

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 29, 2014

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Jan Bennett, Chairperson
Dustin Ramey
Nancy Ross
Jon LeBlanc
Wendy Miller
John Morano
Corey Masson

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

EXCUSED:

Gail LeBlanc, School Board Secretary

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

Dr. Blake – Under Administrative reports, the Bullying Presentation instead will be an informal report; presentations will be scheduled for a later board meeting. In addition under Administrative Reports, Dr. Blake added “Budget Update”. Under Unfinished Business, Dr. Blake added “Sanborn-Fremont Joint Board Meeting”.

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the October 15, 2014 (public and non-public). Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. Ms. Bennett asked for omissions or corrections. Ms. Ross stated the next Budget Committee meeting is tomorrow, October 30, 2014 (meeting minutes state Nov. 13, 2014). In addition, Ms. Ross stated that the October 30, 2014 Budget Committee date was not included in the announcements. Ms. Miller stated under “school board comments” page 3, the minutes should read, “...ask the elementary principal their thoughts on the programs we currently run. We don’t want to scare the kids, but we need to educate them.” Vote to approve the minutes as amended was unanimous.

MANIFEST

None (Next manifest due week of November 3, 2014)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Bullying Presentation – Dr. Blake

Dr. Blake explained that while this will not be a formal presentation, tonight’s overview will include a review of all that is done within the various schools and at the various levels. At Bakie School and Memorial School, the Social Curriculum and anti-bullying curriculum is part of the Guidance curriculum. Each elementary classroom at both Memorial School and Bakie School holds Morning Meeting. Morning Meeting is part of Responsive Classroom which incorporates teaching of tolerance and social understanding. Included in the curriculum is the reading of “The incredible Flexible You”. The guidance counselors use this text to reinforce student learning about ways to eliminate bullying within the classrooms. At Memorial School, the Grade 5 guidance curriculum focuses on peer pressure and developing positive strategies for students facing peer pressure. School presentations include the “Tiger” assembly, an anti-bullying program from Plymouth. Hampstead School District students visited Memorial

as part of their work on anti-bullying. At both elementary schools, teachers and guidance counselors have lunch groups that allow positive social situations for students who could bullies or be targets of bullying. At the Middle School, Chris Poulos came as a presentation focusing on anti-bullying. The Olweus program was grant funded and involved the Southern Rockingham County Coalition. The health and guidance program includes anti-bullying components of the Olweus program whereby anti-bullying rules are taught and practices. Several assemblies focus on anti-bullying with students leading the anti-bullying club. At the high school, the students may join the Diversity Club, Life as a Student program, Life as an Athlete programs. Each club or program focuses on anti-bullying and positive social behavior along with teaching tolerance. These topics are included within the Wellness programs at all four schools.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if we keep data on bullying incidents. Dr. Blake stated yes – by NH law, the district is required to collect such data. Mr. Masson asked for a breakdown on how bullying events impact student learning.

Dr. Blake explained that the “Stand up for Bullying” programs continue for students at the middle school and high school. For the past two years, the district sent students to these trainings to support the efforts of the anti-bullying clubs.

Ms. Bennett asked for information on how these programs affect student thinking? Perhaps the Board could have presentations over two separate sessions – elementary program presentations at the first meeting and middle and high school programs at the second board meeting. Mr. Masson asked for these presentations to include descriptions of reports as required by the district; Dr. Blake stated that these reports must be filed with the police department if indeed the incidents meet the standards of “bullying”.

Ms. Bennett asked School Board rep, Isabella about “bullying” and her experience in Sanborn. She reported that all the teachers make it clear it is “not right” and through the years, there have been many bullying presentations. Although it is not “right”, bullying continues. Kids may talk behind others’ backs, just not confront each other. Cyber-bullying is a problem, too.

Ms. Ross stated she likes the idea of separate presentations – elementary schools and middle/high schools. This will allow the Board to see the progression. Ms. Bennett asked if there would be students attending. Dr. Blake will ask the principals for input on student invitations.

b. Budget – Dr. Blake

The leadership team prepared the budget and submitted to the Business Office. Because of unanticipated costs, not all leadership team budget requests can be honored. For example, anticipated electric cost increase reflects a probable \$100,000 increase. In addition, the district will have a significant increase in health care benefits. These costs may impact the projects that were board approved as part of the CIP Plan. In addition, the support staff contract negotiations are in process. This related cost impacts the public response to supporting the budget. The goal is to make sure the proposed budget is something the voters may consider passing. The Default Budget alone is up over \$1M.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Isabella Dunham

The Halloween Dance is on Friday. Dance admission will include \$1 donation from the \$7 ticket price. Teachers are encouraged to dress for Halloween. Their incentive is a “free Jeans Day”. Key Club is sponsoring Thanksgiving baskets again this year. Various community and school groups prepare Thanksgiving dinner baskets for families who need such support. Dr. Blake explained for example, the SAU will fill a Thanksgiving Basket. Mr. Ramey asked how the Key Club learns of the need. Isabella reported that the number of baskets needed is provided by the welfare offices. The welfare offices include lists of items needed. Ms. Dunham reported the Student Council’s annual state convention is scheduled for November 7, 2014.

Ms. Miller made a motion for the School Board to prepare a Thanksgiving Basket with second by Ms. Ross. Dr. Blake will find out details and send this information to the Board members. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations – Mr. LeBlanc

The Board and SREA reps held their first meeting last Friday (10/24/2014). Both sides submitted proposals but without agreement as yet. Another proposal from each side will be submitted for review on Monday 11/3/2014. Next negotiations session scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2014.

Policy – Ms. Bennett

The committee is reviewing policies listed under Section C. There will be a series of Policies for review in December. Next meeting is Nov 12, 2014 at 5:30pm.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Ms. Bennett reminded the Board and public that elections are next month; remember to vote. During the budget season the Board must be an advocate for the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Masson – Middle School girls won their soccer championship. Next, Mr. Masson reported on a NH Grant that supports the mental health issues within the North Country. Mr. Masson understands this grant is awarded on an annual basis. Next, Mr. Masson asked if there is a way to correlate bullying by grade level and impact on academic performance.

Ms. Miller – Sanborn ended their 68 Hours of Hunger programs. Food contributions were dropped off at the schools and various community locations. Community business and families contributed to help sort unload and sort donations with a food drive that meant the food pantries were filled.

Dr. Blake thanked Ms. Miller for her commitment to “68 Hours of Hunger”. Dr. Blake reported the SRHS seniors had their Senior Day of Caring last Friday. This was well-attended with many completed projects across the community. Dr. Blake reminded the Board that the SRHS Drama Troupe will have their production, “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940” per this schedule: Thursday, November 13 at 7pm; Friday, November 14 at 7pm; Saturday, November 15 at 7pm; Sunday, November 16 at 2pm. The show will be in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$6 with free admission for students and military.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Joint Board meeting with Fremont – Dr. Blake

This meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday 11/4/2014. This is Election Day and a scheduling conflict for Dr. Blake. The Fremont Board would like to provide feedback on the SRSB budget. Dr. Blake will work with Dr. Cox to reschedule this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Overnight Field Trip – Dr. Blake

Dr. Blake presented to request from the high school Student Council to attend the annual state fall conference in Waterville Valley. This is an overnight trip that SRHS Student Council has attended for many years. Ms. Ross made motion to approve the overnight trip with a second by Ms. Miller. Ms. Ross asked how many will attend? Ms. Dunham said there may be up to 16 attending. Freshman members are invited but may choose not to attend. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT

None

WRITTEN INFORMATION

None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

November 19 – Budget Presentation at 6pm

December 3 – Elementary Schools bullying presentations; Budget; Committee reports

December 17 – Middle School and High School bullying presentations; Budget

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cancelled - Sanborn Regional School Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 137, at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

Sanborn Regional School Board/ Sanborn Regional School District Budget Committee Joint Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 6:00 pm** in the Sanborn Regional High School Media Center.

Support Staff CBA **Negotiations** will be held on **Monday, November 10, 2014 at 3:00 pm**, and **Friday, November 21, at 2:45 pm** in **Room 137**, at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

The next **Public Relations Committee Meeting** will be held on **TBD in Room 137**, at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

The next **Policy Committee Meeting** will be held on **November 12, 2014 at 5:30 pm** in **Room 137**, at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

Budget Committee Meetings will be held on **Thursdays, October 30, November 13, and November 24, at 7:30 pm** in **Room 137**, at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

The next **Fremont/Sanborn Joint Meeting** will be held on **TBD**.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 IIa

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Ross with second by Ms. Miller to adjourn the regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Pomykato
Recorder

Minutes of the School Board meetings are unofficial until approved at a subsequent meeting of the School Board.