

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**November 14, 2012**

A joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and the Sanborn Budget Committee was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chairperson Nancy Ross in the library at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:           Janice Bennett, Vice Chairperson  
  James Doggett  
  Rebecca Hallisey  
  Wendy Miller  
  Dustin Ramey  
  Nancy Ross, Chairperson

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE:                 Paul Brisson  
  Barry Gluck  
  Beth Ann Scanlon  
  Tom Gasse  
  Dan Dodson  
  Roger Clark

Excused:                               Cheryl Gannon

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Dr. Blake made a motion to change the agenda: The meeting began with a skit by the SRHS Drama Club inviting the public to see the upcoming production of Arsenic and Old Lace being presented at the high school Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (11/15 through 11/18/2012).

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the November 7, 2012 minutes.

## **MANIFEST**

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #14 - \$76,746.83.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dr. Blake began his presentation by thanking Carol Coppola for preparing the budget book and the leadership team for their preparation of the budget. He gave a “shout out” to the leadership team in attendance: Mr. Brian Stack, Mr. Michael Turmelle, Ms. Ann Hadwen, Ms. Michelle Catena, Mr. Sandy Rutherford, Mr. Jon VanderEls, Ms. Donna Johnson, Ms. Deb Bamforth, Ms. Ellen Hume-Howard, Mr. Bob Ficker, Mr. Steve Riley, Ms. Vicky Parady-Guay. Also in attendance were Ms. Amy Ross and Ms. Jenn Manning from the Memorial School kindergarten program.

Dr. Blake stated that the budget he was presenting meets the current and future needs of the District. “Tonight’s presentation is a high level overview”. The presentation began with a video by Jamie Vollmer which reviewed the history of education since the 1900’s and the fact that education is not simply “reading, writing and arithmetic”. The video highlighted the increased demands of schools over the years.

Mr. Stack, High School Principal made a presentation of the high school budget requests. Mr. Stack stated that it is the intent of the high school to become a premiere high school in the State of NH. Ms. N. Ross opened the floor for questions/comments. Discussion included the increase of SST tuition for high school students and the cutting of one high school teacher position.

Mr. Sandy Rutherford, Middle School Principal, made a presentation of the middle school budget requests. Mr. Rutherford started by addressing the improved level of achievement of students and the improved level of performance of the teachers. He spoke of the Innovative Lab program and the middle school moving in the right direction. Ms. N. Ross opened the floor for questions/comments. Mr. Brisson of the Budget Committee asked about savings in the purchase of text books and the students having access to tablets/devices. He asked what it would cost to supply the students with tablets/devices. Mr. Ficker, Technology Director, spoke of students “BYOD” or “Bring Your Own Device”. The District would have a “seed stock” of devices for students that don’t have devices. Mr. Ficker spoke of the Sanborn Private Cloud that students and staff can access from anywhere. This is “the direction that we’re going”.

Mr. Jon VanderEls, Memorial School Principal, highlighted the fact that the Memorial School budget request had only increased \$109.00 over last year’s budget. Mr. VanderEls requested that the School Board and Budget Committee consider increasing kindergarten from a half day program to a full day program. He proposed to do this with no additional cost to the district. There are currently four first grade classrooms at each elementary school. They would reduce

the first grade to three classrooms and move a teacher to kindergarten. There would be a \$57,000 savings in busing costs by eliminating the ½ day bus run. Ms. N. Ross stated that she was impressed by Mr. VanderEls presentation. She asked how the students were doing that were in the full day intervention kindergarten program last year? Very well. Ms. N. Ross opened the floor for questions/comments. Discussion included: Will there be any change in personnel/can a first grade teacher teach kindergarten? It is their intent that a first grade teacher will teach the kindergarten class. A question was asked if the kindergarten students currently ride one way with students in grades 1-5? Yes. Ms. Bennett stated “sounds wonderful”. Will there still be additional support for those students struggling? Yes, they’ll be more opportunity with a full day program. Mr. Clark asked what would happen if parents don’t want their children to attend a full day program? Mr. VanderEls stated he has not come across this. Some parents send their children to kindergarten out of district because they want a full day program. Mr. Clark asked if the district could require children to attend a full day? No. Discussion followed about class size and school district policy regarding class size.

Ms. Deb Bamforth, Bakie School Principal, started her presentation by stating the last two years have been very positive due to the retention of teachers. She spoke of the kindergarten program being extended to a full day from the current half day program. This would be accomplished at no additional cost to the District. Currently there are four first grade classes. One first grade classroom teacher would move to the kindergarten program. She spoke of the district preschool program at the Bakie School. Ms. Pomykato, Director of Student Services, addressed the preschool intervention program. Students are entitled to services when they turn three years old. She spoke of the success in the intervention program – less students on IEPs in the higher grades when they’re identified at early ages and receive services. Ms. N. Ross opened the floor for questions/comments. Do “regular” kids who attend the preschool pay tuition? Yes. How many students apply under the lottery system for the preschool? Double the amount of the available slots. Mr. Dodson, Budget Committee, told Ms. Bamforth “love the music when the kids exit the building!”

A short break from 7:50 to 8:00 PM. Meeting called back to order at 8:00 PM.

Ms. Carol Coppola, District Business Manager, began her presentation by stating there are no increases in the budget for professional and support staff salaries. Contract negotiations are currently underway. There is a 3.5% increase in salaries for Administrators and non-union positions. Ms. Coppola went over the budget requests for the District and the Capital Improvement Plan. Some of the highlights in Ms. Coppola’s presentation: Health insurance overall increase of 10%; dental rate increase of 5%; and the Mandatory NH Retirement employer contribution increase. Ms. Coppola also went over the five year history of utility costs for the district. Due to various energy efficient improvements over the years, the district

is saving money in utility costs. Ms. N. Ross opened the floor for questions/comments. Discussion included the need for a generator for the fire suppression system at the seminary; work to be done at the Chase Field House; and transportation expenses.

Dr. Blake took the floor. "What does this mean for the homeowner?" In Kingston, it would be an increase of approximately .94 cents per thousand. In Newton the increase would be \$1.23 per thousand. Dr. Blake stated the proposed budget is a 2.36% increase over the current budget.

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

Ms. N. Ross thanked all the administrators for a very informative presentation/budget. "Dr. Blake's video was right on point, the basics in education have not changed, teachers are continually asked to add more responsibilities to their day." Ms. N. Ross thanked Ms. Coppola for preparing an easy to read, comprehensive budget book.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT none**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Noyes stated that from his experience from a number of years on the school board, it is the tax impact that the community will see. There will be costs associated with a ratified professional and support staff contract. Tonight's presentation is a "subtotal". You need to take into consideration the increased costs of the two contracts. He complimented the district on an "extraordinary" presentation.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT none**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on Wednesday, **December 5, 2012, 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 **November 19 at 6:30 PM at the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston.**

Mr. Doggett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 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.*