

## **SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**August 22, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairperson Nancy Ross in room 137, Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH.

The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:	Janice Bennett, Vice Chairperson
	James Doggett
	Cheryl Gannon
	Rebecca Hallisey
	Wendy Miller
	Dustin Ramey
	Nancy Ross, Chairperson
	Molly Statezni, Student Council Representative
ADMINISTRATORS:	Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools
	Jennifer Pomykato, Director of Student Services
	Carol Coppola, Business Manager

The meeting began with the Salute to the flag.

### **NON PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 IIC Legal**

Mr. Doggett motioned to enter into non-public session at 7:06 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the board. All in favor.

At 7:28 PM, the non-public session ended. Mr. Doggett made a motion that JW be readmitted to enter school. Ms. Gannon seconded the motion.

### **REVIEW AGENDA**

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Doggett made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. Ms. Bennett made a motion to correct the School Board Chairperson's comment to read: "The student council representative is welcome to attend all school board meetings and that the representative is welcome to add agenda items to the 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly school board meeting". Mr. Doggett asked that the dollar amount of the repairs to the modular classrooms be added to the minutes (\$79,000.00). Ms. Gannon

asked that the wording be changed under New Business, Middle School Calendar Request to read 6 in favor, 1 opposed. Ms. Ross polled the board. All in favor to make corrections.

### **MANIFEST**

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Payroll #2 -\$205,543.60; Payroll #4 - \$184,349.69; Accounts Payable #4 - \$780.00; Accounts Payable #5 – 493,928.18.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dr. Blake reported that three quarters of Sanborn staff had participated in summer programs. 200 students participated in the summer program – kudos to Ms. Pomykato. The buildings are in great shape and ready to open – kudos to the facilities staff. The opening breakfast is being held tomorrow (8/23/12) morning. The Commissioner of Education will be making a presentation. Ms. Coppola gave a brief overview of projects that took place over the summer: attic insulation at Memorial and Bakie schools; Bakie windows replaced; Memorial and Middle school modular classroom improvements were made; the work on the outdoor classroom at Bakie continues; work was done at the Middle School kitchen – ovens were installed, the electric has been updated; new kitchen equipment at the Memorial School; air conditioning has been installed at the Middle School library and art room; the Press Box at the high school is almost complete. Ms. Bennett asked when the outdoor classroom will be ready to use – Ms. Coppola responded it would be ready in about a month.

Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Shore and Ms. Hume-Howard gave a presentation on the Middle School schedule. Ms. Hume-Howard gave a history of the schedule. Every class is 60 minutes long with the exception of the Unified Arts classes which were 45 minutes long. These classes will now be 60 minutes long. Students in grades 1-9 attend PE two times per week. Mr. Shore met with the teachers to get their input on the schedules. Students are still working in teams. Teams stay together throughout the day, teachers move among the teams. The schedule is fundamentally the same, with more emphasis on music. Ms. Ross asked what happens when students want to take multiple PDB's (unified arts classes)? Ms. Hume Howard responded that most students get all the PDB's they request, but there are only so many hours in a school day. Mr. Rutherford added that they try to accommodate all students; nothing is "set-in-stone". Ms. Miller asked that teams be explained. Mr. Rutherford explained how teams work. Ms. Gannon asked if PDB classes are now 60 minutes long – yes. She asked that cross teams be explained. Mr. Rutherford explained cross teams among both teachers and teams. Ms. Miller asked if the enrollment figures were available for the Middle School – no.

Ms. Ross welcomed Molly Statezni back. Ms. Statezni reported that the Student Council had met over the summer and that plans are underway for the Homecoming on September 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is animals: farm, arctic, birds and jungle animals. Molly said Homecoming

was something all students look forward to. Ms. Ross encouraged everyone to attend Homecoming. This is a great family day. Come show your support for Sanborn.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Hallisey reported that the Public Relations Committee met on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The main topic was the Essential News. The Committee would like to consider a name change to the publication – something “lighter”. Ms. Gannon offered to do a draft. The Committee would like to see the Essential News go out quarterly. A brief discussion on the history of the Essential News was covered. Ms. Bennett said the Essential News was created when the district lost some of the local newspapers. Mr. Doggett agreed the Essential News should be “lightened up” – made more reader friendly. Ms. Ross asked if the district did not mail the news to the public could the board increase the amount of issues?

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT**

Ms. Ross welcomed everyone back, hoped everyone had a nice summer. Ms. Ross is looking forward to the new school year. She reminded everyone that tomorrow (8/23/12) was the opening breakfast. She encouraged all school board members to attend. Ms. Ross also reminded the board members about a March meeting in which it was agreed that the school board meetings would be kept to a reasonable length. Ms. Ross and Dr. Blake will monitor the agendas going forward. If there are too many items, some items will be moved to the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

One parent with children in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades had questions/concerns with the curriculum – some grades would go without art, music and drama. She is concerned about the lack of exposure to language and arts. When will the band be meeting? She is concerned about the added time to the PDB’s (from 45 minutes to 60 minutes). Kids aren’t “happy”, the added time may be small to the adults, but to the kids it may seem long. Another parent spoke about not all students being exposed to band and chorus. She is concerned about the students who do not excel academically. She said that some students excel/shine in the arts. This is important to their self-esteem. She feels that if a student is self-confident, they will improve in academics. Another parent said that art and music are a lifeline in some students’ lives. She’s afraid the students are getting the message that arts aren’t important. Mr. Rutherford said he was available to meet with concerned parents. The School Board urged the parents to contact Mr. Rutherford to further discuss their concerns. Mr. Rutherford explained what teams are and how they work. Mr. Rutherford told parents that on Tuesday, 8/28/12 was a school day for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students only. On Wednesday, 8/29/12, all students in grades 6 through 8 would attend school. Mr. Clark of Kingston said he was concerned that school board members can’t be contacted – there is no information on the website with this information. Ms. Ross told Mr.

Clark where to find this information on the website. Ms. Gluck asked what the student/teacher ratio was at the Middle School. She is concerned about the lack of communication between the transition between elementary and middle school. She also stated that the School Board agenda was not posted on the website for tonight's meeting.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Gannon stated that the Public Relations Committee has work to do. She also inquired when she would receive her school badge. Ms. Gannon feels the School Board should be more responsive to the public. She feels the School Board needs to take into consideration everything that the public said about the Middle School scheduling. Ms. Gannon would like to promote communication within the district – open up more avenues for communication. Ms. Bennett said she was happy to receive an Arts Calendar from the high school. She said they did a fine job. Ms. Hallisey thanked everyone for coming out tonight and expressing their concerns.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resignations: Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the resignation with the understanding that the employee reimburses the district for the cost of health insurance. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. 6 in favor/1 opposed.
- B. Nominations: Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the nominations. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Doggett asked about the addition of a first grade teacher at the Bakie School. Was this position originally a budget cut? The answer was no, enrollment dictated the additional first grade position.
- C. DOE-25. School Board members signed.
- D. Food Service Agreement: Will be discussed at next meeting.
- E. Review of Goals: Ms. Gannon said she is concerned about the SB goals – doesn't see anything with any substance. Ms. Gannon is not impressed with the goals. Mr. Doggett stated that goals #2, 3 and 4 are not new goals – they are already doing these. Ms. Bennett stated that some of these goals have been discussed for 14 years; she feels that the School Board is failing. Ms. Bennett would like to see more forums held in the district. She is disappointed that there wasn't a 5/6 grade transition forum to keep the public informed. Ms. Gannon stated that the School Board tells the Administrators what the School Board wants, and the Administrators report back to the Superintendent. Mr. Doggett stated that the Administration goals should be tied in with the Board goals. Ms. Bennett stated there should be an improvement in school/home communication. Ms. Gannon stated she would like to see more accountability and follow-up. Six goals were presented to the Board. The Board agreed on three: Ms. Ross will rework the goals and

email the new/revised goals to the SB members. There will be a School Board Work Session Wednesday, 8/29/12 at 6:30 PM to fine tune the SB goals.

**COMMUNICATION RECEIVED/SENT**

Ms. Ross shared a thank you card received by Katherine Ulcickas, 2011/12 Student Council Representative thanking the Board for the scholarship granted to her.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next School Board Work Session will be held on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012, at 7:00 PM in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA91-A:3 Ild Legal**

Mr. Doggett motioned to enter into non-public session at 10:05 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

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.*