

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 5, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Corey Masson. The following were recorded as present;

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Corey Masson  
Taryn Lytle  
Dr. Pamela Brown  
Peter Broderick  
Sheila Pierce  
James Baker  
Tammy Gluck  
Michael Giordano, Student Representative

**ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools  
Matt Angell, Interim Business Administrator

The meeting began with a Salute to the Flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA** –Under *New Business*, add Special Education Transportation as Letter “b” and Nomination of a nurse for Memorial School under Letter “c”.

**A Motion was made by Tammy Mahoney to move Election of Officers as the first order of business. Motion seconded by Dr. Brown.** Ms. Mahoney commented that because she was not present at the last meeting, due to the pending recount of the votes, it is her opinion that the election of officers that took place was held improperly and she feels disenfranchised by not having had a vote in that election.

Mr. Broderick commented that the School Board votes taken last week were unlawful citing RSA 671:32, *Tie Vote and Recounts* which says that the process should mimic that of towns. He introduced RSA 669:34 *Declaration of Results and 669:10 Term of Office* summarizing that no person should assume office until after the recount is completed. RSA 731:33 regarding *Vacancies* was also introduced as well as 671:26 *Counting Ballots* saying Ms. Gluck’s term ended at the election.

Dr. Blake commented that he had consulted with legal counsel prior to last week’s meeting and was told that while a recount is in process, the person that was in office at the time of the

election can be appropriately seated. He closed by saying that we should bring in legal counsel again.

Mr. Baker added that two attorneys that he consulted said there is nothing in the RSA's that says we cannot hold another election.

Ms. Lytle asked how this ongoing discussion of 25 minutes is benefitting students. Mr. Baker responded that it is showing them how to do business in a proper way.

Ms. Mahoney asked for an explanation of why she was not included as part of the seven-person Board.

Mr. Masson added that he also consulted legal counsel and was given information that Ms. Gluck being seated was perfectly legal.

Dr. Brown commented that legal opinions given are simply that-opinions-and she moved that the Board vote on the agenda as amended.

Ms. Mahoney asked that the previous Motion of moving Election of Officers to the first order of business be moved. **VOTE: 4 in Favor, 3 Opposed. Motion passes.**

**Motion made by Dr. Brown to nominate Peter Broderick as Chairperson. Motion seconded by Mr. Baker.** Ms. Lytle asked Mr. Broderick why he wants to be chairperson. Mr. Broderick responded that budget issues will be an important focus, especially working without contention with the Budget Committee.

Mr. Giordano asked when Ms. Gluck was appointed, could she have called for a reelection of the Chair. Mr. Baker responded that based on the wording in Policy BDA, we could have an election every week.

Ms. Pierce asked that we consult legal counsel and consider waiting to decide. Mr. Baker commented that the same request was made two weeks ago. Mr. Masson commented that reelection can indeed occur. He added that he does not want to rescind his seat, and that effective Board Governance is his primary concern. He closed by saying that this behavior tonight is 100% divisive.

Mr. Masson asked that the Motion be moved. **VOTE: 4 in favor, 2 Opposed, 1 Abstention. Motion passes.**

**Motion made by Mr. Baker to nominate Dr. Pam Brown as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Ms. Mahoney. VOTE: 4 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 1 Abstention. Motion passes.**

**Motion made by Mr. Broderick to keep those people elected to other positions at the last meeting in those positions. Motion moved by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Baker. VOTE: All in Favor.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 22 Public and Non-Public. Motion made by Mr. Baker to approve Minutes, seconded by Dr. Brown. VOTE: 6 in Favor, 1 Abstention. Motion passes. Motion made to approve Non-Public Minutes by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Lytle. VOTE: 5 in Favor, 2 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

### **EXPENDITURES REGISTER & MANIFEST – REVIEW AND SIGN**

The Board reviewed and signed the Manifest Check Register #20 -\$1, 119,335.31 dated 4/6/17, and the Payroll Check Register#20- \$809, 815. 31 dated 4/5/17.

Mr. Masson asked why Mr. Broderick does not routinely sign the Manifests. He responded that he chooses not to sign it. Mr. Baker asked why the Manifest were sent out today at 2:45. He inquired about vendor *Access Business Solutions*. Dr. Blake responded that the District Email was blacklisted due to a Spam issue so normally the Manifests will go out the day before. He added that will find out about the vendor. Mr. Baker asked for the timeframe for when Manifests come out and vendors are paid. Dr. Blake responded that it is the next day. Mr. Baker asked if they can come out sooner and Interim Business Administrator Mr. Angell responded that invoices are received up until the day of Manifest so we do not want to delay payment. Mr. Baker asked about several vendors and received answers.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS-**

- a. **Tuition Rates**- Dr. Blake addressed the new rates with the Board. **Dr. Brown made a Motion to approve the tuition rates for 2017-18, seconded by Ms. Lytle.** Mr. Masson brought up the question of Fremont and sports, stating for new board members that the costs of sports are built into the tuition. Tuition is subject to policy JFAB, so a timeframe accompanies this contract. He thanked Ms. Coppola for providing this before she left. **VOTE: All in Favor.**
- b. **Nominations** -Dr. Blake brought forth Cynthia Cole to replace the Sheila Koutelis at Memorial School for the remainder of the school year and for next year. **Motion by Mr. Broderick to approve Cynthia Cole as the nurse replacement at Memorial School, seconded by Dr. Brown. VOTE: All in Favor.**

Dr. Blake handed out the Nominations List to the Board explaining that annually the Superintendent by statute nominates the Personnel and the Board elects them. He

reminded the Board that if there are any questions about specific people, it should be moved into a non-public session to discuss.

Mr. Baker asked why they are being placed in nomination if they already work for the District. Dr. Blake responded that some are under one year contracts and even if tenured they need to be nominated annually.

**Dr. Brown made a Motion to amend the list of nominations by tabling the nominations of two Assistant Principals (mentioned by name) until the Non-Public meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Baker.**

Mr. Masson commented that he wholeheartedly supports the Nominations List as presented.

Ms. Lytle cited Board Policy BDD, which says that the Board will leave the execution of policies with the Superintendent.

Mr. Baker asked whether approving this list precludes a candidate moving to another job in the District. Dr. Blake responded that yes, this nomination refers to their position but they can apply for another position if they want.

Dr. Brown clarified that her request to table the two candidates for non-Public is related to another Non-Public issue and is not to say that the candidates are not qualified or an important part of the District.

Ms. Mahoney asked to move the Motion. **VOTE: 4 in Favor, 3 Opposed. Motion passes.**

**Motion made By Mr. Masson to go into Non-Public at 8:00 PM seconded by Ms. Mahoney. VOTE: All in Favor**

Chairperson Broderick called the meeting back to order at 8:25 PM.

**Motion made by Dr. Brown to withdraw her amendment to the list of renewals. Motion made by Ms. Pierce to accept Dr. Blake's proposal of Nominations as submitted, seconded by Mr. Masson. VOTE: 6 in Favor, 1 Opposed. Motion passes.**

## **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Mr. Giordano reported that Student Council has met twice since the last meeting. There is a *Life Long Learning Day* scheduled for Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> where a host of speakers will discuss

their career choices. Many high school students will be assisting on that day as well. The former Police Chief from Newton, Rick Lubell will hold several workshops on character building. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Student Council will have a spring workshop. They also participated in a Jimmy Fund fundraiser. The musical Buddy Holly went very well. The SATs were held for the juniors and the seniors had Senior Day of Success. He closed by saying thank you to Ms. Mahoney for the cooperative nature of the recount and wishes her the best in her role.

### **c. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Personnel**-The Principal Search interviews went well for Bakie and Memorial Schools. Candidates were narrowed down from 22 applicants to start, then to 12 and finally to 4. Those candidates spent time at the schools visiting classrooms and speaking with teachers. After discussion, the two candidates chosen are Christopher Snyder for Bakie School and Patricia Haynes for Memorial School. **Dr. Blake asked for a Motion to accept Mr. Snyder as Principal at the D.J. Bakie School. Motion moved by Mr. Masson and seconded by Ms. Lytle.** Mr. Masson and Ms. Pierce spent time interviewing the candidate and spoke highly of him. Mr. Giordano asked Leadership whether they liked him. Their response was affirmative. Dr. Blake informed the group that he is a current Principal in Dracut, MA and that he has excellent references. **VOTE: All in favor**

The second candidate introduced by Dr. Blake is Patricia Haynes for Memorial School. **Dr. Blake asked for a Motion to have Ms. Haynes come on board as the Principal at the Memorial School in Newton. Motion moved by Mr. Masson and seconded by Ms. Pierce.** Dr. Blake explained that Ms. Haynes comes to us with much experience and is currently a Principal in Nashua. Mr. Masson commented that her work life experience will be an asset at Memorial. **VOTE: All in Favor**

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Broderick welcomed Ms. Mahoney to the Board as the At-Large representative. He asked that the Board send their subcommittee requests to him. Dr. Blake reminded Mr. Broderick that the Board had already sent those to Mr. Masson so perhaps she can take a look at those. Mr. Broderick, citing his management style, does not feel comfortable appointing Chairs to those committees and asked the respective members to work that out amongst them.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mary Cyr (Kingston)** is not proud of the behavior exhibited in the last two meetings. With calls for holding off on the election of officers ignored, she feels that it was "railroaded" through as a power grab and that the Board should be ashamed of themselves.

**Tammy Gluck (Newton)** reminded the Board of Policy BCA (Code of Ethics) which in part states that there should not be any conflict of interest in their dealings. In her opinion, appointing Mr. Broderick as Chair, given his position in Kingston as a Selectman is problematic. With Warrant Article #8 (SRSD will enter into a discussion with the Town of Kingston regarding the Seminary) passing, this constitutes a conflict of interest and she is requesting that Mr. Broderick not be involved in that discussion. She closed by saying that she hopes the Board will agree.

Mr. Broderick responded that he would recuse himself from any vote but in terms of discussion, he would invoke his freedom of speech amendment.

Ms. Gluck responded that because the Chair drives the process, he would still be exhibiting a conflict of interest.

**Cheryl Giordano (Newton)** is disappointed in what she has seen tonight and is hoping that this Board can work together. She pointed out that five people out of the seven people on the Board have no children in the district and she questions their motives, given that there is a strong Newton Kingston Taxpayers Association presence on the Board. She is concerned for the future of the school, staff and the children. She hopes that they understand that they are there for the students and not for personal agendas.

**Michael Giordano (Kingston)** will hold the Board accountable for their actions and said that what impacts administration will affect the students as well. He boiled it down to three key considerations; how will decisions impact students, is the perspective of the student being considered enough, and can personal views be put aside in order to put the students first? He closed by saying that they should remind themselves that they are part of a school board and not a town board.

**Kevin St. James (Kingston)** - agrees there is divisiveness on the Board as there was when he was the At-Large representative three years ago. The current Board reflects the fact that the voters have spoken. The Board needs to come to an understanding and he hopes that happens.

**Tammy Gluck (Newton)**-agrees that the voters did speak, amending the budget with an increase at the Deliberative and passing the Teachers' Contract, all in keeping with meeting the students' needs. She hopes that the scope of what was approved is kept in mind.

**Cheryl Gannon (Kingston)** - congratulated the new Board members and hopes the new Chair will make it a priority to work collaboratively towards consensus, allowing for the best education for students of the district. She reminded the Board that personal agendas should be put aside and members should dedicate themselves to making sure that students are the number one priority and that delivery of education is what is being worked towards. There should be a balance between micromanagement and allowing people to do their jobs which will make for a productive year.

## **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. Baker thanked everyone for coming, observing and giving the Board their opinions and advice.

Ms. Lytle highlighted several impressive events that took place including the Buddy Holly musical, the art show at Plymouth State University featuring Middle School Art and the Elementary Honors Band that came to the High School to perform. She encouraged Board Members to attend events to connect with the students as they represent them.

Ms. Pierce brought up several other upcoming events such as the Awards night and the Senior Sports Banquet which she needs a headcount for. The Music Dinner and Awards Night are being held June 6<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria at 6PM. The Sports Award dinner is being held for parents of seniors on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6Pm at DiBurros in Haverhill.

Corey Masson shared a quote from a poem by Langston Hughes which he heard at a School Board Convention in regard to a board that was not meeting the needs of their school district and they put the blame on themselves and he is happy to not put that on himself.

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

Dr. Brown welcomed Ms. Mahoney to the Board and congratulated Mr. Broderick as the new Chairperson. She supports him as Board Chair because he is “much smarter than he lets on”, and an inclusive person who plans to distribute the decision making across the Board. He wants to treat the Board as specialists and he, as the facilitator, will not dictate or drive the agenda in a certain direction. Dr. Brown is looking forward to working with him and to actually getting to work. One focus will be to reorganize the High School Master Schedule and include more VLACS courses to save money, saying that there are many ways to economize on our budget without causing any pain. It can be a positive sum game for everyone if we look for efficient solutions that can save money and improve performance. She also would like to improve the math program.

Michael Giordano commented that the Board has one common interest which is to make this District the best it can be at an efficient cost. With all the resources at the school, he encourages all to use those resources and remember that decisions made will impact students for generations.

Mr. Broderick stated that he will be very cognizant of the directives mentioned and will put his own views aside for the District.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** -None

**NEW BUSINESS**-

**a. Graduation Date**

Dr. Blake informed the group that due to the snow days, the last day of school for students will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, for teachers the last day will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> and that Graduation day will be June 16<sup>th</sup>. These dates fulfill contractual obligations under the law.

**b. Proposal for Special Education Transportation Services**

Dr. Blake informed the group that the Request for Proposal (RFP) put out for Special Education Transportation yielded a bid. Business Administrator added that the RFPs went out on March 1<sup>st</sup> and were advertised in local newspapers, posted on the website and emailed to three different providers who had 24 days to respond. The response to the RFP was from one provider, Safeway Transportation, who is our current provider, and one that the District is happy with. **Mr. Masson made a Motion to reward the bid for Special Education Transportation as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Pierce.** Mr. Masson pointed out that fuel adjustment rates are up by 3.5% or 10K over the current contract. Also, kudos to Ms. Coppola and Dr. Blake for properly forecasting the Special Education increase in costs which he compared to the budgeted number and bid proposal. He supports the contract which Mr. Angell clarified is a 3 year term contract which can be extended for two more years. Mr. Baker asked about the contract numbers and what they represent to which Mr. Masson responded that the contract is calculated on a per student basis.

Dr. Brown asked whether it would benefit the District to extend the proposal for another few weeks for more bids. Mr. Angell recommended that if the Board decided to do that, they should re-bid the whole process so that no other vendors are given an unfair advantage. **VOTE: 6 in Favor, 1 Opposed. Motion passes.**

**c. Committee Assignments**

Mr. Masson asked whether the previous assignments would be held which, in summary, are composed of seven different sub-committees which would have a two tenured board members with each being a part of two subcommittees. **Motion made by Ms. Mahoney to table the discussion, seconded by Dr. Brown. VOTE: 3 in Favor, 3 Opposed. Discussion is ended with nothing further to discuss.**



## **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT-**

Dr. Blake summarized that Mr. Corkery has resigned his position at the High School and Ms. Coffey at the Middle School. Mr. Masson interjected that a letter received from Mr. Rigby would not be read this evening. Ms. Mahoney asked what the format is for reading letters submitted by the public. Mr. Broderick explained that letters will be sent ahead of time to Board members and they can decide what and how they want to address them. Dr. Blake had previously consulted legal counsel and was told that letters should not be read into the Minutes because the communication could extend all evening and it is best that newspapers address that. Mr. Masson commented that every letter should be taken under advisement as to how to address it.

Motion made to accept the resignations of both candidates by Dr. Brown. Motion seconded by Ms. Lytle. **VOTE: All in Favor.**

**WRITTEN INFORMATION**—None

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING 3/22/17**

- a. Math Program Curriculum Update
- b. School Board Training
- c. School Board Goals
- d. Committee Assignments
- e. RFP for Food Service

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Board Conference Room at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Mr. Broderick asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM, moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Lytle.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Phyllis Kennedy  
Recording Secretary

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