

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 19, 2017

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Peter Broderick. The following were recorded as present;

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Peter Broderick, Chair
Dr. Pamela Brown, Vice Chair
Corey Masson
Taryn Lytle
Sheila Pierce
James Baker
Tammy Mahoney
Michael Giordano, Student Representative

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools
Matt Angell, Interim Business Administrator

The meeting began with a Salute to the Flag.

REVIEW AGENDA –Under #13, *Unfinished Business*, add as letter “a” Posting of Employee Salaries and Benefits and under #14, *New Business*, change Committee Assignments to read Committee *and Mentor* Assignments in accordance with Policy BIA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -Motion made to approve the Minutes of April 5, 2017 by Ms. Lytle and Motion seconded by Ms. Pierce. Dr. Brown noted that in *Board Members Present* the name Tammy Gluck should read Tammy Mahoney. **VOTE: All in Favor** (as amended).

Motion made to approve the Non-Public Minutes of April 5, 2017 by Dr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Lytle. VOTE: All in Favor.

EXPENDITURES REGISTER & MANIFEST – REVIEW AND SIGN

The Board reviewed and signed the Manifest Check Register #21 -\$275,600.29 dated 4/19/17, and the Payroll Check Register#21- \$812,137.03 dated 4/20/17.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS-

- a. **Math Presentation**- Dr. Blake passed out an update of the High School Math Program. Beginning with the history, he discussed the low performance and large turn-over (32 different teachers) in the last decade. Today, there are 8 full time math teachers on staff. An integrated math program was proposed for grades 9-12 in 2007-8 but was opposed by parents in favor of a traditional math schedule and only offered as a choice track and phased out due to lack of staffing. In 2015, after a complete review, it was determined that an inquiry-based model was necessary. To see more of the presentation, please view the school board video at www.sau17.org

Mr. Masson asked about Build Math 1, 2 & 3 and whether they are for College Board SAT. Dr. Blake responded that they are not and clarified that their purpose is for building the integrated math courses themselves.

Mr. Giordano asked whether there is a specific dollar amount that goes into the budget for math. Dr. Blake responded that each department has a budget based on their needs which is integrated into the High School budget.

Mr. Baker asked for a brief summary of the previous math program versus the updated one presented.

Dr. Blake responded that instead of the previous discreet courses (all Algebra, all Geometry, etc.) the Integrated Math program uses strands of each of those courses at different levels, a spiraling concept that focuses on problem solving instead of memorization skills. The current Performance Assessments are based on the problem solving model where the student is given a task versus rote memorization or a formula.

Mr. Baker asked about the recourse of not memorizing tables or theorems. Dr. Blake said they still learn them, but not in isolation, instead they learn how they apply in the real world format.

Mr. Giordano asked for an explanation of why the last attempt at Integrated Math failed and how the new attempt would be different. Dr. Blake explained that this version is much more updated and includes performance assessments that were not available then. He added that if the group would like a more in-depth look at the program; he can provide that.

Mr. Baker questioned whether in previous discussions, the elimination of grade levels had been determined. How does a group of 16 yr. old students pass from level to level? Dr. Blake responded that his questions involves two different things, but the way the program is designed right now, they pass by taking individual courses (not unlike an Algebra 1 course) in which the competencies must be reached to move onto the next one.

Mr. Baker asked about the testing component which Dr. Blake responded is being developed in conjunction with MIT, *Reaching Higher NH* and the Highlander Institute.

Mr. Baker asked about where it is being introduced. Dr. Blake responded in Grade 9 currently. Evaluations will be done at the end of the year in June.

Ms. Lytle asked about who develops Math, 1, 2, and 3 and what school(s) have had success? Dr. Blake responded that it is MIT, the Nellie Mae Foundation, and the current math staff, along with Michael Turmelle who have been involved in development. Model schools in Rhode Island have been successful. Ms. Lytle also inquired about testing at the beginning and end of the program. Dr. Blake will find out.

Dr. Brown commented that she is hopeful that this program works out but is risk-averse when it comes to trying something new. She added that Oyster River is using the Eureka math program with significant improvements in SATs that are above state average. Another School in Palo Alto has supported this program as well for their K-5 but it does support high school math as well. She is looking forward to our results, especially with MIT involved but closed by saying there are Best Practices we can look at if we want to try something else later.

Mr. Lytle is glad there is a plan in place. It is important for the community to know that we are addressing these concerns about math and that this is a five year process before we will know results. She agrees with Dr. Brown that having other Best Practices to

- b. **Nominations** -Dr. Blake brought forth Leah Cunningham to replace music teacher Victoria Williams who is retiring from her position at Memorial School and Amy Tilton who will replace art teacher Jessica Anderson at Bakie School as she is moving to Los Angeles. **Motion by Mr. Masson to accept the nominations as presented, seconded by Ms. Pierce. VOTE: All in Favor.**
- c. **Food Service Up-date** – Mr. Angell prefaced the Food Service up-date by answering two questions previously asked by Mr. Baker about vendor accounts. Moving on, he informed the group that since the last update he has received two vendor proposals,

(Fresh Picks and Fitz-Vogue) that are within two thousand dollars of each other so interviews are still in progress and they will have a decision shortly.

Mr. Baker asked about how long a vendor has to respond to a bid. Mr. Angell responded 30 days. Mr. Baker asked if that was a standard time and Mr. Angell responded that it depends on what you are purchasing and the vendor involved. The Food Service quote is somewhat extensive to present.

Mr. Giordano asked how long the contract would be for and Mr. Angell responded 3 years.

d. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS- Mr. Broderick will address in Chairperson's Comments

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Giordano reported that Student Council is preparing for Earth Day and Secretaries Day. Student Council's had a regional meeting in Exeter on April 13th and the theme of the day was leadership, effective marketing and they also held district elections for the southern states. For the senior class there was a recent meeting about graduation and choosing a class trip for June 13th to Six Flags and June 14th to the beach for a cook-out. Mr. Giordano and four other students had the opportunity to attend the *YMCA Youth Government Convention* in Concord which allowed him to participate in a mock legislature. Also, Governor Sununu spoke with them and shared his experience of previously owning a business in which he could hire and fire and do what he wanted. The Governor emphasized that the government process is not run like a business, saying he must be accountable to all the people he serves. Mr. Giordano resonated with that due to what SRSD is involved in.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Broderick informed the group that he was recently approached by the Heritage Commission/Kingston. They are looking for members of the School Board to be a part of the Communications Committee as it related to the Warrant Article #8 (Seminary discussion with the Town of Kingston). Mr. Broderick is looking for a Kingston member as two members (Mr. Masson and Dr. Brown) have already volunteered.

Fremont School Board would like to have a meeting to discuss the 2017-2017 Tuition Agreement. The group decided to meet on Tuesday, May 30th in Fremont from 6pm to 7pm. Due to School Board training on May 3rd, the next SRSD School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annie Collyer (Newton) congratulated new board members and then spoke on behalf of the Newton Kingston taxpayers Association (NKTA) saying that there is great concern over the District's facilities; aging buildings and deferred maintenance calling into question the safety of students and staff. With the additional factor of declining enrollments, the group would like to establish a long-term (20 year) viable plan that addresses funding for identified needs. The NKTA urges the School Board to authorize a study group made up of school board members, administrators and members of the community whose purpose would be to look at the facts and make recommendations for action. To view more, see our website at www.sau17.org.

Jack Kozec (Newton)-questioned the status of the Memorial School newsletter issue, saying that the voting laws were broken and that the District Attorney is looking into it. He would like to know what the school board is doing about it, that as taxpayers we would like to know. On another issue related to a previous warrant article in which he requested the publishing of employee names, salaries and total costs of fringe benefits, he informed the group that it does not violate HIPPA laws and he would like to know the status of his request.

Charlton Swasey (Kingston)-agrees with Mr. Kozec adding that the School District should spend more time figuring out how to comply with the wishes of the voters as opposed to not doing so. He brought up the Memorial School newsletter issue saying that what happened was Electioneering which is a crime in the state of NH. (Mr. Broderick asked that Mr. Swasey move on to another issue as this one will be discussed in non-public). Mr. Swasey declined and continued on saying that the school board is involved in a cover-up and that the public deserves to know what is going on. To see more, please view the video on www.sau17.org

Cheryl Giordano (Newton) recommended that the District look at food vendors that provide healthy food that is better tasting than what is being offered. The students are skipping meals because they are not happy with the current offerings.

Tammy Gluck (Newton)-responded to the facilities long-term plan request by Ms. Collyer, saying that there is already an extensive plan in place with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which was adopted by the Board. Since there was a lot of work that already went into that, she would not recommend the Board support that request.

Michael Giordano (Newton) –supports the long term plan for facilities saying that voters want to see responsible spending and the Board should investigate those options.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Baker brought up the 9.5 million dollar price tag that accompanies the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan and believes that the community should be involved in any funding decisions going forward. He proposed a Motion that we try to develop a facilities development group that looks at reasonable funding for what need to be done.

Mr. Broderick suggested that the Facilities Committee look at the proposal first and then bring it to the Board. Mr. Baker agreed.

Regarding Mr. Kozec's letter, Mr. Baker asked for a **Motion for the School Board to inquire (through Dr. Blake) with Legal Counsel about the best way to accomplish the spirit and intent of the warrant article. Motion seconded by Mr. Broderick.**

Mr. Broderick is torn by HIPPA laws because they can be read both ways about who is covered by the Privacy Rule, especially in regard to providing individual or total amounts.

Mr. Baker would like to know how to provide the information without violating any laws.

Mr. Broderick asked Administration if they can provide total amounts. Interim Business Administrator, Matt Angell responded that he can provide a total amount but not by department because there could be one person in the department. Under the Right to Know Law, health insurance and dental insurance must be in total amounts (that the school pays).

After discussion about what should be included in this Motion, the following was agreed upon:

Mr. Baker withdrew his original Motion and Mr. Broderick withdrew the Second in favor of the following:

Move that the Board direct the Superintendent to include with the 2016 Annual Report posted on the SAU17 homepage an Addendum which lists all employee names in alphabetical order along with each employee's district position, Step Level, Years employed at SRSD, annual salary and district-paid benefit contributions (excluding HIPAA-related dental and health benefits) for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The grand total amount paid by the district for all HIPAA-related employee benefits will also be shown. This list shall be included in Annual Reports for all subsequent years.

Business Administrator Mr. Angell asked to mull it over because he is limited by the extent of what the law allows and will only be able to comply in those terms.

Mr. Masson asked that it include subsequent years but discussion about the warrant article specifically asks for 2016.

Mr. Broderick stipulated that the Board have the opportunity to change the verbiage at the next meeting, given Legal Counsel's response.

VOTE: All in Favor

Dr. Brown brought up Governor Sununu's comment saying that in fact government is like a business in that there is a voting process similar to shareholders' meetings in business, so both are essentially democratic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS-

a. Committee Assignments

Mr. Broderick explained the process of how he put the committees together. Some changes will be made given input from the school board members. School Board tours will be given for new members by Dr. Blake so those will be scheduled as requested.

b. School Board Training

May 3rd will postpone School Board meeting to May 17th.

c. School Board Goals

Mr. Broderick brought up the Budget and is hoping to have it presented to the School Board by October 4th.

Dr. Brown presented her goals as follows:

Goal 1: Facilities

Finalize plan for disposition of Sanborn Seminary building and structures.

Contact NESDEC (New England School Development Council) for study of potential Middle School re-location, \$10 million Construction Bond; work with Fremont School Board on Middle School planning.

Goal 2: Scheduling and Staffing

Identify HS class sections with 12 or fewer students as enrollment declines and develop scheduling strategies to continue services via innovative methods e.g. consolidation of smaller sections, online high school options, expansion of student clubs, a 7-period HS schedule, and viability study for continuation of the 32-credit "College and Career Diploma with Distinction" diploma (Policy IKE).

Encourage professional staff to obtain dual certification in subject areas related to current duties during 2017-2018 academic year.

Goal 3: Academic Success

Increase efficiency of Sanborn teacher's time by organizing class sections into more homogeneous groups of learners; streamline number of administrative and other non-class meetings teachers attend; allow greater discretion in knowledge-content lesson plans versus competency-based projects to increase time-on-task, content coverage, and student success on transfer-relevant assessments such as SATs.

Explore use of consulting firm to assess efficacy of Competency Based Education and Individualized Instruction model for achieving goals of college prep and adequate breadth of content coverage.

Determine legality of offering signing bonuses to recruit hard-to-attract educators in STEM and other fields to fill positions currently on the Critical Shortage List (as defined by DOE NH website).

Goal 4: Transparency and Fiscal Accountability

Start early on the Budget planning process with bi-weekly working sessions open to public.

Add "public feedback" page where community Correspondence received by Board is web posted.

Ensure Policy DJE (Bidding Requests) requiring "at least 3 bids" for purchases of \$20K or more is enforced with adequate RFP windows for receiving bids.

Modify Finance Subcommittee's line item transfer authority (Policy DBJ) to include changes of \$1,000 or more (reduced from \$10,000 or more).

Mr. Masson asked for clarification on Dr. Brown's Scheduling & Staffing (Goal #2) in regards to continuing to offer courses for classes under 12 students. Will they continue or be cancelled? Dr. Brown responded that she would continue to offer those courses and electives but using methods that can consolidate the smaller classes into larger classes or offering the smaller courses online to save resources as our enrollment drops. Mr. Masson also asked about some of the items in Goal #4 being part of the Policy Subcommittee. Dr. Brown agreed they can look at those items.

Mr. Masson presented his School Board Goals as follows"

- Support the research and implementation of programs that support creativity and innovation of the social and emotional needs of Sanborn students.
- Provide to the Sanborn community a fiscally responsible budget that maintains Sanborn District Goals, aligns with the Strategic Plan and is a commitment to enhancing the quality of the education our students are receiving.
- Develop a StandUp for Public Education Campaign.

Dr. Brown asked whether the StandUP goal includes college transfer for Higher Ed.

Mr. Masson replied that it is a national campaign.

Mr. Baker would like to look at the Goals from 2016-17 and evaluate where the District is regarding those goals as they relate to the Strategic Plan pages 21-41.

Dr. Blake confirmed that he could present that before June.

He would also like to change Goal #4 to read District Facilities Plan versus Seminary Plan. Additionally for Goal #2, put out locked suggestions boxes in the Teachers' Lounge and in the Library.

Tammy Mahoney would like to increase Community involvement via forums and any other means and hopes the Board can schedule those throughout the year (similar to *Road to the Deliberative* held this year). She also agrees with the suggestion made for a Facilities study group. Ms. Mahoney mentioned a community group that would lie to present to the Board called *Newton, Kingston and Fremont New Hampshire: Working for the Future*.

Mr. Broderick informed new members that they can attend any other subcommittee meetings.

Michael Giordano asked Dr. Brown about what she means by a community message board which she explained.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT-

Dr. Blake summarized the resignations of teachers Daniel Smith (Retired), Margaret DeTeso (Resigned for other opportunities) and Jessica Anderson (Relocation).

Motion made to accept the resignations as presented by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Baker.

VOTE: All in Favor.

WRITTEN INFORMATION—None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING 5/17/17

- a. Subcommittee Reports
- b. Goals/Strategic Plan Up-date
- c. Kozec Warrant Article
- d. Food Service Up-date

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Board Conference Room at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next Budget Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:30 in the Board Conference Room at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Broderick asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM, moved by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Baker

NON-PUBLIC Meeting--RSA 91-A: 3-(a) Personnel. A Motion was made by Mr. Broderick to enter into the Non-Public session, seconded by Mr. Masson. A Roll Call vote was held by the secretary. **Vote: All in favor**

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.