

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday March 18, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by Gail LeBlanc, School Board Secretary, in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

- Janice Bennett
- Jon LeBlanc, Chair
- Corey Masson
- Roberto Miller
- Wendy Miller, Vice Chair
- Dustin Ramey
- Nancy Ross
- Isabella Dunham, Student Council Representative

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Dr. Blake opened the meeting by announcing that the first order of business was to nominate the officers of the newly appointed School Board. Ms. Ross made a motion to nominate Jon LeBlanc to be Chair of the School Board. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. 4 in favor; 3 opposed

Mr. Masson made a motion to nominate Wendy Miller to be School Board Chair. Mr. Roberto Miller seconded the motion. 3 in favor; 4 opposed.

Mr. LeBlanc was elected School Board Chair and accepts the position.

Mr. LeBlanc asked for a nomination for Vice Chair. Ms. Ross made a motion to nominate Wendy Miller Vice Chair. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Miller was elected Vice Chair of the School Board and accepts the position.

REVIEW AGENDA Dr. Blake added **d. Middle School Update** and **e. Budget Discussion** under Administrative Reports.

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the March 4, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the March 4, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #20 -\$363,579.25; Accounts Payable #21 - \$10,283.50; Payroll #18 - \$761,954.84.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

a. Election Results: Dr. Blake reviewed the results of the March 10, 2015, election:

ARTICLE 1. ELECTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

Moderator: Richard Russman 1397

School Board Member At Large (two year term) Roberto Miller

School Board Member Kingston (three year term) Dustin Ramey

School Board Member Newton (three year term) Wendy Miller

Budget Committee Newton Three Year: Anne Collyer

Budget Committee Kingston Three Year: Ami Faria

Article 2. General Acceptance of Reports Yes: 1586 No: 165

Article 3. Operating Budget Yes: 714 No: 1169

Article 4. Support Staff Agreement Yes: 946 No: 805

Article 5: Expand Use of Facility Use Revolving Fund Yes: 1141 No: 687

Article 6: Establish Capital Reserve Fund for the Sanborn Seminary Building
Yes: 676 No: 1151

Article 7: Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Yes: 710 No: 1120

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

d. MS Update Ms. Coppola reported that a contractor was brought in to secure the roof trusses so that a structural engineer could complete an evaluation of the roof. She received the final engineering report today. The insurance carrier has said they will only pay for one half of the roof repairs (the side which was damaged). The District is responsible for repairs to the other half of the roof. Ms. Coppola asked the Board to consider whether the project should be put out to bid. If the project is put out to bid, an engineer will need to be hired to determine the scope of work for the bid. Ms. Bennett asked about the costs. Ms. Coppola stated she does not know at this time. Ms. Bennett asked if there was a possibility that two contractors would be hired to repair the roof? Ms. Coppola stated she does not think it's in the best interest of the District to have two contractors work on the roof. Ms. Bennett asked when a decision would need to be made? Ms. Coppola stated the sooner the better to get the 8th graders back into the school. Dr. Blake stated that he read the policy and that it is the discretion of the SB to go forward with the repairs without going to bid. Mr. Masson asked if there was a problem with the vendor's quality of work? No, it was the snow load on the roof that caused the roof to fail. Mr. LeBlanc asked why only one half was covered? Can the District push back? Ms. Coppola stated the insurance company considers it a school district maintenance issue. The structural engineer would like to see the repairs made on the other side of the roof. The work on the damaged side would be more expensive. It's not a 50-50 split on the roof repairs (between the District and insurance company). The damaged side would cost more and would be covered by insurance. The work on the other side of the work would consist of shoring up the present trusses. Mr. Ramey asked if the District forgoes the bidding process, does that get the job done more quickly? Yes.

Ms. Ross made a motion to waive the bidding process in the repair of the MS roof. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. LeBlanc asked if there were any questions/discussions? Mr. Ramey asked where the money for the repairs would come from? The budget was managed so tightly, that it can be covered in the budget. Mr. Masson asked if it doesn't go out to bid, how do we know we got the best price? Is this blind acceptance? Mr. Masson stated he would be challenged to support an unknown/blind amount. Ms. Miller stated that she understands the urgency of getting the roof repaired, but feels a responsibility to the tax payers to go to bid. The question of what the timeline for the project to go to bid would be? Two weeks for an engineer to scope the job and one month for the open bid. How much would it cost for an engineer to put together a report/scope of the job? \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Ramey stated he thought it best to do their due diligence and put the job out to bid. Mr. LeBlanc asked for a vote on the motion to waive the bidding process. All opposed.

Ms. Ross made a motion to send out to bid the repairs of the MS roof in accordance with Policy DJE. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Sandy Rutherford, MS Principal, spoke

about the 8th grade students. He said it is very complicated having the students separate from the MS. He said the MS is very limited. The 8th students are doing well at the HS. He said although he's not in disagreement with tonight's decision to send the work for the roof out to bid, he's very sad. He said there have been no big issues with students or staff with the current situation. He said there's been some stretches, but it's doable, and they will do it well.

b. Performance Assessment and Competency Education; c. Smarter Balance: Ms. Ellen Hume Howard gave a presentation on PACE (Performance Assessment for Competency Education). Ms. Hume-Howard said that SRSD was one of four school districts in NH that was approved to participate in a new pilot program for accountability strategy for measuring school success by the US Department of Education. "PACE buttons" were distributed to SB members. Members were asked to wear their buttons with pride. PACE was developed by the State in partnership with Sanborn and three other districts in NH (Rochester, Epping and Souhegan). The four districts are considered leaders in competency based education. Exams are rigorous and competency based. Based on research, teachers feel this is a better way to test kids. Students in grade three will be participating in the English/Language Arts Assessment of Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), taking the place of NECAP. Students in grade four will take the Mathematics Assessment. Students in grades 8 and 11 will take both assessments. Students in all other grades will be taking part of the performance assessments as part of their classroom activities. The performance assessments will be scored both locally and by a team of outside assessment experts. The goal is to shift the focus from NECAP testing and ranking to a more rigorous model of assessment. The assessments have been developed by local, state and national experts who specialize in the design of assessments. Mr. Masson and Ms. Ross congratulated all involved.

e. Budget Discussion: Dr. Blake said he was looking for guidance from the SB after the defeat of the operating budget. He stated the District has another default budget to work with. He's looking to move from the proposed budget to the default budget which is a \$586,000.00 cut. He asked for guidance from the SB before making reductions. Mr. Masson suggested selling the Seminary campus. In order to sell the Seminary, it would have to be on a warrant article. Ms. Miller stated one of her concerns is increased class size. She wants to keep the policy on class size as it is. Ms. Miller stated that the administration has a better idea of what the District can do without. Mr. LeBlanc said he hesitated to offer anything – can't foresee the impact. Mr. Masson stated he would rather see the District come up with ways to bring money into the District rather than make cuts. He suggested bringing advertising into the community. A suggestion – see if community businesses would sponsor a field or the right to put their name on a building. Mr. Masson, "don't cut – find". Ms. Bennett asked if the District does any banner advertising? No. Ms. Bennett asked the SB – what is defensible? Buses for a few kids going to sports? Small class size? She stated she is not "a fan" of advertising. Mr. Masson

asked how summer schools works/is funded. Ms. Pomykato stated there are camps offered and a program called Jumpstart Plus One for 1st and 2nd graders. She stated a majority of the students don't have IEPs. Is it time to consider the program be open only to students with IEPs? Students are referred based on recommendations by the SPED team based on NH requirements. Ms. Ross recommended purchasing supplies for next year's programs with the surplus from this year's budget. It was explained that the items must be purchased and received in this fiscal year. Ms. Ross stated she is not in favor of any reduction in staff. Mr. LeBlanc stated he is in favor of the administration suggesting what should be cut. He said he trusts the administration's decisions.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Isabella reported that winter carnival had wrapped up, that it went well and that the seniors won. She stated they were thankful to have winter carnival in light of the cancellation of school prior to February vacation week. She stated that currently they are electing chairs for the Student Council, working on a plant sale and secretary's day. The Key Club Battle of Talents is being held Friday at 6:00 PM at the HS.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee: Ms. Ross said they are currently trying to secure a date for their next meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Mr. LeBlanc thanked everyone for being nominated Chair. He said he would try his best in the position. Mr. LeBlanc reported that he attended the NHIAA sponsored luncheon for student/scholar athletes. He thanked the PACE "team" for attending tonight's meeting and their presentation. Mr. LeBlanc also said he was sorry about tonight's decision about the MS roof, but felt that it was a prudent decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gannon congratulated the new SB officers and welcomed the new SB member. She thanked Ms. Bennett and Mr. Ramey for their service during the past year. Ms. Gannon asked if money was available from the facilities reserve fund for the MS roof repair? Ms. Gannon said there was a lot of information presented tonight about PACE. She stated she has a lot of questions and will email them at a later point. She stated the vote on the operating budget was discouraging. She said that Sanborn offers a quality education – something needs to be done to inform the public. Ms. Gannon stated that PACE needs to be publicized more. Sanborn is leading the country, not just NH. She said she thought a public forum would be a good idea to get the word out.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ross welcomed the new members to the SB and the Budget Committee. She stated she is looking forward to working with the new members. She thanked everyone for coming out and voting. She stated she was disappointed with the voter turnout. She spoke of the work involved from November through February preparing the budget. She spoke of the highlights of the last year in Sanborn. She wondered how many people know that Superintendent Blake has been asked to speak at national educational forums on Competency Based Learning. She encouraged the public to come and meet the SB.

Mr. Masson spoke of the rash of violence in schools and said it was disturbing what was happening. He asked, "How are we going to react when it happens?" It's time to be proactive and start looking ahead about the topic of school violence. Mr. Masson congratulated Mr. LeBlanc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of District Officers: Ms. Ross made a motion to appoint Ronald Bricket, School District Treasurer; Donna LeBlanc, District Deputy Treasurer; and Melissa Fowler, School District Clerk. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. Re-affirmation of School Board Policies: Ms. Ross made a motion to reaffirm the SRSD School Board Policies. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

c. Committee Assignments: Mr. LeBlanc asked SB members to email him with a list of the Committees they would like to be on. Committee members will be announced at the April 1st SB meeting.

d. MS-22: Tabled

e. Last day of school: Dr. Blake requested that June 19, 2015, be the last day of school. He proposed making up five days of school and will ask the State to "forgive" 3 days due to roof issues. Mr. Masson suggested asking for five "forgiveness" days to enable teachers/staff time to clean their rooms. Ms. Ross made a motion that the last day of school be no later than June 19th. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT Dr. Blake reported that the SRSD has been inundated with right to know requests from the community. He passed out a package of correspondence that his office received – approximately 1 ½" thick. He stated that the District responds to all legitimate requests. He is in discussion with legal counsel on the District's obligation to answer

all emails – not to put up barriers, but to see what the limits are. Dr. Blake stated that the SB hires administration to carry out the running of the school. Ms. Ross stated she would like a definition from legal counsel on what is reasonable.

WRITTEN INFORMATION none

PUBLIC COMMENT Ms. Gannon said she noticed on the bulletin board in the lobby that the SB meetings are held in room 137. SB meetings are now held in the library. Ms. Gannon asked if there will be a report on last year’s SB goals? Ms. Gannon said there will be a Newton-Kingston Taxpayer Association forum at the HS on March 30th at 7:00 PM at the high school.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Please email Mr. LeBlanc your SB goals by April 1, 2015. The SB will be meeting April 8 at 6:00 PM at the HS Library to discuss the upcoming SB goals.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II Personnel

Ms. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 10:00 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

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.