardians only. I am prepared to make tickets to identify the parents of each of our student-athletes, for use at home and away games. I would, of course, take into consideration individual family situations that arise. While this may create a bit of a supervision issue at home games, I am willing to take that on.*
2. *I anticipate that we may request, and also receive requests, to share fields. I envision a scenario where a school 20 miles to our east might want to schedule a soccer game against a school 20 minutes to our west. Each school involved might be travel restricted as we are, but by 'meeting in the middle', they can play. It would be my recommendation that we allow that to occur, and*

*that I can schedule games in the same manner at neutral locations. In scrimmage and jamboree situations pre-season, as well as at tournament time, teams playing at neutral sights is common. The teams using our facility would be responsible for additional expenses we might incur, of course.*

- 3. Given our restricted travel time / distance, I would like the Board's thoughts on how many student-athletes should or should not be on a bus at any one time. Obviously, masks will be required at all times. The bus companies tell me that they can handle, on a one-student-per-seat basis, 25 students per bus. This leaves the seat behind the driver empty, and limits the kids / coaches to one athlete per seat. We can also "zig-zag" the kids, which would reduce it to 13 / bus. That will be enough for Golf, but not work for Football. I would recommend that we go with no more than 25 student-athletes and coaches on the bus at any one time, with a requirement that the windows be at least slightly open when possible / safe.*

Superintendent Ambrose said, so if the Board's comfortable with it I am fine with letting Mr. Dawson handle these items and make the decisions. The budget is the problem with the busing. If we do every other seat zigzagging we're doubling the busing. The part I don't have with me is the ability to tell you what that cost would be which I know Jamie would ask, so I just wanted everyone to know that I understands Mr. Dawson's budget and what he needs to do and I can work with him and if you guys could give me permission to just let Bob make decisions based on safety, if we follow CDC Guidelines, we should have every other seat in a bus filled. The reality is that if you're sitting on a bus with a mask and the windows open and people aren't touching each other, you're probably okay with one per seat. I think this would be good to know for SST bussing also. Bussing is going to be an issue that we're going to have to discuss in the future with the reopening plans anyway, so if any of you would like to chime in about your thoughts on the busing, I'm open to feedback and managing it.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said, my thought process for the athletics first is we challenged Bob in the last meeting to go ahead and get this thing started and I think that inherent in that direction is to support his recommendations as we go forward. So I'm comfortable with all of them including the bus. For a grander discussion of busing I think one per seat and you know kids facing forward one per seat is going to be fine. I don't perceive that as being a risk factor or threatening, particularly in communities that have no cases. So, I'm okay with his recommendations as specific to athletics. Tom to your statement about your thoughts about busing those would be my thoughts on bussing.

Ms. Mahoney asked for specifics on our insurance company's requirement to follow the CDC guidelines and the previous mention by Mr. Ambrose that one per seat does not adhere to those guidelines.

Mr. Ambrose responded, it is really complicated because what the insurance company is saying is that our plans need to conform to the different organizations that are giving us feedback (CDC, the AAP)

If you're sitting on a bus, six feet of social distancing is required if you're not wearing a mask. If you are wearing a mask, being closer than six feet is okay. I think that the question is where does it stop? Where does it become so cost ineffective that it's just not worth it? I think that sports are optional, that we've said that we're having full sports because sports are optional in allowing students to make that decision. If students can't keep their hands to themselves and not be in each other's physical space on a bus then they'll be asked not to ride the bus. They won't be allowed; it's going to be really strict. So, Tammy I think the answer is that it's three to six feet of social distancing but the six feet or more is for when you don't have a mask on. If you're in a science lab and you're both wearing a mask and you're both wearing

your latex gloves, you're going to be a foot from each other working but you've got your mask on and it also depends on the prolonged proximity. So if you're close to someone for two hours on a bus we're only doing 25 miles so the bus rides are going to be relatively short. Do I know the answer to this perfectly? Absolutely not, none of us do. Even our lawyers are saying we don't know. We're just going to tell you what you think the best choice is based on the information that we have. It's so unprecedented.

Mr. Baker agrees with the seating scenario of riders giving space to each other.

Ms. Mahoney said I agree with Jamie that I'm comfortable also letting Mr. Dawson make these decisions provided we're covered and not violating anything our insurance company requires.

Ms. Dutton said, I agree with Tammy and Jamie. I think leaving it up to Mr. Dawson is perfectly acceptable and a question I have is previously in the budget for busing, we had quite a bit of money in there I am guessing, where we used to have to transport the Middle School students to different fields just for home practices and such. If that money is still there, we should be able to use that to account for some of the extra busing maybe for football and such because we're not going to have to make those short trips back and forth all the time.

Mr. Angell said the Superintendent and I have been working with the school bus company to talk about different funding options. We don't have anything to report at this time.

**Chair Baker made a Motion to authorize Mr. Dawson to make decisions about transportation and the location of games, moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Ms. Dutton.**

#### **Roll Call Vote- All in Favor**

- 7.4 Medical Supplies Update-Mr. Angell said, we met with the nurses this past week; we wanted to show them where all the PPE supplies were and how to access them. We also distributed some surgical masks, isolation gowns, face shields, and goggles to the school nurse. We also put out cleaning wipes, sanitizer and ways of applying the sanitizer to all the classrooms in the district and actually based upon the usage of the cleaning wipes for this past week, we're going to have to increase our supply of wipes. I put in an order yesterday for about 100 days' supply of wipes that we're going to be handing out for teacher use.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Next Meeting Agenda-Chair Baker asked that agenda items be submitted by 9-9-20 to Mr. Ambrose.

### 8.2 Announcements

8.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held in the auditorium at Sanborn Regional High School on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020. A public hearing will begin at 6:30 PM to accept a 10K donation to the High School from the NH Charitable Foundation.**

Chair Baker opened a discussion on whether the Board should continue remote meetings or Restart the meetings in person.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said, I think it's well past the time that public meetings happen again I think that we should be meeting in person for those that aren't able to meet in person they still have the remote option is there. Gordon's done a very nice job with that so that that accommodates everything and I think it's time for us to get back. We've asked the teachers to come back. I think we should be marching in lock step with that as a Board.

Ms. Mahoney said, I am not saying that I don't think that we should publicly meet but want to approach this from a different angle. When I was originally reading the re-opening plan, if we were to have reopened in-person learning, even on a hybrid model, one of the calculations was that there would be no visitors. My first thought when I read that was what's the impact on our Board meetings because the intent of that, having no visitors allowed in the buildings is to reduce the number of unknown possibilities of transmission and a number of us without the public that may be attending our meetings, there are a number of us that that are either in attendance or supporting our meetings. That's a fair number of people. I am a little concerned at the staff reaction if we start, depending on where we decide to meet and I'm assuming that we're talking about meeting at the high school and I'm just a little concerned that having a number of people visiting the building every two weeks might introduce and the level of comfort that the staff might have with that given that we have asked them to come back and work in the buildings. We've told them that they need to come back and work in the buildings. I want them to feel as comfortable as possible at the outset at least. So I have a little bit of hesitation supporting that proposal at this time, not perpetuity but just right now.

Mr. Broderick said, I like what Tammy said. I think it's minimal but I got to tell you my age, with my low immune system, my diabetes and my heart attack, personally I'll go to the high school that's what you want but i would prefer to stay here and I also maybe it's just a feeling, there's no numbers on this, but I almost think although we could certainly do it from the school, I think more people are watching us here (on zoom) then they might even watch us at the school. I also think sitting there with a mask on versus seeing the verbal expressions and I'm a very visual person, I think it's kind of more productive. We can see each other versus having somebody with a mask on, even though we're going to be socially distancing. I do agree with Tammy that although it's cost benefit risk is minimal but the cost could be significant so why would we do it if we don't really have to. Why take the chance.

Mr. Heath said, I have to agree with Tammy and Pete. I have those conditions that you're not supposed to be out. I've been instructed by two doctors not to get into a crowd and not to put myself into a situation such as that. The comment that was made to me by the doctors is you can go and then we'll have to go because they didn't give me a chance at all. So if you decide to go in face to face I'm going to have to sit there and say no, I can't do it.

Mr. Baker said, I would think that we would continue the zoom meetings to Pete's point that many people are able to watch us through the zoom meetings so anybody that has a situation where they wouldn't be able to meet publicly would have that option.

Ms. Dutton said, so, I was ready to support what Jamie was saying going back to doing the meetings in person but I am glad that Tammy did bring that point up because none of us want to make the teachers uncomfortable and I also don't want to make Larry or Pete or anyone who is immunocompromised uncomfortable in being in that situation either. I guess my question is if we were to have 2 of our board members via remote while the if the rest of us were willing to be in person is that acceptable can that be done and is it still considered a legal meeting ?

(Answer-Yes by Chair Baker). So, then my next question would be can we do it at Swayze? Can we put the board members on the stage and set up chairs spaced out in the Swayze gym and that doesn't put any people into the buildings that the staff members are in. I think parents and taxpayers would like to be able to give live public comment and they don't feel like they're being heard so I would like them to feel that they are heard. I would love to continue live streaming these events for anyone who doesn't feel comfortable coming in, so I think we can kind of meet in the middle somewhere and find a way to make everybody happy.

Mr. Angell said, there's no internet at Swayze gym right now and then we've had some requests to use the gym. I'm in discussion with Bob Dawson about athletics and how that's going to affect the gym and then if we go to in-person learning, I'm going to have to store tables at Swayze gym.

Ms. Dutton said, so what about what about the cafeteria at the high school, is there going to be a bunch of stuff in there? We have doors in and out directly from the outside, would that be a possibility? I'm just throwing ideas out.

Superintendent Ambrose said, I think that it's really hard from a technical perspective to stream. So, all the equipment's at the high school; the big screen the cameras and all the items that we need to do this. I really think that we should either do it at the high school at the auditorium where we can provide with social distancing or we should do it remotely. Gordon does a really good job with this

Superintendent Ambrose said the best and safest way to do this is using the High School Auditorium for social distancing and to accommodate the technical set-up.

Ms. Mahoney said, the auditorium is not in a bubble unfortunately, like the some of the other suggestions, people have to walk through and they're going to be using the bathrooms. We can't guarantee that they're going to keep their masks on in the bathrooms. We couldn't even keep everyone to keep their mask on at the meeting we had in the auditorium. People were taking them off. What was nice about the auditorium was it was at the end of July and there were not a lot of staff using the building and there was plenty of time for it to be cleaned. I'm just saying I don't want to seem like I don't want to meet in public because I'm perfectly willing to come in and meet. I do also think that Pete made a really good point about body language and facial expressions and that is more difficult when you're wearing a mask but I'm willing to do it. We have staff that we are requiring to be in the building and I feel like it's not fair to them to invite visitors in the building. We're violating our own standard.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said those people that are not comfortable by all means should not come in. The subcommittees could still do zoom and then only the school board would meet in public and then nobody is coming into the building until 6PM as opposed to 3:45 PM. By then the staff has exited the building and you just have the maintenance crew do the clean-up afterwards. It is important to allow people to comment. They have a right to come to a meeting and we have provided by policy an ability to comment. I support going public and those that are not comfortable, then by all means stay remote.

Ms. Dutton said she agrees with Mr. Fitzpatrick if we are not meeting until 6 PM, a good majority of the staff are gone I assume by that time. When we voted on sports, we voted differently than remote learning because you have to be within a close proximity for a certain amount of time to transmit the virus and the virus only lasts for so long in the air. So if we can have the custodial stuff comes after the meeting it should be perfectly safe for the staff the next morning unless I'm mistaken on my facts about transmission but I feel like given

the amount of time between when everybody will be leaving and the teachers will be coming in the next day and having the custodial staff clean I think that it should be safe and I don't believe that there's a huge issue with transmission on services like they originally thought so just throwing those points out there that we do want to consider our staff and think about our staff but I also think that we need to look at the facts on how it's spread and take that into account as well.

Mr. Ambrose said I think the staff would appreciate the Board meeting in person if we're asking them to come into the schools in person. I understand if you vote otherwise and I will make it work but using safety protocols but I agree with Tammy's point that we said if staff were in the building there would be no visitors.

Chair Baker said, I am in support of meeting publically. If the subcommittees continue to meet remotely, and we come in through the main doors and go to the auditorium, the public would have to understand that there would be limited seating just like on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It is not like a Deliberative Session where you can pack the house. We do have the zoom option and YouTube as well so people can make their choice, just like athletics. I think it's a good idea. I think where the teachers are coming back to school if there's a huge concern because of the school board's meeting and there might be members of the public in, we would have to revisit that but I would be for meeting in public.

Mr. Melvin said he would like to meet at the school. If we are asking the teachers to go in, we should as well.

Ms. Mahoney said, if the staff is comfortable, I am perfectly willing to come in. I did want to point out however that on the subcommittee discussion it's not quite as simple as we'll meet by zoom at least not if we're continuing to meet on Wednesdays because some of our meetings go practically right up to six o'clock it's only quarter of it's assumed that some of our meetings are going to end at 5:45 so that's not enough time for someone to get in their car necessarily and drive to the school for 6 PM.

Mr. Ambrose said we can figure it out. We have new subcommittee members and I will

Chair Baker asked for a Motion on meeting face-to face.

**Mr. Fitzpatrick moved that the School Board meetings move into public with the intent of having the subcommittee meetings continue via Zoom and we will re-look at that scheduling, seconded by Mr. Melvin.**

**Roll Call Vote: 6 in Favor, 1 opposed (Heath)**

9. NON-PUBLIC SESSION--RSA 91-A: 3 II

**Mr. Heath made a Motion to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A: 3 II, seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

10. ADJOURNMENT-Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM by Chair Baker.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy  
School Board Secretary

**CONTINUING PUBLIC NEXT PAGE**

Sanborn Regional School Board  
Continuing Public Session  
September 2, 2020  
Minutes

**Mr. Heath made a Motion to exit the Non-Public Session at 8:19 PM, seconded by Mr. Melvin.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

Public Session:

**Mr. Heath made a Motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes in Perpetuity, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.**

**Roll Call Vote: All in Favor**

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Recorder: Matt Angell