

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**June 5, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday June 5, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:22 PM by School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:           Janice Bennett, Chairperson  
                                                  Renee King  
                                                  Jon LeBlanc  
                                                  Wendy Miller  
                                                  Dustin Ramey  
                                                  Nancy Ross  
                                                  Molly Statezni, Student Council Representative  
                                                  Nathan Mailloux, 2013-2014 Student Council Rep.

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

Excused/Tardy:                       Rebecca Hallisey, Vice Chairperson

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the May 22, 2013 (public and non-public) were reviewed. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the minutes of both the public and non-public meetings and Ms. King seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the public and non-public meeting minutes.

**MANIFEST**

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #28 - \$969,836.99; Accounts Payable #29 - \$3,800.00; Payroll #24 - \$836,952.53.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dr. Blake invited the School Principals to tonight's meeting along with Ms. Ellen Hume-Howard to answer questions/concerns of the SB members concerning the comments section of the report cards. Some board members have expressed concern that teachers are not writing in the comments section. Ms. King said she would like to see comments written on the report cards. She has spoken with parents who don't understand what the new grades mean. What is an IP? What level are their children on? Parents would like to know student's strengths and weaknesses. Mr. VanderEl's replied that it is the intent of the school to sit down with parents and go over the student's progress. Ms. Hume-Howard stated that SRSD really encourages teachers to meet with parents – get to know the parents. Ms. Ross asked if teachers are required to write student comments. No. Ms. Ross stated that not all parents can meet with the teachers. "It's not always possible to have that 1-1 relationship". Mr. VanderEl's stated that maybe there are things that could be done to help parents better understand the standards based report card. Ms. Hume-Howard stated that rubrics also go home with the students for parents to review. Ms. Ross stated, "There sounds like there is a problem. I think something else needs to be added to the comments." Mr. LeBlanc asked if there was a way to see how many student report cards have comments. Ms. Hume-Howard stated that yes there is a way to see what percentage of report cards have comments, but couldn't share what the comments are due to privacy issues. Mr. LeBlanc said he wasn't looking for specific comments, but rather what percentage of report cards do have comments. Ms. Bennett asked if the District has been good at communicating what the standards based grades are all about. Dr. Blake stated that he thinks this is key; the standards based report cards are a "different language". "What we are seeing is very different than what we've been accustomed to. The game has changed. The conversations that we're having with parents has changed." Ms. Hume-Howard stated that the administrators will be taking steps to better communication with parents. Ms. King stated that she would like to see the percentage of each school that has written comments on the student report cards. Ms. King stated that she doesn't get calls or emails unless there is an issue. Ms. Miller stated she has never received any comments from her student's teachers and "I do have good communication with teachers." Mr. Stack stated they (the HS) encourage communication with the parents all the time. Mr. Rutherford stated he feels it's complicated on both sides. He said that teachers are expected to be in contact with parents of struggling students. Dr. Blake said that the new reporting system is more complex. The new report cards provide more information on the student's progress. Mr. LeBlanc asked if the teacher's expectations go home with the students. Ms. Hume-Howard replied yes, they go home as hand-outs with the students. There are also documents available on line that parents are able to view. Ms. Hume-Howard thanked the SB for the feedback and stated that she really appreciates it.

## **New Business:**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Molly thanked the SB for her scholarship. “I really appreciate it.” “Thank you for making me part of the board.” Molly introduced Nathaniel Mailloux, the new student council representative. “He’s a very good kid.” “I think he’ll do a very good job.” Ms. Bennett thanked Molly for her time on the SB.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dr. Blake reported that the Personnel Committee had met. A lot of information was reviewed pertaining to the Superintendent’s evaluation. The committee will be reviewing this more.

The Public Relations committee met May 28<sup>th</sup>. The upcoming Essential News was discussed.

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

Ms. Bennett thanked everyone for their efforts in communicating to the SRSD community.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Bart Noyes recognized Molly and what a great job she did on the SB. He stated that Molly carried on the tradition of the Student Council Representative in wonderful style. Mr. Noyes welcomed Nathaniel to the SB. Mr. Noyes stated in regards to comments on the report cards that (due to social media) people want more – in different ways. Parents are looking for comments from every teacher. People are looking for human connection. A phrase such as “enjoyed having the student in class” would be appreciated. Mr. Noyes stated that he feels this is a real issue. The comments section needs to be explored more.

Ms. Cheryl Gannon congratulated Molly on a wonderful tenure. “Adults see things from a different perspective.” Ms. Gannon welcomed Nathaniel to the SB. Ms. Gannon asked if there was space in the Essential News to add that videotaping of the SB meetings had resumed and where the community could find the link on the District website. In regards to the report cards, Ms. Gannon said that sometimes when parents don’t understand the “jargon”, it can be confusing. She stated that parents are feeling left behind. “Those comments mean a lot. Personal connection is what parents are looking for.”

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Ross thanked Molly for her time on the SB. “Bye, it’s always a pleasure to see your smiling face.” She stated that Nathan has “big shoes to fill – you’ll do well”. Ms. Ross reported that she had attended a presentation by the Bakie School second graders. The presentation was a recap

of the interviews the students did with different community members. The student's presentation consisted of what they learned from their interviews with the Superintendent, Police Chief, and Town Clerk (to mention a few). She stated that the amount of knowledge the students knew was "wonderful". She stated she had a "lovely evening". The slide show was great. The students were respectful and well behaved. "Thank you Bakie School. I absolutely loved it."

Ms. Ross attended the Senior Awards night at the HS. She reported that over \$35,000.00 (scholarships) was awarded at the local level and over \$5,000,000.00 worth of scholarships were awarded by various colleges.

Ms. King stated that she had been in contact with Mary Winglass at the Newton Town Hall and that Ms. Winglass was very receptive to provide a link on the Newton Town website with the SB taped meetings. Ms. Winglass said she would put "student snippets" out separately – under News and Announcements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Wireless Bid:** Ms. Coppola stated it was first budgeted to install wireless at three school locations and add the HS the following year, but the decision was made to bid the whole project out. Ms. Ross made a motion to award the wireless bid to Whalley Computer as presented in a memo dated May 30, 2013, in the amount of \$91,460.35. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. Ms. Bennett asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Miller asked why they chose to go with Whalley Computer as opposed to a bigger company like Cisco. Mr. Ficker replied that Whalley Computer Associates and Aerohive Networks are "very stable, solidly built". Mr. Ficker then introduced Mr. Scott Gregson, SRSD Network Manager. He thought it was good for the SB members to meet Mr. Gregson. Ms. Bennett polled the board. All in favor to accept the bid of Whalley Computer Associates in the amount of \$91,460.35, as outlined in the May 30, 2013, memo from Mr. Ficker.

**Activity Fees:** Dr. Blake stated that at the last SB meeting it was agreed to have more conversation regarding student activity fees. Dr. Blake stated he would try to answer the SB questions, but needs to know what specifically does the SB want for information? Dr. Blake asked Ms. Vicky Parady-Guay, SRSD Athletic Director, what her experience has been with "pay to play". She stated that it is prevalent in Massachusetts. She stated that the programs seem fine for the first 2-3 years, but then the programs decline in participation. She said in some cases sub varsity programs disappeared. "It's taken 3 years to see the decline." Dr. Blake asked Ms. Parady-Guay if many schools in NH "pay to play". No. "Kids found other things to do." Ms. Ross asked if Ms. Parady-Guay thought it was because students couldn't afford to pay or because NH already pays in taxes. Ms. Parady-Guay stated she feels it's a mixture of reasons. Dr. Blake said another component to look at is how much of the SRSD budget is spent on

various activities. Ms. Coppola responded that \$360,000.00 is budgeted for expenses at the MS and HS for all athletic programs. Some of the expenses include: busing, equipment, fees for officials. Ms. Coppola stated that \$102,000.00 was budgeted for after school activities at all schools. Some of the after school activities include: art club, computer club, intramurals. A discussion followed. Someone asked if the question should be “How do we offer different opportunities in the arts?” “What’s offered during the school day? What’s offered after school?” Dr. Blake stated that the SB needs to sort out what the question is. What’s the issue? Ms. Bennett stated she felt the discussion was good. Dr. Blake stated that he is looking for direction from the SB. “Where does the board want to proceed?” It was agreed that the topic of activity fees needs to be continued and that tonight’s conversation was good.

Ms. Parady-Guay reported that the Boys HS Baseball team was going to the semi-finals for the first time in over 40 years.

**Nominations:** Ms. Hallisey made a motion to accept the nominations of Lauren Petraitis (HS English Teacher) and Amy Leone (Memorial Speech/Language Pathologist) and Ms. Ross seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the nominations of Lauren Petraitis and Amy Leone.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT**

Dr. Blake presented the SB with a resignation letter from Katie Seaver, Middle School Literacy Specialist. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Katie Seaver. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the resignation of Ms. Katie Seaver.

#### **WRITTEN INFORMATION**

Dr. Blake handed out an Enrollment Report dated June 1, 2013.

Ms. Coppola distributed a hand-out, **SRSD Financial Results Preliminary as of 6/4/13 – for FY 2012-2013**. Ms. Coppola explained that Excess Revenues (\$154,672) and Unexpended Special Education (\$254,155) must be returned to the taxpayers. There is a \$190,906 balance in Unexpended Other Programs that may be spent. The hand-out had a section entitled “Year end projects/purchases to be considered”. Ms. Coppola asked the SB to consider which projects they would like to see completed this school year. This will be further discussed at the next SB meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Gannon stated she felt that tonight’s discussion concerning activity fees was very important. “What is the issue?” Ms. Gannon stated it’s important to find out what the students think. “What are kids going to do if we don’t have the various programs?” Ms.

Gannon stated she felt it was important for the SB to establish the 2013-2014 SB goals before they adjourn for the summer. Ms. Gannon asked where the SB Meetings can be found? Under the School Board section of the website. "Great idea to be able to connect." Ms. Gannon stated.

Mr. Noyes stated there does not seem to be a lot of understanding of the scope of the activity fees and recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to further study activity fees. "How much comes from the state and federal level, the booster clubs?" He stated there was a lot of uncertainty. Mr. Stack showed Mr. Noyes where to find the SB Meetings on the website. He stated he was going to go home and watch it.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT** none

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Monday, **June 17, 2013, at 5:30 PM, at** the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston, NH.

The next regular Budget Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 18, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next regular Public Relations Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 18, 2013, at 8:30 AM, at** the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston, NH.

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on Wednesday, **June 19, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School**, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 PM. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. 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.*