

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday January 21, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Ms. Janice Bennett, Chair, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett, Chair
 Jon LeBlanc
 Corey Masson
 Wendy Miller
 Nancy Ross
 Isabella Dunham, Student Council Representative

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

EXCUSED: Dustin Ramey, Vice Chair

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the January 7, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes. Mr. Masson seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the January 7, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #14 -\$801,084.53; Payroll #15 - \$748,816.83.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

a. Technology Plan: Dr. Blake introduced Mr. Bob Ficker, Director of Technology, who gave a presentation on the District Technology Plan. Mr. Ficker began by stating there are a lot of variables year to year and you can't always plan ahead. He stated this is a plan of where the

District wants to be in the next three years. He stated that most of the technology goals have been addressed; some of have been exceeded. Some of the accomplishments highlighted:

- First District to have private cloud (by 2 years);
- Wireless installed throughout the District at a reduced price (saving the District money); Students now able to get on wireless at all schools. System set up for BYOD (bring your own device);
- Installed WYSE thin client technology in all schools;
- Disk storage space increased at a cost savings to the District;
- Upgraded bandwidth gradually over three years (the District is now ready/comfortable for the Smarter Balance testing in the Spring);
- A new District firewall was installed that will filter handheld devices;
- Implemented a disaster recovery plan;
- Added Adobe suite to licensing plan at a savings of \$8000.00;
- There is technology in every classroom. All classrooms have white boards, document camera, every teacher has a laptop.

Mr. Ficker introduced two Technology Dept. employees: Ms. Amy MacDonald, Technology Integrator, and Scott Gregson, Network Manager. Ms. Ross stated it is amazing how much the Technology Department has done with so little money to work with. Ms. Ross asked if staff still complete a technology survey. Ms. MacDonald stated that at the end of the school year staff are required to fill out a technology survey. The surveys are filled out anonymously. Ms. Ross asked how do you educate the employees when they're filling out the surveys anonymously? Ms. MacDonald stated that the survey is worded in such a way that they can surmise from the answers who the staff are. Ms. Ross asked if there is staff who still refuses to use technology – yes, very few and decreasing.

Mr. Masson said he does not think the Technology Plan provides enough information for the public. "Where are the benchmarks?" Mr. Ficker stated that he follows the guidelines driven by the State. "Yes" he can put more "numbers" to the plan. Mr. Ficker stated that curriculum is driving technology. Technology supports the curriculum. Mr. Masson stated that there are not enough benchmarks for him to support the Technology Plan as a community member. Ms. Bennett stated that she appreciates the fact that the Technology Dept. is making decisions based on who they're supporting (the Administrative Team). Ms. Bennett stated she appreciates what the Technology Dept. does to support the SB and the Administrative Team. Ms. Bennett stated she wasn't sure how you create a document addressing the benchmarks. Dr. Blake suggested possibly creating two documents. It was stated that the State no longer requires a Technology Plan. The current Technology Plan is the last plan required by the State.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the biggest challenges are BYOD. Mr. Ficker said that there would need to be a change in the curriculum to use devices in the classroom. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the 2015-2018 Technology Plan as written. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. All in favor. Dr. Blake stated that the current state of technology has greatly improved with the five year Strategic Plan.

b. NWEA: Dr. Blake introduced Ms. Ellen Hume-Howard, Curriculum Director. Ms. Hume-Howard gave a presentation on the Fall NWEA Assessment test. NWEA is a web-based test which measures academic progress. The test is given in the Fall and Spring. She stated that this is a national exam; students are being compared across the country. It's not broken down regionally. She stated that the NWEA is an adaptive test and is in-line with the Common Core standards. It is the biggest state exam. She said in the past a 3rd grade student would test 38-42 minutes. This year the students tested 58 minutes. She stated the students are showing a lot of perseverance. Ms. Ross said it appears the SRSD students are slightly above the norm. She asked if the Spring test will be a new test? Yes, it's a test of year-long growth. Ms. Hume-Howard stated that the test results are very helpful to teachers. It helps with student placement in classrooms. She stated the students came into the Fall test strong. Not a lot of "summer slippage". The last two years have seen better performance among the students.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Bella reported that the students are working on Winter Carnival. Winter Carnival is February 16 through February 20. Currently they are working on spirit days: Monday – Nerd Day; Tuesday – Fancy Day; Wednesday – Sports Day; Thursday – Theme Day; and Friday – Color Day. She stated they are working on getting the faculty involved and voting on afterschool activities. Ms. Ross asked if they were having a scavenger hunt? Yes.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget: Ms. Ross reported that the Budget Committee held their Public Hearing last Wednesday, January 14. The Committee discussed the slide presentation. The Budget Committee will be meeting Thursday, January 22.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Ms. Bennett asked the SB about using a different term other than tax burden – maybe tax contribution?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Noyes stated that Mr. Masson's point is important about the Technology Plan. He stated that expectations need to be measured. Mr. Noyes stated it is coming up on fifty years that the District was formed and things are still being done like they were fifty years ago. He asked if it's time to consider hiring staff to support a \$35 million dollar entity? Isn't it the responsibility of

the SB to create these documents? Mr. Noyes asked the SB if it is time to have the staff to support the governing body? Ms. Gannon asked if the Technology Plan was available to the public? If so, where? Ms. Gannon spoke of the NWEA Assessment results being available quickly; she asked if we have the resources to address deficiencies in the District? Ms. Gannon addressed the Technology Plan. She asked if teachers should be required to have professional development. She asked if it was possible to meet with staff where they are and make them more comfortable? She stated the District needs to be more aggressive with professional development/training – every student should be on an equal level.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

It was stated that there are intervention blocks for students who need reinforcement. Mr. Masson asked where John Morano is. Dr. Blake stated that would be discussed later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Warrant Articles: Dr. Blake said that the Warrant Articles would be tabled for now and that Communications Received/Sent would be discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT

Dr. Blake stated he received a resignation email from John Morano stating he was having difficulty attending meetings. He stated a number of personal reasons. He works a number of jobs, job responsibilities and has had some family issues in CA. Ms. Miller asked Dr. Blake when he received the email? Late December/early January. Ms. Miller stated she wishes the SB had received this information. She stated that Mr. Morano hasn't been at a meeting since November. She stated that she contacted Mr. Morano and he forwarded his email to her dated December 15th. Ms. Miller stated that this information was "sat on" for two months. Where is the communication? Mr. Masson asked if this was "adequate information"? Ms. Miller stated it is not the Chair's decision whether to disseminate information. Mr. Masson stated that people want to be involved when there is integrity, success and opportunity. Mr. Masson stated he is concerned about the lack of transparency.

Ms. Ross said she did not feel that anything that was done was deliberate or malicious. She stated she did not think it was the intent to keep anyone in the dark. Ms. Miller stated it doesn't look good whether there was intent or not. Mr. Morano forwarded emails to Ms. Miller that he thought the SB had received. Ms. Miller asked "What else don't we know about?" Ms. Miller stated she is not a "rubber stamp". Dr. Blake stated that he wanted to meet with Mr. Morano to see if he could change his mind. That didn't take place. Dr. Blake

stated he received an email from Mr. Morano saying he would not change his mind. Dr. Blake apologized to the SB, “point made – point taken”. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the resignation of John Morano, Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion with regret. All in favor.

Dr. Blake reported that he wrote a letter to the Newton Selectmen on January 16 requesting that the town voting be moved back to Memorial School from the Newton Town Hall. He stated that he hears complaints/concerns year after year about the traffic, parking, and snow banks. He has not received a response to date.

Ms. Miller asked when the SB would receive the superintendent survey results.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Warrant Articles: Ms. Ross made a motion to place Article 1 on the 2015 School District Warrant: Article 1 To elect the following school district officers:

School Board:

- One member from Kingston for three years
- One member at large from Kingston/Newton for two years
- One member from Newton for three years

Moderator:

- One elected for one year

Budget Committee:

- One member from Kingston for three years
- One member from Newton for three years

Mr. Masson seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ms. Ross made a motion to place Article 2 on the 2015 School District Warrant: Article 2 General Acceptance of reports. Shall the reports of school district agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen be accepted and placed on file?

Mr. Masson seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ms. Ross made a motion to place Article 3 on the 2015 School District Warrant. Article 3 Operating Budget Shall the Sanborn Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote at the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Thirty

Four Million Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars (\$34,812,333)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirty Four Million Two Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Sixty Four Dollars (\$34,226,064), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Sanborn Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.)

Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$1.13/\$1,000 Newton: \$1.43/\$1,000

Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to place Article 4 on the 2015 School District Warrant:
 Article 4 Support Staff Agreement Shall the Sanborn Regional School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement for support staff reached between the School Board and the Sanborn Regional Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

fiscal year:	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increases</u>
	1 2015-2016	\$ 21,903
	2 2016-2017	\$ 72,639

and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Three Dollars (\$21,903) for the 2015-16 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing levels?

Estimated Tax Impact Kingston: \$.02/\$1,000 Newton: \$.02/\$1,000

Ms. Ross seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to place Article 5 on the 2015 School District Warrant.
 Article 5 Expand Use of Facility Use Revolving Fund Shall the District change the purpose of the Facilities Use Revolving Fund established in accordance with RSA 194:3-c by vote on article 5 at the 2007 School District meeting, which is funded by receipts of rental charges for the use of school facilities, so that it may be used for maintenance, technology cost, **and improvement** of the District facilities **and grounds**, with said receipts to be withdrawn from the revolving fund and disbursed monthly, as needed? (No tax impact)(Majority vote required). Ms. Ross seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to place Article 6 on the 2015 School District Warrant.

Article 6 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for the Sanborn Seminary Building

Shall the Sanborn Regional School District vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be named Historic Seminary Building Fund for the purpose of funding the renovation and necessary maintenance needs of the Sanborn Seminary building and grounds? To raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in said fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2015 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2015, and further to name the Sanborn Regional School Board as agents to expend the fund? This amount to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from additional taxation. (Majority vote required). Mr. Masson asked if it was a true statement that this is a one-year request – yes. Ms. Miller said she didn't support this article until there is a better plan in place for the seminary. Ms. Coppola explained that money wasn't being spent, the money was being put aside. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. 3 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion carries.

Ms. Ross made a motion to place Article 7 on the 2015 School District Warrant.

Article 7 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Shall the Sanborn Regional School District vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be named the Technology Fund for the purpose of funding the technology needs of the district? To raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in said fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2015 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2015, and further to name the Sanborn Regional School Board as agents to expend the fund? This amount to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from additional taxation. (Majority vote required). Mr. Masson seconded the motion. All in favor.

WRITTEN INFORMATION none

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Noyes stated he is pleased to see the Board bringing forward financial planning tools and planning for future expenditures. He said these were two good additions. Mr. Noyes stated he understood the concern about the Newton voting place. He said if the SB was serious, they should speak to the Newton Police Chief and see if he agrees with the concerns. He said there should also be some RSAs concerning polling places. He stated sometimes you have to "stub a few toes". Ms. Gannon asked about the Seminary Ad Hoc Committee. She asked when a report will be made with the results. She said there has not been a report for the last three meetings. Ms. Gannon referred to the December 17, 2014, SB meeting. She stated Mr. Ramey had requested a discussion on a WMUR report on the top fifty schools in NH. She said this has not been discussed yet and wondering if it would be addressed at a future meeting? Ms. Gannon spoke of the SRSD goal of becoming a top 10% school district

in the State. Where are we now? Are we in the top 10%? Are we close? Top 30%? This has been a goal for the past 4-5 years. She stated that there has never been a full report of where “we” are. About once a year “I” bring this up. She stated it is not a goal to “strive”. When do we get there? Where are we now?

Ms. Gannon spoke of the NWEA test. She asked about the new Smarter Balance test. How does it compare to NWEA? Are they comparable? Ms. Gannon said the discussion about the resignation of Mr. Morano brought to mind a SB member resignation in November 2013. She was surprised that a SB member had resigned. It was never addressed at a meeting. She stated the public has a right to representation; it is the responsibility of the SB to fill the seat.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT Ms. Miller stated that the Seminary Committee hasn’t met in a few months. They are waiting on a report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 21, 2015, and end on Friday, January 30, 2015 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, located at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

The **First (Deliberative) Session** of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM** at the Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium, 17 Danville Road, Kingston, NH.

The **Second (Voting) Session** of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 10, 2015, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM** in the Swasey Gymnasium for Kingston voters and in the Newton Town Hall for Newton voters.

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM**, Room 137 **at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, Room 137 **at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 IIe

Ms. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:14 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.