

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 8, 2012

The School District Moderator, Richard Russman, convened the First Deliberative Session of the Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium, for the Sanborn Regional School District, Kingston, NH, in accordance with the warrant to transact the following business:

The Moderator led the meeting with a salute to the American Flag.

The moderator introduced those present: Diane Gorrow, Legal Counsel; Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent; Carol Coppola, Business Administrator. School Board members: Nancy Ross, Chair; Jan Bennett, Vice-Chair; Kurt Baitz, Jim Doggett, Tom Gasse, Rebecca Hallisey. Budget Committee members: Jay Pramberg, Chair; Walter Tate, Vice-Chair; Barry Gluck, Paul Brisson, Beth Ann Scanlon, Wendy Miller and Karen O'Malley. School District Clerk Gail LeBlanc.

Article 1. The moderator announced that voting on Article 1, Election of School District Officers, will take place on March 13, 2012, in both communities. Voting for Newton residents will take place at the Newton Town Hall from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Voting for Kingston residents will take place at the Swasey Gym (Old HS campus) from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Article 2. Historic Seminary Building Renovations. Motion was made by Jan Bennett and seconded by Tom Gasse to place Article 2 on the official ballot as follows:

Shall the Sanborn Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$2,194,914) (gross budget) for the necessary renovations and code compliance regulations for the Historic Seminary Building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than Two Million One Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$2,194,914) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and further authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other offsetting revenue, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and authorize the School Board to take any action or pass any other vote relative thereto; and further raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for the first year's payment on said bonds or notes? (Requires 3/5 majority).

Jan Bennett made a Power Point presentation on the Seminary renovations. She thanked the community members who, over the years, have served on the various Seminary Committees. The 2007 Ad Hoc committee voted unanimously to maintain the 11 acres and buildings for school use. The five year Strategic Plan states . . . "optimize use of school district owned facilities for both educational and non-educational purposes." It is proposed that the Seminary be renovated to the original architecture of the time it was built. Future plans will be ADA and code compliant for fire.

The projected cost is \$2,194,914 – total not to exceed budget. The question was asked why the committee did not choose a fifteen year bond. A ten year bond was chosen because it will be cheaper in the long run.

Mr. Clark of Kingston stated he is opposed to this article. The townspeople cannot afford to spend money like this when the Town of Kingston needs a new fire station, the Town of Newton needs a new Safety Complex. He stated both towns have infrastructure issues. Enrollment is declining; we shouldn't be spending any more money as a district until the high school bond is paid off.

Mr. Shallot of Kingston, a Historic District committee member and member of the town budget committee, stated he is in favor of the Seminary renovation. Joe Simone of Newton commended the committee and the presentation. He stated the flyer states that the Seminary will generate income. Jan Bennett responded that the school district regularly leases space. Monies from the lease goes into a facilities use revolving fund. She stated the lease will generate income, but no one knows how much. Mr. Simone wanted to know why the public wasn't given options on the renovation. Ms. Bennett stated that the Seminary Committee, along with the School Board, chose the most economical option. The Committee feels this is the time to go forward with the project while construction rates are low as well as bond rates.

A member of the audience asked if anyone has investigated federal money to fund the seminary. They also wanted to know what was going to happen to the current SAU office space. Ms. Bennett responded that the Charter School will be moving into more classrooms, increasing the rental income. The audience member did not feel it made financial sense to renovate the Seminary for the amount of income the district would earn. Ms. Bennett responded that the consultant for the project was looking into federal grants, but at this time there is no money available. An application for funds was prepared and, should money become available, the Seminary project would be considered. Further explanation on two costs were requested. What is the \$30,000 Clerk of the Works fee for? And why the \$75,000 contingency fund. It was explained that the Clerk of the Works works on behalf of the school district. The Clerk is basically the "eyes and ears" for the school district – the Supervisor of the renovation project. The \$75,000 contingency fee is for unexpected/unforeseen expenses.

Paul of Kingston asked what kind of rent is expected to be brought in. He asked why the district does not shut the water off and save the heating costs. Jan Bennett responded that the committee was advised that the building deterioration will be greatly reduced by keeping the heat at 55 degrees. Ms. Bennett stated that the scope of the Committee was not to determine the amount of rent coming in.

Joe Simone asked about the renovation of the 300 seat auditorium and how much money would be generated from renting this space out. Ms. Bennett stated she did not have the fee schedule for the facilities with her. Ms. Bennett restated that this is a restoration project. Mr. Russman asked about the energy efficiency of the renovations. Mr. Lamarre from Lavalley Bresinger spoke to this question. Mr. Lamarre explained that the current boiler services both the "science wing" and the Seminary building. A new boiler is proposed for the seminary, the windows will be "tightened" up, and energy efficient doors

will be used. With the new boiler, it will be capable to establish separate heating zones. It is projected that the heating costs will remain the same as they are now (approx.. \$55,000/per year).

Liz Beebe of Kingston stated at \$60.00 per year for ten years is a small price to pay for this historic landmark.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator announced that Article 2 would appear on the official ballot as presented.

Article #3. Motion made by Tom Gasse and seconded by Kurt Baitz that Article 3 be placed on the official ballot as follows: Shall the reports of school district agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen be accepted and placed on file? The Moderator announced that Article 3 would appear on the official ballot as presented.

Article 4. A motion was made by Tom Gasse and seconded by Rebecca Hallisey that Article 4 appear on the official ballot as presented: Shall the Sanborn Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote at the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Thirty One Million Two Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Eight Dollars (\$ 31,269,788) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirty One Million Two Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$31,274,760), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Sanborn Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.)

Jay Pramberg, Budget Committee Chair made a powerpoint presentation on the proposed budget. Mr. Pramberg stated that the Budget Committee was in favor of a 2.5% increase in the budget. The budget as presented is less than the default budget. He noted that there are decreases in Special Ed, Capital Improvement Plan, the replacement of textbooks and furniture. Allowance was made in the budget for increased utility costs, increase in software costs, buses, and the high school summer program. The proposed budget reduces two teaching positions due to declining enrollments. Money was requested for drama, music, choral and cad programs. The proposed budget includes two part-time administrative jobs be increased to full-time. Cheryl Gannon of Kingston asked why these positions are being made into full-time positions. It was noted that the Facilities Administrative position does the ordering for the entire facilities department along with increased administrative reports and an overall increase in the workload. The part-time secretarial position in the SAU office is being converted to full-time in part to make up for the cutting of the receptionist position in the 2011-2012 budget. People are working overtime to cover the loss of the receptionist position. Property tax costs for Newton would be \$20.80 per thousand and \$16.90 per thousand in Kingston (school portion only). The budget was prepared with an anticipated decrease in enrollment for the 2013 school year.

Doug Ross of Kingston asked what was being affected by the cuts in the budget. Mr. Pramburg stated that two teaching positions would be cut (due to declining enrollment). Cuts would be made in textbooks, library books, a request for new windows at the Bakie school was cut, a new truck in the Facilities Department was also cut. Mr. Ross asked what would happen if the budget did not pass, Mr. Pramburg stated that the default budget would then be in place for the 2012-2013 school-year.

A motion was made that the budget be decreased by \$763,125. The moderator asked if there were any comments. One resident said the motion was irresponsible. She urged people to vote against this motion. Nancy Ross, School Board Chair said the School Board does not vote to make cuts to the budget. She explained that the budget process is long and involved. The Leadership Team puts together their requests/needs. The Superintendent then reviews their requests and make recommendations. The Superintendent presents the budget to the School Board and the Budget Committee. Mr. Shallet of Kingston stated that FY13 salaries are going down by \$50,000. The Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.) has gone down. He stated he felt it was a sound budget and was in favor of it.

Mr. Furlong of Kingston asked for clarification in the reduction in the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Pramburg stated it was a one-time decrease in the C.I.P. The unreserved fund may be used at the end of the year to purchase supplies that are needed.

Peter Broderick of Kingston asked if the budget committee was recommending Article #2, the Seminary Renovation. Mr. Pramburg stated that the budget committee voted 7-0 in favor of the seminary project.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator polled the audience. The motion was defeated by voice vote. Article #4 will appear on the ballot as presented.

A motion was made by Jan Bennett and seconded by Tom Gasse to adjourn. Motion carried – voice vote. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM. The second session (voting) will take place, Tuesday, March 13, 2012, in both Communities. Kingston will vote at the Swasey Gym in Kingston and Newton will vote at the Newton Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail LeBlanc
School District Clerk