

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2012

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, March 21, 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: Janice Bennett, Vice-Chairperson  
James Doggett  
Cheryl Gannon (newly elected)  
Rebecca Hallisey  
Wendy Miller (newly elected)  
Dustin Ramey (newly elected)  
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

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Sargeant called for a nomination for School Board Chair. Ms. Bennett nominated Nancy Ross, Mr. Doggett seconded and the vote was 7-0-0. Ms. Hallisey nominated Janice Bennett as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Ross. The vote was 6-0-1 (Doggett-abstain).

### REVIEW AGENDA

Move d. Ice Hockey from New Business to a. under Administrative Reports.

### MINUTES

Mr. Doggett moved to approve the March 7, 2012 minutes, public and non-public, seconded by Ms. Bennett. Mr. Doggett noted a typo on page 4 under Public Comment, line 2. Unthitel was corrected to read Unitil. The vote was 5-0-2 (Miller,Gannon-Abstain).

### MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #31 – \$127.00, Accounts Payable #32 - \$584.80, Accounts Payable #33 – 224,625.23 and Payroll 19 - \$741,591.35.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**a. Ice Hockey – AD Vicky Parady-Guay** turned the floor over to Dena Bouzianis, Mr. Leavitt, and Ms. Buonopane. Ms. Bouzianis requested permission to establish a Sanborn High School JV Ice Hockey Team for the 2012-2013 school year. She shared her commitment for the formation and fundraising of the team and went through the pieces of her estimated budget. She mentioned that most parents pay up to \$2000 per season so their kids can play the sport and offered a maximum price per student (to be paid by the student/family) of \$751. She stated that she was confident that by forming a non-profit group “Sanborn Ice Hockey”, they could raise enough money to cover the entire budget. The three presenters fielded questions from Board members who asked about costs, liability insurance, building a schedule and fundraising. Ms. Bennett asked what the School Board has to do with the formation of the team. Ms. Parady-Guay replied that in order to carry the

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (continued)

Sanborn High name, per NHIAA regulations, it would have to fall under the school district umbrella. Ms. Coppola stated that the district has the Boosters Club and asked why they would form a non-profit for Ice Hockey and not work together with the Boosters. Ms. Coppola added that in order to carry the Sanborn name, the team has to follow school district policies and that the district has to take care of the accounting and invoices instead of the non-profit group. Ms. Bennett expressed that she sees an enormous conflict in establishing the team as presented and asked them to fashion the plan more completely and clearly and meet with Dr. Blake and Ms. Coppola. Ms. Ross finished by asking the three presenters to meet with Ms. Parady-Guay, Dr. Blake, Ms Coppola to work it all out and then bring it back to the School Board.

**b. Science Curriculum** – Dr. Blake went over the Science Curriculum Goal (to complete a review of Science Dept. district wide to ensure that it is rigorous and meets the needs of all students) findings with the Board per his distributed report. He gave his sources of information and went over the findings for all three levels; elementary, middle and high school. The report revealed that at the High School, science interest is causing “growing pains” and that we are understaffed, have had high teacher turnover in that area (6 out of our 7 teachers have been here less than 3 years), and that standardized testing shows a weakness in the science area. Ms. Hume Howard pointed out that the report didn’t show whether other comparing schools’ test scores were increasing in that area though their overall scores were higher than ours while we were making improvements each year from where we started. The Board asked many questions about our curriculum such as how we test scientific inquiry, do we have science fairs at all levels, are science scores higher in areas of the state and country where there are institutions or companies that are science related, how we use Nova Net at the Middle and High Schools for science, topic based curriculum, math strands, if literary skills affect student answers on tests, what project based learning look like, teaching materials, and what our eventual goal is (goal per Dr. Blake – that all become proficient/proficient with distinction).

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Miss Ulcickas reported that they have begun planning Earth Week, will hold another plant sale in June, that Seniors won Winter Carnival, and that the Council will attend a Regional meeting next week.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT

**Ms. Ross** welcomed the three new members to the Board and she cautioned new and seasoned members to remember that they represent the Board, District and community and must be professional, respectful and keep confidentiality at all times. She said that there will be a work session on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of May.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Bart Noyes** of Kingston welcomed the new members and stated that it’s going to be an interesting year with two new contracts and the Seminary building project to work on. He spoke to teacher pay and the contracts and high staff turnover perhaps contributing to non-optimal student performances. He said that he was disappointed that the Seminary project did not pass with voters and asked the Board to consider selling the Seminary building and land to a buyer, contingent on said buyer renting some of it back to the district but using portions of the property/building for purposes of making a profit on the investment. Mr. Noyes spoke about the unseasonably warm temperatures and asked the district to plan in the event that some rooms are too warm to use.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

**Mary Cyr** of Kingston welcomed the new members. She said she found it interesting that the schools we use to compare our district to are in generally wealthy areas where they can attract better teachers. She suggested that we invest in in class enrichment programs for the students at the younger levels instead of out of class programs. She referred to the March 7 Board minutes and thanked Mr. Stack for implementing year round math beginning next year. She suggested working more closely with exceptional students and those with special needs. Mary spoke to Dr. Blake's personal goals for the district and asked if the Board was aware of them and said those goals should roll down through the district. She then referred to a recent letter she sent to Dr. Blake where she asked the district to set a goal that is reasonable, attainable and logical. She asked where on the webpage one can find where we are as a district and asked that we make those measures more visible and easier to find. **Mary Merritt** of Newton said that she was very disappointed with her children's experiences in this school district and that she has been looking for enrichment for them for 8 years. She gave an example of an experience her daughter had and asked that we implement programs that allow bright students to soar and that we work on enrichment to engage students at all levels.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

**Ms. Bennett** commented that she was the old person in the room and felt a great deal of empathy for the public speakers. She said that she thought that public education has failed everywhere in regard to the gifted cohort and stressed that we need to serve that population better. She added that she thinks that there is a strong socioeconomic correlation when it comes to student results and that democracy depends on people being educated. **Mr. Doggett** said that the public comment tonight represents the pendulum swing of public education – every time it swings we lose momentum. He also said that we need keep stats and follow our students that go onto college to see how far they go. **Ms. Gannon** thanked voters for electing her to the Board. She said that the town of Newton was trying to find someone to continue videography of meetings. She replied to public comment saying that the issues they brought up are not new to us and that solutions will be a part of goal setting and hopes that the topic will be actively discussed at the work session in May. She added that we have good teachers, kids and administrators and we pledge to educate those kids. **Jen Pomykato** replied to public comment saying that in many states the gifted are recognized under the special education program but not in New Hampshire. **Ms. Hallisey** agreed with Jen and added a few more words to the topic of gifted and talented falling under special education elsewhere.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. ***Appointment of District Officers*** – Mr. Doggett moved to approve the appointment of Ronal Brickett as School District Treasurer with stipend. Ms. Bennett seconded and the vote was 7-0-0. Mr. Doggett motioned to approve the appointment of Donna LeBlanc as Deputy Treasurer with zero stipend. Ms. Bennett seconded and the vote was 7-0-0. Mr. Doggett motioned to approve the appointment of Gail LeBlanc as Clerk with stipend, seconded by Ms. Bennett and the vote was 7-0-0.
- b. ***Re-affirmation of School Board Policies – Policy BDA*** – Mr. Doggett motioned for the re-affirmation of SB policies per policy BDA with a second by Ms. Bennett and a 7-0-0 vote.
- c. ***Committee Assignments*** – Ms. Ross asked all Board members to email her with their top three preferences by March 30. She will have their assignments by the next Board meeting.
- d. ***Policies for Second Reading – Approval will be deferred until next meeting so that new members have chance to read them over.***

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT

Letter from Mary Cyr

WRITTEN INFORMATION

Information emailed from Ms. LeBlanc regarding School Board business/refresher and orientation workshops.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Policies for second reading  
Committee Assignments

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Bart Noyes** of Kingston commented on the issue of gifted and talented students, saying that legislators have the responsibility to act. He said that this cohort faces the same challenge that all minorities do and again said that this needs to be addressed by the local legislative body that is diverse in nature. **Mary Cyr** referred back to her letter to the district regarding the content in the February 15, 2012 minutes about the 40 of 189 seniors who were taking online or other alternative measures to be able to graduate. She asked is this was a Guidance issue and how they fell through the cracks. Ms. Ross and Dr. Blake replied that they would respond to her letter but not during public comment.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

**Mr. Doggett** suggested that Board members save their Board related papers for a while but then recycle them. He also asked if Board related documents sent by email could be doc not docx so those with older systems could open the attachments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, April 4, 2012** at 7:00 pm at the Sanborn Regional High School, Room 100, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 IIc – Personnel and Legal

Mr. Doggett motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:50 pm. Ms. Sargeant polled the Board.

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*