

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

December 5, 2012

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Chairperson Nancy Ross in room 137 at 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

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

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Six in favor to accept the November 14, 2012 minutes. Abstain: Ms. Gannon

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #15 - \$1,024,159.31; Payroll #11 - \$809,131.81; Payroll #12 \$739,534.79.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Blake asked that the SB engage in discussion on the budget presentation of 11/14/12. Ms. Ross would like the SB's opinions/comments on the 11/14/12 budget presentation. Mr. Doggett expressed his concerns of what the cumulative effect of a 2.9% increase in the budget plus the negotiated contracts would mean to taxpayers. "If we had money left last year, how much could we cut the budget and still meet SRSD needs?" Mr. Doggett also stated that the District spent \$761,000.00 in May and June on unbudgeted expenses. Mr. Doggett stated one

area he felt a cut could be made is in the Math Coordinator position. This was supposed to be a “temporary position” (3 years).

Ms. Gannon stated she appreciated the fact that the November 14th meeting was taped. This “was very valuable to me as I wasn’t able to attend”. Ms. Gannon had questions on the kindergarten intervention program. Seeing as 4% of Memorial School kindergarten participated in the intervention kindergarten, she assumed that Bakie School kindergarten was also at 4% participation. Dr. Blake responded that the full day intervention kindergarten reaches far more than the 4% of students attending at both schools.

Ms. Gannon spoke of the large amount of money spent on Everyday Math consumables. “Would the company allow copying of the worksheets?” No, because of copyright laws.

Ms. Gannon spoke of the opening video by Jamie Vollmer at the November 14th meeting which outlined the additional demands of the schools today. She stated she’s not sure what schools are required to offer. “Where does the requirement come from to do all the extras in the Vollmer presentation?”

Ms. Gannon asked if the District has reached out to the community for financial help regarding Chase Field House. Ms. Gannon asked if the District has the resources to expand the band program. What about the hockey program? Currently the District has relied on the parent booster club to raise the funds for this program. Will this become a District expense at some future time? What are the District’s priorities?

In regards to BYOD (bring your own device), what is the plan for moving forward with BYOD? Ms. Gannon asked about the preschool program. Currently the program has 50% special needs students and 50% tuition students. “If more special needs students are enrolled, do we increase the amount of tuition students?” Ms. Pomykato responded that this is a dilemma that the district is facing as enrollment for students with disabilities is increasing. Ms. Pomykato stated that State guidelines state that the district is supposed to have 50% special needs/50% tuition students. The special ed needs have increased over the last five years, “this did not happen overnight”. One thought is to “push out” some of these students to community programs.

Dr. Blake responded about technology needs and the District moving towards BYODs. He stated that many students have their own devices and want to use their devices. He pointed out that the cost of online textbooks is far cheaper than conventional textbooks. Mr. Stack said that the 9th grade World History textbook is scheduled to be replaced next year at \$185.00 per book. The same book online is \$15.00. The money saved on textbooks could be used to

purchase devices. The District does not have a formal plan yet. The high school is being fitted for wireless.

Ms. Bamforth stated that the Everyday Math program is not only a math assessment, but the students express their understanding of language in their writing. Ms. Bamforth stated that the consumable math book cannot be copied due to copyright laws.

Mr. VanderEls added that some of the students in the intervention kindergarten program have surpassed some of their peers in the classroom. Ms. Gannon asked what “common core” is. Ms. Bamforth responded that common core refers to a common curriculum across the United States. Forty six states participate. Common core begins in kindergarten.

Ms. Ross responded to Ms. Gannon’s question on the Jamie Vollmer video concerning the “extras” that the schools are now being required to cover. Ms. Ross stated that these are federal mandates. One example Ms. Ross cited was that “schools must serve three square meals a day”.

Ms. Bennett responded to Ms. Gannon’s questions. “No one in this room has any experience or background in electronic books or devices in the classroom. This is all new. Change is good. This is all new territory.” Ms. Hume-Howard addressed the technology needs. There is a group of teachers who have been trained in new technology and they are sharing with all the teachers. Dr. Blake spoke of the notion of utilizing e-books in the library. “No one is wasting money without research. Anything we do is very well researched.”

Ms. Hallisey asked if it was time to charge an activity fee? A discussion was held on the pros and cons of charging an activity fee. It was agreed that more discussion is needed.

Mr. Doggett proposed that the major savings in textbooks be put towards purchasing electronic devices. Ms. Ross stated that the increase in healthcare was not as much as expected. Mr. Doggett proposed to keep the budget at last year’s amount – keep the budget at a 0% increase to enhance the chances of passing the contracts. Dr. Blake stated that he “doesn’t want it to be construed that we had a fat budget going in, there were numerous savings during the year which led to a surplus”.

Ms. Hallisey stated “we’re not being good stewards if we allow our buildings to deteriorate”. Ms. Gannon was complimentary of Ms. Coppola and Mr. Riley in their saving the district money and looking for grant money.

Ms. Ross stated that the contract numbers should be available soon

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Negotiations:

Dr. Blake stated that the contracts have not been settled but “are very close”. They should be signing off on the proposed contracts at the next Negotiations meeting.

b. Budget:

Ms. Gannon reported that the Budget Committee is looking at the proposed budget more deeply. The Budget Committee Chair asked the BudCom members if they could attend tonight’s SB meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT

Ms. Ross attended the High School production of Arsenic & Old Lace. It was “tremendous”. “If I could have, I would have attended every performance.” Ms. Ross complimented the entire production team for doing such a great job.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kurt Baitz of Kingston asked (concerning the budget presentation) “Where were you guys six months ago? That’s when these questions should have been asked. Concerning the SB goals, Mr. Baitz stated “there aren’t any (goals)”. “These aren’t goals.”

Mr. Baitz stated “You need to move. You need leadership.” He asked about the goal of finding the SAU new space. “What does this mean?” “You need to move at a faster pace to move the District forward.” Mr. Baitz stated that there was not one substantial goal. “You need a goal you can achieve.” “You have to think forward.” Mr. Baitz spoke of the SB Essential News. This is all “fluff”, old news. “For your information, I was on the School Board for twelve years.”

Mr. Bart Noyes of Kingston had a question for the SB. “How will the public learn about the budget questions and answers?” He asked that the questions and answers be put on the SRSD website. Mr. Noyes commented on the unexpended budget. “The voters authorized the District to spend the amount of money necessary to run the schools.” “When the unexpended budget doesn’t get spent, you’re not doing what the public/voters asked for.” Mr. Noyes stated, “My belief is you spend what the public votes for.” Mr. Noyes spoke of Germany and how the preschool is a full day beginning at three years old. He spoke of the budget request for substitute nurses. The nurse’s office is a “walk-in clinic”. You need to keep this clinic open while nurses are out.

Mr. Roger Clark of Kingston said he would like to offer some options in regards to the budget. “Cut the 3 ½ % increase for Administrators to 2 ½%”; “Increase the cost of healthcare for employees so that employees contribute 50% of the premium”; and “Keep the kindergarten at its current half-day program”. “The district is not responsible for providing day care.”

Ms. Gannon responded to some of the public comments. Regarding the SB Essential News, it was the intent to get the newsletter out earlier. "Criticism accepted, we're working on it.". Ms. Gannon replied to Mr. Noyes comment regarding spending the unexpended budget money. "I hadn't thought of it like that." Ms. Gannon stated she feels that SRSD has done a great job with the budget. She thinks the past budgets have been good from a school and taxpayer perspective.

Ms. Bennett stated that she takes exception to Mr. Clark's comment on kindergarten being a "day care". Mr. Doggett responded to Mr. Noyes' comment that the taxpayers approved the budget and that the money should be spent (concerning the unexpended budget). Mr. Doggett stated that the District is required to spend the money in accordance with the posted budget. "We lose the voters' confidence when we spend money on projects that are not authorized."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Goals Update: Dr. Blake reported that as an administrative team they are improving curriculum. Conversation has begun on K-12 foreign language curriculum. Administration has not reported out to the SB concerning the math curriculum. Discussions have been held on PLC, Smarter Balance, Lab Networks. A presentation has been made on the music program. The recent MS band concert was awesome "gave me goose bumps", great to see.

Concerning the goal of communication, Dr. Blake reported that the websites are in much better shape. Nothing has been done about housing the SAU staff.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2013-2014 Calendar: table until the next meeting
- b. Policies. Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the 2nd reading of policy JLIA, Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the 2nd reading of policy JLIA.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT: none

WRITTEN INFORMATION: none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Noyes of Kingston stated that the voters vote on a bottom line budget number. "It is the District's prerogative to spend the line amount." Mr. Noyes stated that the NH average income has increased from 2009 to 2012 from \$56,000.00 per year to \$62,000 per year. Mr. Noyes stated that property tax is a "heartless tax". It must be paid. "If you have no income, you pay property tax." "If you have an illness, you pay property tax." Mr. Noyes stated that he is an advocate to broaden the tax base.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ross polled the SB concerning the next SB meeting which is scheduled for December 19th at 7:00 PM. All in favor to move the next SB meeting to Monday, December 10th at 7:00 PM at the SRHS.

Ms. Bennett reported that she had attended the SRHS production of Arsenic & Old Lace – “wonderful”. Ms. Bennett cited the Blue Ribbon School Award of Volunteer of the Year being presented to Barbara Johnson from Memorial School. This is an example of the SB awards she would like to see implemented. Ms. Ross stated that Barbara Johnson “absolutely exemplifies *volunteer*, such an honor and well deserved”.

Ms. Gannon attended Arsenic & Old Lace “Outstanding . . . did a terrific job . . . compliment crew and production team”. Ms. Gannon attended the MS concert, “not a seat in the house”. “It was great to see the participation.” Ms. Gannon, “It’s great to recognize good things going on.”

Ms. Gannon commented on the SB goals. She stated that she’s disappointed there hasn’t been much progress on the goals. The goals need time limits. SB members need to “step up to the plate”. Ms. Gannon suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to inform the public of the SAU Office space needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **Sanborn Regional School Board** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 2, 2013**, at **7:00 PM** at the **Sanborn Regional High School, room 137**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The **Budget Committee Public Hearing** will be held on **Wednesday, January 9, 2013**, at **7:00 PM** at the **Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The **Filing Period** for positions on the Sanborn Regional School Board, the Sanborn Regional Budget Committee and the District Moderator will open on **Wednesday, January 23, 2013**, and end on **Friday, February 1, 2013, at 5:00 PM**. *The candidate filing forms may be obtained at the SAU Office from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The School District Clerk will be available on the last day to file from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston.*

The **First (Deliberative) Session** of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 6, 2013**, at **7:00 PM** at the **Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The **Second (Voting) Session** of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013**, from **8:00 AM to 8:00 PM** in the Swasey Gym (Sanborn Seminary Campus) for Kingston voters and in the Newton Town Hall for Newton voters.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA91-A:3 Ilc Student

Mr. Doggett motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:40 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.