

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2014

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. The meeting was called to order 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: Jan Bennett, Chairperson  
Dustin Ramey, Vice Chairperson  
Nancy Ross  
Jon LeBlanc  
Wendy Miller  
John Morano  
Bella Dunham, Student Council Representative

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

EXCUSED: Corey Masson, School Board  
Gail LeBlanc, School Board Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm and began with a salute to the flag.

### REVIEW AGENDA

Dr. Blake asked that two items, "Grading" and "High School Overnight Field Trip", be moved from New Business to Administrative Reports.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the minutes with second by Mr. Morano. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.

### MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board:  
Accounts Payable #29 - \$211,532.47; Payroll #26 - \$2,674,697.42

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

#### A. End of Year Report

Dr. Blake participated in the first annual School Bus Obstacle course hosted by NH Speedway. Dr. Blake came in third place with Goffstown Superintendent, Brian Balke, winning this fundraiser. With limited experience, Dr. Blake was pleased with his performance! He gained a brand new respect for bus drivers. Following tradition since his arrival, Dr. Blake joined Bakie staff in their farewell to all students as busses departed. Staff will have three days of professional development with the last day for staff on Monday, June 23.

#### Memorial School – Mr. VanderEls

Mr. VanderEls stated that Memorial School had over 200 parents come during today's last day of school with two celebrations, one each for kindergarteners and fifth graders. During the year, extracurricular participation increased tremendously to include running club, outdoor club, glee club, and band as examples. Over 250 students were recognized over the year for their positive CARES behaviors. Parent support was tremendous as recognized through the Blue Ribbon Award. Memorial had two goals - improve writing scores and create performance assessments. Memorial staff members were recognized at a national level for their work in improving writing scores and students' writing skills. Competency work around the Common Core came together in the Performance

Assessments of students' knowledge and higher level thinking. Through Professional Learning Community work, the teachers submitted Performance Assessments to a national "think tank" for peer review. Mr. VanderEls is pleased to report that Memorial has no teachers leaving this year with exception of one staff member going out on maternity leave. Working closely with the district administrators, Memorial is part of the K-12 effort for a continuum of learning. Mr. VanderEls closed by thanking the school board.

#### Bakie School – Ms. Rutherford

Ms. Rutherford presented Bakie's progress report. In response to data, the teams are getting stronger with differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students. A training team of professionals who went to a national conference on differentiation provided "drop-in" after school training. "Learning walks" were a great opportunity for staff to see the successful teaching strategies used within each classroom. The team leaders also completed professional reading on various topics to enhance the teaching practices within the classroom. In closing, Bakie's talent show last week was a culminating event with grade 5 and grade K celebrations this week.

Ms. Bennett asked about "drop in" activities. Ms. Rutherford explained how a fourth grade teacher hosted such a drop after school with 25-30 teacher visits describing differentiated instruction strategies. Mr. VanderEls reported that Memorial School staff dropped in for a Bakie third grade math centers using iPads. Ms. Bennett commended the elementary schools' efforts to share these professional skills.

Mr. VanderEls reviewed the Air Source Heat Pump project at Memorial. Due to this effort, air quality improved drastically; cost savings were significant. Mr. VanderEls drew attention to his article in his last newsletter.

#### Middle School Report – Mr. Rutherford

Mr. Rutherford spoke to the Middle School students' successes. Most recently, 26 students were recognized as National Junior Honor Society. 85 students are now enrolled in a World Language with over 100 band members. Yesterday, June 17, 129 eighth graders celebrated the end of their middle school experience. Of those 129 students, only 14 students left to attend different high schools. Curriculum goals included work with a math consultant to create quality performance assessments; this goal was met. Various workshops and trainings focused on other areas of curriculum. SRMS had many visits and requests for visits to see the staff's work in process. In addition, SRMS was one of 20 middle schools to pilot the new "Smarter Balanced" state testing. While the district will not know results, this opportunity is helpful in preparing students for this very different testing experience. Culture and climate goal was addressed through various activities. Detailed information on progress toward meeting each of the Middle School goals was provided for the board and audience. In closing, Mr. Rutherford stated he is pleased to report that there are no teacher resignations.

Ms. Bennett asked for clarification on the NWEA scores. Ms. Hume-Howard and Mr. Turmelle explained that students are now exceeding the highest level of reporting for the middle school grade levels. Ms. Miller asked how many students met this profile. Mr. Rutherford responded 14 students. Mr. LeBlanc asked why there was difficulty gathering information about the students' high levels of performance. The administrative team will have this information for future meeting.

#### High School – Mr. Stack

Mr. Stack and Mr. Turmelle presented a summary of SRHS's work over the past year. 182 Seniors graduated; 77 graduates received the new SRHS 32-credit diploma of distinction; 76% of the class plan to attend a two or four year school in the fall; 2.2% enter the military; 3.3% to attend a career or technical institution; 2.7% will take a "gap year" with 15.4% entering the workforce. Jackson Morton will attend the US Coast Card Academy. Handout provided by Mr. Stack lists the colleges the graduates will attend.

Mr. Stack reviewed progress toward meeting the goal to create a "Career Pathway Learning Community Program". Details included descriptors of each intern's experience. Mr. Stack highlighted one student, Amanda Moulaison, who had an environmental science project that included the sophomore class. Coverage by Eagle Tribune is available on their website.

SRHS's three pillars have equal importance in the educational experience of all students. The success of these efforts has drawn national attention. Most recently, Chicago Public Schools visited the high school. Governor Hassan came to SRHS to observe the Freshman Learning Experience, interviewing students and staff on the successes of their learning and teaching experience. Mr. Stack explained these efforts are steeped in research and best practices as highlighted in this research.

Mr. Turmelle commented on the various responsibilities of the district from both a business perspective and from an academic perspective. Included in this effort was the "Justice Committee" to help improve Culture and Climate, one of the high school's goals. Active engagement opportunities include internships which will grow from 26 students this year to 70 students next year. Before starting, each internship site must meet the NH Labor Laws. The master schedule is in process and will have year-long classes as directed by the school board. To be successful in the future, the school must prepare for what is coming up in the world of education, meeting the needs of the 21st century learner.

Ms. Ross commended Dr. Blake and the administration for the efforts over the past year. Mr. Stack agreed and stated that this is a K-12 team project. He has been impressed with district's progress over his eight years at Sanborn. Ms. Ross agreed.

#### B. High School Overnight Field Trip - Mr. Stack

Mr. Stack presented a request from Mr. Czyzowski for a field trip to Greece and Italy during February vacation (depart 2/20/15 through 3/1/15). Ms. Ross asked about the minimum number of students and the possibility of not meeting this minimum. Mr. Stack highlighted details of the handout including the trip insurance should there be any issues. Ms. Ross made the motion to approve the trip with second by Mr. Ramey. Ms. Bennett asked about age and grade level. Mr. Stack explained this trip is aligned with the curriculum across grades 9-12 therefore all age groups are open. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.

#### C. Grading Changes - Ms.Hume-Howard and Mr. Turmelle

Dr. Blake explained that this agenda item was added in response to questions by Mr. LeBlanc. Because of the questions and possible confusion on the grading changes, Dr. Blake asked his administrative team for this presentation. Ms. Hume-Howard distributed a handout. The first page outlines a four-year continuum outlining of the district's efforts toward working with the curriculum standards. The elementary and the middle schools have been using rubrics for assessments since the 2011-12 school year. A K-12 team met to review rubric language and scales to define competency and to add clarity by assigning common language and descriptors to the rubrics. Mr. Turmelle explained that the rubric allows for higher level understanding and application at the rubric score of "4". This reflects consistency now across the four schools. Ms. Hume-Howard explained that the district interviewed colleges to ensure the rubric would be accepted and understood during the college application process; colleges stated the transcript could be understood. Ms. Hume-Howard explained that going to the four-point scale was well accepted by interviewed colleges. Comments from colleges included, that grade point average must be calculated to ensure understanding along with class rank; which grading scale used is not as important as using any grading scale consistently. References included in the handout outline the various sources for standards-based grading. Partners in such grading include school districts and departments of education from Oregon, Kentucky, and California. NH Department of Ed has showcased the work of SRSD as a leader in standards-based grading.

Mr. LeBlanc asked for clarification on the rubric scale. Ms. Hume-Howard explained that there are weighted scales that reflect the rigor of the course when determining class rank and overall GPA. Mr. Stack explained that the "old system" was not as helpful to college admissions. Mr. LeBlanc asked how the transcript will reflect these changes. Mr. Stack and Mr. Turmelle explained there would be no changes. GPA would not change based on the weighted and unweighted value based on a set scale.

Ms. Hume-Howard presented sample report cards for each level, elementary through high school. Detailed descriptors of each code within the rubric were reviewed as used within the elementary, middle and high schools. "Exceeding" is now "Exemplary" which aligns best with "Depth of Knowledge" as described in the performance descriptor. Details of each level of competency are included. Level 1 or 2 questions have just one, maybe two right

answers. At level 3, students must be able analyze and synthesize learning. At level 4, students must consistently be able to demonstrate this level of knowledge across various learning tasks.

Ms. Miller agreed that there are examples of grading using this rubric score at grade 5. Her child can ask what could be done to improve and get accurate feedback. Mr. LeBlanc asked about the score range and numerical values. Mr. Turmelle explained that over time the rubric scores earned are averaged to reveal the score range. Without the range, it would be difficult to assign true competency levels. Ms. Hume-Howard explained that grades can be "drilled down" to identify areas in which students met/did not meet competency. Final grades reflect performance within each and all competencies which translates to credit at the high school.

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Ms. Bella Dunham reported that the Student Council held their Election of Officers. The Student Council also chose the of "Music Genres" for Spirit Week.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Relations Committee - Ms. Bennett

Ms. Bennett provided a rough draft of the Essential News. Ms. Ross drew attention to one paragraph of an article. Deputy Commissioner of NH Education Paul Leather stated that Sanborn is one of the lead districts in the state..." Dr. Blake explained that the publication could be distributed with final edits. Board comments are due by the end of business tomorrow June 19, 2014.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT**

Ms. Bennett commended Mr. Stack and his team for a "flawless" graduation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Alan Felisberto (Newton) opened his comments by complementing the district for competency-based grading and performance assessment. Mr. Felisberto also shared concerns about the transcript and grades and impact on college applications and admissions. Mr. Felisberto shared his level of experience in higher ed as an employee and as during his research. Having descriptors for each competency level is helpful on a grade report. The typical parent is looking for other information, though, even with various explanations. Mr. Felisberto is concerned about numeric values and its conversion. Mr. Felisberto will put his concerns in writing to allow the school board and administration to respond.

Ms. Tammy Gluck (Newton) asked if there was going to be a "rolling grade". In subjects that build on knowledge, this makes sense. In classes by topic such as science, this may not make sense. Ms. Gluck asked about the feedback from colleges on the grading system. While 30 colleges were interviewed, Dartmouth was not; she would like to know. Will the transcript reflect challenging classes? Ms. Gluck stated she has questions about next year's schedule. She asked if the schedule will allow for multiple advanced classes. Ms. Gluck stated that while terrific for administration to have privilege to make these changes, the new seniors will have had four grading systems. Ms. Miller asked Ms. Gluck if she had spent time with Mr. Stack to get answers. Ms. Gluck stated yes. Ms. Gluck reminded the Board that they need to stay more informed and involved during the change process. The parents and community should be informed and should support these changes. Parents who support the board

Ms. Andrea Ducharme (Newton) stated that monitoring grades was very difficult this year. It was difficult to understand grading system and ranges that is in "layman terms". While some can understand the nuances, Ms. Ducharme is confused. Missing classwork and turnaround time for grades is critical for families to support the schools. Ms. Bennett asked Ms. Ducharme if the handout was helpful. Ms. Ducharme stated that the ranges are very difficult to understand. Right now it is "murky".

Amanda Moulaison (Junior at SRHS) stated she is most concerned about transcripts and how colleges will translate her own transcript. She pointed out that colleges expect "consistency". With this proposal, her transcript will not be consistent showing two different grading systems.

Ms. Angela McVey (Newton) asked more about the four point scale and use of "flex time". Who owns "flex time"? Are kids responsible for this or are teachers involved? As a teacher, she understands student need and responsibility but is unsure of the teachers' involvement.

Tammy Gluck (Reading question from another parent, Ms. Sabre Leek of Kingston) – Asked how do grades affect ranking; asked why an 86 is considered the same as a 99. Ms. Gluck has a similar question about range of ranking and corresponding values.

Ms. Bennett commented that parents must trust the intent. While this board has giving "leeway" to Dr. Blake, this has had positive outcome as well.

Ms. Ross asked about if Ms. Gluck was asking a "class rank question". Ms. Gluck responded in the affirmative.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Ross commented that it is clear that the information shared at Board meetings must get out to the public. Information shared with the community will help clarify changes the district is making. Ms. Ross stated that there seems to be a perception that the Board is being "secretive" which is contrary to the Board's goals. Ms. Ross congratulated the graduates and commented on Baccalaureate, Sports Awards and Graduation which were all well-attended.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked the administration for the update and the clarification about grading and transcripts. Mr. LeBlanc next thanked the public for coming to this meeting.

Ms. Miller thanked the administration, specifically Mr. VanderEls for a great year for her children. Ms. Miller stated she appreciated public comment but encouraged parents to start with the administrators to get clarification. Ms. Miller invited parents to email the board so that questions may be answered.

Mr. Morano thanked the public for coming to the meeting. He invited parents to email him or another board member with questions and ways in which parents would prefer to receive information from the school board. These ideas for best ways to communicate with the public will help clarify the best ways to keep the public informed. Everyone's intent is the same.

Ms. Bella Dunham - Agrees that it has been hard to adapt to the new way of grading. Going from "straight A's" to something less is a worry as it could affect getting into college.

Corey Masson asked for Dr. Blake to report that he attended the Seacoast School of Technology meeting. Dr. Blake was nominated to continue as chair of the SST for the next two years.

Board took a 15 minute recess at 9:30pm. Board returned to public session at 9:45pm.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. High School Overnight Field Trip (moved to Administrative Reports)
- b. Resignations  
Dr. Blake presented a letter of resignation from Devin McNelly who is leaving to accept a position as a school administrator. Ms. Ross made the motion to accept the resignation of Devin McNelly with second by Mr. LeBlanc. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.
- c. Nominations  
Ms. Ross made the motion to accept the professional nominations of Ms. Kerrie Alley-Violette and Ms. Calla LaChance (14C first publication); and Ms. Julie Abbott and Ms. Allison Edge (14C second publication).  
Dr. Blake explained that Mr. Andrew Wood is resigning to move abroad; Ms. Alley-Violette comes with

strong references and is a good match for Sanborn. Ms. LaChance will fill the one-year maternity leave for Ms. Tooker. Ms. LaChance also comes with strong background as a new graduate Speech-Language Pathologist with strong research skills and great skill set. Ms. Abbott would replace Ms. Kathleen Murphy who is moving on to become a school administrator closer to home. Ms. Abbott comes to Sanborn with strong background and references. Ms. Edge comes to Sanborn to fill the new band position. Ms. Ross stated that the numbers for budgeted and actual salary are switched on 14C first publication. Board agreed. Vote was unanimous with the correction of salary numbers; motion passed.

d. Industrial Arts Building Demolition Bid-Ms. Coppola

Ms. Coppola explained that the Board had set aside funds to demolish the Industrial Arts Building. The bidding opened at 2pm today with results as reported by three bidders. The bids do not include the asbestos removal. The bids are much higher than the anticipated costs. Ms. Coppola recommended that the Board reject the bids. Ms. Coppola provided details on the structure and issues that affect the safety of this section of the building. Ms. Miller made a motion to reject the bid with second by Ms. Ross. Vote was unanimous; motion passed. Ms. Miller made a motion to move the SAU staff to the High School in the near future, hiring a moving company for this project with second by Ms. Ross. Discussion - Mr. LeBlanc asked about the timeline for the SAU to stay at the High School. Is this a five year move, a year move? What needs to happen for the SAU to move from its current location? Ms. Miller is concerned about liability. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.

e. DJ Bakie Roof Bid-Ms. Coppola

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the bid to replace the roof sections at the DJ Bakie as outlined on the bid summary. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Morano asked if any of these companies are local. Local companies would be a positive effect on the district. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.

f. Carry-Over Funds-Ms. Coppola

Estimated Financial Results as of 6-18-2014 for the FY 2013-14 school year were reviewed. Ms. Coppola stated this figure may actually be higher upon final report.

g. Donations - Ms. Coppola

Ms. Coppola reviewed this list of donations as outlined on the board handout. Ms. Ross made a motion to carry over the donations as outlined on publication 14F for use during the 2014-15 school year for a total \$5,491.00. Vote was unanimous; motion passed.

**COMMUNICATION SENT/RECEIVED**

None

**WRITTEN INFORMATION**

Dr. Blake presented the SRSD Enrollment Report dated June 18, 2014.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Ad Hoc Committee Report; SAU Relocation-Status Report; Public Relations Committee Report; Summer Programs, Ms. Pomykato

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting for the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, August 20, 2014, Room 137** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next regular meeting for the **Public Relations Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, July 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., at the SAU 17 Administrative Office**, 178 Main Street, Kingston.

The next regular meeting for the **Ad-Hoc Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 6:00p.m., Room 100** at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The next **Policy Committee Meeting is TBD.**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II**

Ms. Ross made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 IIc (Personnel). Ms. Pomykato polled the Board. The Board entered non-public session at 10:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Pomykato  
Recorder

*Minutes of the School Board meetings are unofficial until approved at a subsequent meeting of the School Board.*