

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 30, 2016**

A Special Budget Workshop meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Corey Masson. The following were recorded as present;

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Corey Masson, Chairperson  
Jan Bennett  
Dr. Pamela Brown  
Peter Broderick  
Sheila Pierce  
Nancy Ross  
Tammy Gluck  
Michael Giordano-Student Council Representative

**ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools  
Carol Coppola, Business Administrator

The meeting began with a Salute to the Flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Masson encouraged everyone during this Budget Work Session to be respectful of each other's approach to the budget, given that each comes from a different perspective. He welcomed any and all questions emphasizing that all are important to the budget process. There will be no Public or School Board Comment during the meeting. At the close of the meeting, there will be a non-public meeting directly following.

**Announcements**

**On Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, a Joint Board Meeting with SAU 83 (Fremont) will be held in the SRHS Library at 6PM. Following this meeting (December 1<sup>st</sup>) is a Budget Committee Meeting in the same location.**

**The next regular Sanborn Regional School Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Board Conference Room # 137.**

Mr. Masson asked the group how many were expecting to talk about the CIP (Capital Improvement Plans) to which a few members responded affirmatively. Mr. Masson clarified that the focus of the Budget Work Session will be the Budget line items and that the CIP questions will be tabled for another meeting in the near future, unless they have time to fit them.

Also, up for discussion this evening is the public Forum that the School Board would like to host called, *Road to the Deliberative Event* scheduled for Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the SRHS Cafeteria.

To begin the budget workshop, Mr. Masson showed the group a summary chart he created to track questions from them in order to streamline the process and track important items asked during the evening. Discussion ensued on how to look at the budget itself and agreement was reached that the best way to proceed through the budget was by cost centers.

Ms. Ross asked whether the Union had ratified the Teacher and Support Staff contracts yet, to which Mr. Masson said that they were not. Dr. Blake clarified that the hold-up is related to meetings that needed to be scheduled to review the health care changes before they can ratify. Dr. Blake believes those meetings have happened and so it should be wrapping up soon.

Mr. Masson shared that the method he used to look at the Budget involved the budget goals asked of the Superintendent that follow the presentation of priorities decided on previously. Thus, he created a spreadsheet to coincide with those and track the additions and deletions accordingly. Ms. Bennett questioned the method due to the conflict in the way that the numbers are presented as some decisions were ones proposed and decided on by the Superintendent and some will be made in the Deliberative. Mr. Masson argued that looking at the items that are recommended and/or were removed will clarify the priorities. Ms. Bennett agreed that those are good practices, but preparing information based on the unknown of what will happen in the Deliberative Session doesn't make sense. Ms. Ross supported the method by giving an example of how to use the information in a positive way. Ms. Gluck commented that it would be more of a working document to help them throughout the budget process. Dr. Blake hopes that everyone has reviewed the budget book and that they will become clear tonight on what is in the budget before they discuss adding or deleting items.

Questions and discussion during the evening ensued around the following:

1. One-time expenditures-how to clearly explain to the community what they are. Where does the money come from (what accounts) and also, what happens to those accounts after the money is moved out?
2. Regular Education- Should budget cut be adjusted to be steeper?

3. Travel Stipends/mileage reimbursement-should format be changed? Or should language be changed? Clarify Stipends.
4. Special Education-Should it be increased? What will changes in staffing mean? If SPED percentages are higher, why are we cutting?
5. Co-curricular programming-how to find specific items? Some Line items are bundled.
6. Athletics- is there clarification on the increase in costs? All lines for Departments are summarized in budget book and have had unavoidable increases such as health insurance, retirement costs, equipment replacement, and new laws for athletes with testing and types of equipment used. Varsity Ice Hockey, amongst other sports, are new budget requests that were cut. There are no "B" teams because we don't have funding for it.
7. Guidance- SAC Counselors, software package, # counselors to students compared to other areas. Mr. Stack's report shows we are not high in the # of counselors. Also, counselors also spend time with parents as well as with students.
8. Speech, PT, OT- Deficits that SAU cannot fill that has to be contracted through agencies which cause higher costs due to agency fees.
9. New PR Person- Fund for 6 months or 12 months?
10. Superintendent Services- Includes PR positions, 3% increases for non-union staff. Actuarial studies are not every year,
11. Debt Services-are fixed costs. Clarity around what payments are fixed and unavoidable.
12. Building Improvement Operations- reduction is due to slashing of Capital Projects.
13. After School Saturday Detention- Usage of \$2,000 for High School students. Who uses/how much?
14. Technical Services- What does it mean? Used in many places in all lines. Refers to speakers, software, officials, PSAT, SAT, SAC presenters, etc.
15. Contractual Services-Implies paying someone for a service.
16. ADA compliance- in 1<sup>st</sup> year of CIP
17. Text Books-Were Chrome Books purchased to reduce text books? (Not all, especially Elementary) However, yes given the 100K reduction in textbooks 2016 and it shows 2017-18 to continue to go down.
18. Homeless Transportation- Shows Increase. Depends on where student is homeless from and can be costly.

19. Replacement of Equipment- Due to fixtures, furniture and equipment detailed in Budget Book. SAU has 5 year plans to spread out costs and replace accordingly. PE/Athletics equipment was cut last year. Discussion of what is in the plan and justification for all. All items are listed in budget book.

Mr. Masson asked to move on to the public forum event, "Road to the Deliberative" planned for Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5PM to 7PM in the Cafeteria of the High School. The goal will be to communicate the programs that are driving the budget to our community members. The plan is for the Board Members to participate at this roundtable event to elicit questions from the public. The various programs will be posted by table so that all areas are covered. Mr. Broderick suggested having a student table. Mr. Giordano will inform students through the Student Council and other groups. Ms. Bennett expressed the importance of informing the public of the budget process and allowing them to have as much information as possible. Also, allowing them to ask the questions that are important to them in a relaxed environment. Pizza and drinks will be provided, perhaps funded by the Booster Clubs? Mr. Masson shared the handouts he would like to present to the public. Discussion ensued on what is the best way to highlight the Budget and its many aspects. Mr. Masson pointed out that it should comprehensively address the account, the reason, the strategic plan alignment and the cost.

Mr. Masson queried Budget Committee Member, Cheryl Gannon about their Public Forum held in early November. Ms. Gannon replied that they were pleased that they held it, but there were many that came with an agenda and no matter what they put forward to them, those people could not hear it.

Publicity was discussed. Mr. Masson encouraged all to be there as it is a School Board Event. All are in favor and plan to attend except Mr. Giordano who has a school conflict.

#### **Next Agenda Items**

- Strategic Plan,
- CIP
- Envision Kingston

Mr. Giordano asked to share about the Choral Concert is on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

**ADJOURNMENT**- Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Phyllis Kennedy,  
Recording Secretary

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