

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 7, 2012

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Nancy Ross in the School Board Room, Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH.

The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Kurt Baitz  
Janice Bennett, Vice-Chairperson  
James Doggett  
Thomas Gasse  
Rebecca Hallisey  
Nancy Ross, Chairperson

EXCUSED: Katherine Ulcickas, Student Council Representative

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

### REVIEW AGENDA

Move a. Awards from New Business to next on agenda, move b. Science Curr. from Admin. Reports to March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, add d. Resignations, e. Paperless School Board meetings, and f. Agreement to New Business.

### NEW BUSINESS

*a. Awards* – Dr. Blake introduced two Sanborn employees to receive awards of recognition and gratitude. He began with Carol Meisenheimer from the Drama Department at the Middle School, acknowledging her tremendous work and love for the students and the drama program. Ms. Ross and Mr. Baitz added to his praise. She received gifts and a standing ovation and offered some words of thanks. Next he introduced Jennifer Pomykato, Director of Student Services, calling her an unbelievable asset and recounting examples of her leadership, dedication and council. Ms. Ross added to his comments and Ms. Pomykato was presented with gifts, a standing ovation and shared some of her own thoughts.

### SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Ms. Ross bid a fond farewell to fellow School Board member Kurt Baitz who will not seek reelection after 12 years of service. She thanked him for being a teacher, mentor, for their mutual respect and for his dedication and service.

**A brief recess was called at 7:17 pm to partake of cake with the award recipients. Meeting reconvened at 7:25 pm.**

### MINUTES

Mr. Doggett moved to approve the February 15, 2012 minutes, public and non-public, seconded by Ms. Bennett. Ms. Ross drew attention to a typo on page two under Signage: line 5 – *word* working should read as *wood* working. The vote was 5-0-1 (Gasse-Abstain).

### MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #29 – \$35.00, Accounts Payable #30 - \$947,973.51 and Payroll 18 - \$732,673.71.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

*a. NECAP* – **Dr. Blake** distributed the NECAP report to all and shared his thoughts about the results before turning the time over to Ellen Hume Howard and the district Principals. **Ms. Hume Howard** referred to the key points of the NECAP assessment and took everyone through the scores. She mentioned that the district would ultimately like to see 90% for levels 3 (Proficient) and 4 (Proficient with Distinction) in all three areas (Reading, Math, and Writing) and to identify the writing and math gaps. **Ms. Bamforth, Mr. Van der Els, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Stack** each went through growth, curriculum, instruction, assessment, goals and scores from their schools and addressed gains and losses. Most notable were the dismal math results from the grade 11 high school scores. Board members spoke to the lackluster math results and asked Mr. Stack and Mr. Turmelle for their feedback. **Mr. Baitz** stated that the media has turned the NECAP testing into a statewide district competition instead of the assessment tool for which the testing was intended. He added that we always seem to be chasing math, and constantly changing the curriculum. He added that he feels discouraged, that he regrets voting for block scheduling, that we need year round math, need traditional classroom math instruction, that we can't continue on this course. **Mr. Stack** replied by telling him that next year's master schedule will begin the implementation of year round math to better instruct and prepare 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the NECAP in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. **Dr. Blake** gave his closing remarks by addressing the Top 10% results on pgs. 13-15. Board members added more comments and questions on math instruction and score results; Ms. Bennett agreed that it was a mistake not having sequential math and Mr. Doggett agreed with Mr. Baitz' comments on block scheduling and for a return to traditional instruction

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Cheryl Gannon** of Kingston spoke to NWEA and NECAP correlation and analysis and any data available to follow trends. She added that she was glad to hear scheduling addressed and wondered if we had considered meeting with top 10% schools to discuss math curriculum models. **Bart Noyes** of Kingston thanked Mr. Baitz for his years of School Board service, saying he was a worker and that this was a different district than when he began back in 1999. He asked that we look at math teacher turnover data for the last four years as a possible consideration for the lower high school scores. He then referred to a Board member's comments back in the November 2011 minutes regarding real estate transactions and food pantry use statistics and the impact on how the community might vote in this economic climate and then gave new statistics from a recent article in the Eagle Tribune on current New Hampshire and Rockingham County home sale number and price trends.

**The meeting adjourned for a 10 minute recess from 9:15 to 9:25 pm**

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

*a. Public Relations* – Mr. Gasse reported that they met last Wednesday and reviewed the Seminary project brochure, discussed upcoming articles for the Carriage Towne News and tentatively scheduled the next meeting for March 28.

*b. Policy* – Ms. Bennett reported that they met February 22 and went through the K policies and reaffirmed several and looked at some that are required by law. Their next meeting will be determined later.

*c. Facilities* – Mr. Baitz reported that they met this morning and discussed attic insulation projects for the Bakie and Memorial Schools, the heating and ventilation study at the Memorial School and the fire suppression system with generator. He added that they discussed a draft agreement that will come up tonight in New Business.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

**Ms. Bennett** thanked Mr. Baitz for serving 12 years on the Board, added twice that she was annoyed he was leaving, thanked him for being a person she would always count on, call, and trust. She then spoke to this weekend's upcoming production of West Side Story. She ended by saying that the NECAP presentation was very informative and that in spite of some results, she was not discouraged. **Mr. Doggett** also thanked Mr. Baitz for his service and invited him to attend meetings in the audience. **Mr. Baitz** emotionally expressed his feelings about his years on the Board and why he ran in the first place. He reflected on how much had changed in the district over that period of time, most for the good but adding a couple decisions he regretted. He thanked by name the many people that mentored, taught and guided him over the years and how they specifically influenced him. He mentioned a former 2005 graduate, Dustin Ramey who will be running for his seat and how he watched him grow up and now return to serve. He ended by saying that he asks the public and parents to be accountable, get involved, get back to basics, use common sense and then he reminded us that he "eats, breathes and believes" in Sanborn.

NEW BUSINESS

**a. Spring Coaching Positions** – Mr. Doggett motioned to approve the 16 filled and 1 open positions on the memo dated February 29, 2012. Ms. Bennett seconded and the vote was 6-0-0.

**b. Policies** – Mr. Doggett motioned to reaffirm policies IMG, KEC, KEC-R, KFA-R, KFAA, and KLG. Ms. Bennett seconded; the vote was 6-0-0.

Mr. Doggett motioned to approve for First Reading/Revise New/Delete Old policies EBBB and KFA. He asked if KFA needed to go through legal counsel. After discussion the Board agreed to send it back to Policy to list the exclusions and correct the effective date. The vote as 6-0-0.

Mr. Doggett motioned to approve for First Reading/Revise GCLA. Ms. Bennett seconded – the vote was 6-0-0.

Mr. Baitz motioned to approve for First Reading/New policies GBJA, GBJA-R, IGE, IMGA, KCD, KCD-R, and KED. Mr. Doggett seconded. Mr. Doggett asked if IGE was in compliance. The dollar amount was questioned by Mr. Doggett in KCD and discussion followed. The vote was 6-0-0.

Mr. Doggett motioned to approve for Second Reading/Delete policies KDA and KDA-R. In his motion he specified that they be approved for deletion but to be retained for historical value/reference. Mr. Gasse seconded and the vote was 6-0-0.

**c. Resignation** – Motion made by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Baitz, to accept the resignation of Alicia Ford with regret. Ms. Ford has been employed by SRSD for 13 years and is leaving for child-rearing. Vote was 5-1 (Doggett).

**d. Paperless Board Meetings** – Dr. Blake presented information describing implementation of laptops for School Board members use during the school board meeting. Documents would be sent through e-mail attachment for review by the Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Doggett stated he has concern about ease of access of electronic documents. Ms. Bennett asked if laptops might limit conversation as members look at the screen rather than each other. Ms. Hallisey inquired if there would be a folder in which members could save personal notes. Ms. Ross commented that this might be an opportunity to "go green" and provide electronic means for storing and accessing information. Dr. Blake will look into having a live demonstration to the members of the school board.

**e. Agreement** – Ms. Coppola presented draft agreement between school district and the Congregational Church. According to Ms. Coppola, legal counsel recommended that the Board review and agree only on general terminology and price. Motion made by Mr. Doggett, seconded by Mr. Baitz, to agree to general terms of the Agreement. Discussion held as to next steps. Ms. Coppola explained that the details will be addressed as noted by the Board members, reviewed by legal counsel before being brought to the Board for a final vote. Vote was 6-0-0.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT

None

WRITTEN INFORMATION

Dr. Blake presented letter from SRHS Principal, Mr. Stack, dated February 16, 2012. In this letter, Mr. Stack requested approval for carnival fundraiser in June 2012, after student dismissal for the summer. Ms. Bennett inquired if there are any costs to the district. Ms. Coppola stated there are none. Mr. Doggett inquired if there are insurance and liability issues that could arise. Ms. Coppola explained that this carnival is much smaller than typical; the business carries their own insurances; references are exceptional. Motion made by Mr. Doggett to approve this request for the carnival fundraiser as outlined in Mr. Stack's letter. Mr. Gasse seconded. Vote was unanimous.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Science Curriculum

Board Reorganization

Reaffirmation of Policies

School Board Appointments

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Bart Noyes** of Kingston expressed concern about water distribution as described in Agreement between District and the Congregational Church. Mr. Noyes reviewed a notice from Unthitel that describes scholarships available to high school seniors. Copy of this notice was given the Board Chairperson Ross. Mr. Noyes asked if the Board were to go the paperless meetings, he had questions about public access and use of electronic texting during the public meeting. Mr. Noyes expressed concern about comments on Facebook about the Seminary revitalization. Mr. Noyes commented that there seems to be confusion and misinformation on the part of those using Facebook to discuss the Seminary project.

**Cheryl Gannon** of Kingston commended Mr. Kurt Baitz for his years of service to the Sanborn Regional School District and to the School Board, as both a participant and as a leader. Ms. Gannon stated that Mr. Baitz is a role model as someone who cares about kids, encouraging folks to get involved.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, March 21, 2012** at 7:00 pm at the Sanborn Regional High School, Room 100, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.
- b. The **Second (Voting) Session of the Annual School District Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, March 13, 2012**, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in the Swasey Gymnasium (Sanborn Seminary Campus) for Kingston voters and in the Newton Town Hall for Newton voters.
- c. The next meeting of the **Policies Committee** will be held March 28 (tentative date)
- d. The next meeting of the **Facilities Committee** must be scheduled.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II Legal, Attorney-Client privilege

Motion made by Mr. Doggett to enter non-public under RSA 91-A: 3 II (legal: attorney-client privilege). Ms. Pomykato polled the Board. Board entered non-public session at 10:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Therese Sargeant  
School Board Secretary

*Minutes of school board meetings are unofficial until approved at a subsequent meeting of the school board*