

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

August 26, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday August 26, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Jon LeBlanc, School Board Chair, in Room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett
 Jon LeBlanc, Chair
 Corey Masson
 Roberto Miller
 Wendy Miller, Vice Chair
 Nancy Ross

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools
 Carol Coppola, Business Manager
 Jodi Gutterman, Student Services Director

EXCUSED: Dustin Ramey
 Monique Ricard, Student Council Representative

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

MINUTES

Ms. Bennett made a motion to accept the August 12, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes. Mr. Masson seconded the motion. Five in favor; one abstained – Ms. Ross.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #4-\$114,890.14
Payroll #5 - \$180,958.10.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT Dr. Blake welcomed everyone to the 2015-2016 school year. The members of Dr. Blake’s leadership team were present at the meeting. Dr. Blake stated that twelve new teachers were hired this year. Tomorrow (Thursday, 8/27/15) is the opening day for teachers. The day will consist of Professional Development opportunities and meetings. Dr. Blake invited everyone to opening day, beginning at an 8:15 breakfast at the high school.

Mr. Bob Ficker, Director of Technology, introduced himself and gave an overview of the Technology Department's activities during the summer. He said the usual inventory was performed. One hundred twenty five (125) pc's were replaced throughout the District. The District's firewall was upgraded. Work was completed on the infinite campus SMS. The wireless network was reconfigured for students and guests. Going forward student devices will be on the guest host not the District's. Access points on each cow can accommodate 25 laptops – no student devices. The MS server room was expanded. New copiers were installed.

Mr. Brian Stack, HS Principal, said the HS is ready to start. He said this was the lowest staff turnover in the ten years he's been with the District. Two science teachers were hired; one English teacher was hired and a new automotive teacher was hired. He stated there were 4-5 paraprofessional positions hired. He stated that in many cases the paraprofessional positions were filled with overqualified people – people wanting to get their foot in the door to higher positions. He stated it is a good opportunity for both the paraprofessionals and the District. He stated that the building is ready to open and there were not a lot of changes. The eighth grade students will continue to be housed at the HS. He said that space is tight, but "you deal with it". He stated that "you do what you need to do".

Ms. Deb Bamforth, Bakie School Principal, said that Bakie School hired seven new staff. She said the number appeared to be high, but the seven who were hired replaced: Four teachers who will be stay-at-home moms; two retired; and one moved closer to home. She said she forgot how much work goes into training new staff. She stated the facilities are in great condition – the facilities crew and the Bakie staff worked together seamlessly. The classrooms were ready early. George Reilly of the facilities department stayed late after his shift and painted characters on classroom doors. Ms. Bamforth stated the doors look "really neat".

Mr. Sandy Rutherford, Middle School Principal, said the MS had two new hires – a reading specialist and a case manager for 6th and 7th grade students. He stated that Ms. Coppola and Mr. Reilly (Facilities Director), along with the Fire Marshall worked very hard putting a classroom in the hallway. He said the MS had more teachers than classrooms. He said thanks to the custodians the building looks great, and he is excited to start the new year.

Mr. Jon VanderEls, Memorial School Principal, said Memorial School had the lowest turnover of professional positions this year. One teacher was hired to cover a maternity leave. One paraprofessional position was hired. There is one more paraprofessional position yet to be hired. He said they encountered a few challenges getting the building ready – one custodian was injured. The building is ready to go for opening day. He stated that families were coming by to say hello and check out the school.

Ms. Bamforth stated Bakie had 36 new students this year. Mr. Stack said that the HS enrollment is about 700/180 students per grade. He said the sophomore numbers were a little low due to a bubble year the year before. Dr. Blake said that there are two enrollment numbers that the District looks at: enrollment on the first day of school and enrollment on October 1st. The October 1st date is the official number that gets reported to the state.

Ms. Jodi Gutterman, Student Services Director, stated it's been a busy two months getting to know the District, the staff and families. She stated she attended the Design Studio held in the District. She said she is working on an entry plan. She said she's had the opportunity to meet most of the SAU staff and most of the Leadership Team. She's met with the Police Chiefs in Kingston and Fremont. She'll be meeting the Newton Police Chief next week. Ms. Gutterman has been working on student IEPs. She attended the annual SPED Academy; the Bakie Learning Community; Title 9 workshop. She said she's been reviewing the Special Ed Department as a whole. Ms. Gutterman said she is honored to be here at SRSD – thank you.

Ms. Ellen Hume-Howard, Curriculum Director, and Mr. Michael Turmelle, Asst. HS Principal and Curriculum Director, spoke of the ongoing Professional Development opportunities available during the summer. They spoke of Performance Assessments. Ms. Hume-Howard said the District was the recipient of a \$34,000 grant that was used for teacher stipends. They spoke of the Competency Based Design Studio hosted at the HS. 150 teachers from across the country attended. Words to describe the workshop included “powerful” and “positive”. The Design Studio was fully funded with no money coming the District. In fact, a small profit was realized which will go towards the next workshop. A plus to the workshop was that staff learned some new technology. Dr. Blake stated the Design Studio was very powerful. There was a waiting list of people wanting to attend. The District has received a request to do another Design Studio. He stated that there is clearly a need for this type of training and that the State is supportive of the District. Mr. Turmelle and Mr. Hume-Howard stated that there was “something going on everyday” at the HS. There was a band camp, a science camp, an art camp, a drama camp.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT none

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS Ms. Miller reported that the Policy Committee had met earlier in the evening. Policies reviewed by the Committee: IJOA Field Trips and Excursions. **Under 9.** “ One on one (teacher/student) field trips **are not allowed** was replaced **with highly discouraged without parental . . .**”; Policy JICH/R Student Substance and Abuse/Rules under Statement of Purpose The Sanborn Regional School District has . . . **zero** has been **changed to no** tolerance for the use/abuse of illegal substances. Policy JICA Student Dress under 6. **The wearing of hats in any part of the school building is prohibited** was replaced by **is permitted only in the hallways, cafeteria and non-instructional spaces as determined by Building Principal.** Policy JIF Student Activities Fund Management; JIF-R Student Activity Fund

Management Regulations were also reviewed. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the first reading of IJOA Field Trips and Excursions; JIF Student Activities Fund Management; JIF-R Student Activity Fund Management Regulations; JICH/R Student Substance and Abuse/Rules; and JICA Student Dress. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. Masson expressed concern about the policy regarding dress. He disagrees with students allowed to wear hats in the school. The policy concerning dress will be brought before the principals before any changes will be made. The community comments regarding the dress policy are being heard. More discussion will follow. Ms. Ross amended her motion to approve the first reading of all the policies (IJOA, JIF, JIF-R and JICH/R) other than JICA Student Dress. All in favor. Ms. Bennett made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy JICA Student Dress. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. Five in favor; one opposed.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT

Mr. LeBlanc thanked everyone for coming out and he thanked the Leadership Team for their updates. He said the low turnover rate shows that Sanborn has a great environment and that it is a testament to the Administrative Staff and the paraprofessionals. He stated that Sanborn was a nice place to work. He stated he is looking forward to opening day tomorrow for teachers and to students starting school on Monday.

PUBLIC COMMENT Ms. Cheryl Gannon welcomed everyone back and welcomed the new Student Services Director – Ms. Jodi Gutterman. She thanked the SB for looking at and reviewing the budget. She said she is very encouraged by the SB’s efforts – “thank you for your efforts”.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ross welcomed everyone back. She thanked everyone for all the work accomplished over the summer. She said she is always amazed at what gets accomplished over the summer. Ms. Miller stated that the SB had a productive work session on the budget prior to tonight’s meeting and thanked everyone. Dr. Blake said there was some concern in the community about the Memorial School mailing out student handbooks and planners. Mr. VanderEls stated this was requested by the parents and that the line item for postage was increased to allow for this. It was stated that eventually this information will be provided online.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Trustees Grant Award: Mr. Stack presented the SB with a list of proposals that were presented to the Seminary Trustees. Projects which were approved include: Why We Need Bees (\$10,000.00); Anvil, Forge and Sanders (\$5,250.00); Inquiring Minds Want Vernier

(\$2,800.00); Aerospace Club (\$500.00); Marching Band Sousaphone (\$5,050.00); Modern Media Studio Equipment (\$2,700.00) and Contingency Fund (\$3,500.00). Ms. Bennett made a motion to accept the grant awarded by the Sanborn Seminary Trustees. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. PACE: Ms. Hume-Howard and Mr. Turmelle gave a presentation on PACE (Performance Assessment for Competency Education). PACE looks to raise the level of accountability. The PACE accountability system has been developed in partnership with Sanborn Regional School District, Souhegan High School, the Epping School District, the Rochester School District, the Center for Assessment, the Center for Collaborative Education, the NH Department of Education and the United States Education Department. Sanborn staff participated in a wide range of PACE trainings with partnering districts. Partners met in Rochester to discuss assessment alignment and proposed improvements. Souhegan High School hosted training on the development of Achievement Level Descriptors. Sanborn hosted a three day summit targeted at developing reliable scoring practices. They reported that the assessments are authentic and engaging to students. Assessments are scored “blind” – no student names. Dr. Blake announced that Sanborn has been nominated by the experts at the Nellie Mae Foundation to receive the Larry O’Toole Award for the District’s work in PACE. The Award is \$100,000.00 to support the ongoing work.

c. Middle School Roof Project: Ms. Coppola reported on the status of the MS roof. She stated that the District has run into a few “speed bumps”. On July 29th the SB awarded the bid to Build It Construction of Plaistow. One of the contingencies was that the contractor had to provide a Payment and Performance Bond. Build It Construction’s bond company has requested that all payments for services be submitted to them and the bond company will then “pay” Build It. The reason for this is that Build It Construction has quite a few projects going on and are currently “tapped out”. Ms. Coppola is working with District Counsel to come to a solution. She said that legal counsel does not believe there is any risk involved. Ms. Coppola reported that no final payment information has been received from the District’s insurance company, nor has the District received any decision from FEMA.

Dr. Blake said the project has not started yet and the District still does not have a start date. Dr. Blake reported that he met with parents and students (of 8th grade) on Monday evening and shared with them the information that he has.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT none

WRITTEN INFORMATION none

PUBLIC COMMENT Ms. Gannon asked how the results of assessments affect students? She asked what happens when scores go to the State? She asked how did “our kids do”? “Do we know the results?” Ms. Gannon asked if PACE will be available to all students? Ms. Gannon wished the District good luck with the awarding of the Nellie Mae Award.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT Mr. LeBlanc reminded everyone that Public Comment is just that – a time for the public to comment; it is not a time for questions. Dr. Blake announced that SB members are welcome to attend the staff opening day Thursday beginning at 7:45 AM.

Adjournment: Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in Room 137 at the **Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

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.