

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**January 4, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, January 4, 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, Chairperson  
Jan Bennett  
Dr. Pamela Brown  
Peter Broderick  
Sheila Pierce  
Nancy Ross  
Tammy Gluck  
Michael Giordano-Student Council Representative

**ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools  
Carol Coppola, Business Administrator

The meeting began with a Salute to the Flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

The following changes were made:

- Add the Greenhouse Discussion under “Administrative Reports” as letter “a”
- Add “Students With a Voice” Petition under “Unfinished Business” as letter “a”
- Add “Road to the Deliberative” as letter “e” under “Unfinished Business”
- There will be a Non-Public Meeting regarding a personnel issue

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of December 21, 2016. Motion moved by Ms. Ross and seconded by Ms. Bennett.** On page 5, add “NH” to Dr. Brown’s 3rd sentence to read: “...along with an average class size that is 10% below the **NH** average...”.

**Vote: All in Favor.**

**Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of December 21, 2016. Ms. Ross moved the Motion, seconded by Ms. Bennett. No Comments/discussion**  
**Vote: All in Favor.**

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

The Board reviewed and signed the Manifest Check Register #12 -\$1,105,839. 17 dated 1/4/17 and the Payroll Check Register#13-\$788,501.64 dated 12/29/16.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- a. **Greenhouse Presentation-** Mr. Masson welcomed SRHS Principal Brian Stack who informed the group of the “wonderful working relationship” between the High School and the Seminary Trustees which are made up of a group of men and women from the community who support many different initiatives. Annually, Mr. Stack reaches out to the teachers with a “Call for Proposals” which asks them to submit to the Trustees for consideration, grant projects that are outside of the budget, ones that will enhance the classroom instruction in some unique way. Mr. Stack mentioned that in the last 4 years, the Seminary Trustees have given the High School \$80-85K for such projects.

Mr. Stack asked SRHS Nurse, Karen Scanlon, to introduce her proposal for a greenhouse which came to fruition after surveying teachers, community members and others about the idea and after visiting a greenhouse located on the grounds of the North Hampton School. The proposal was also based on discussion with a vendor who builds and maintains greenhouses. Ms. Scanlon showed slides of the North Hampton site and explained the many features and benefits of having a greenhouse and what it would mean for the students and the community. The location of the proposed 30’W x 30’L freestanding greenhouse would be on the grounds of the high school on the side of the library lawn. After discussing the total complete cost projection for building the greenhouse (approximately \$90-100K) and the issues of propane use, electricity, drainage and water, Mr. Stack informed the group of the Trustees’ receptiveness to the project and their willingness to donate \$60,000 to it. The remainder of the money needed would be reached through fundraising. There would be annual operating costs absorbed by the District of approximately \$2500. Mr. Stack clarified that they are not asking the Board for money but for the “green light to move forward on the next stage of planning this project and getting some exact costs”. The Board members had questions regarding the project and after discussion, **a Motion was made by Ms. Ross to give the Board’s blessing to move forward and explore the possibility of a greenhouse project, seconded by Ms. Bennett. Vote: All in Favor**

b. **Draft Warrant Articles-** Ms. Coppola presented the articles 1-9 as follows:

1. General Election
2. General Acceptance of Reports
3. Operating Budget with Default Budget
4. Professional Staff Agreement –year 1 & 2 increases & tax impact
5. Special Meeting-Professional Staff-if Article # 4 is defeated, call a special meeting needing a 3/5 majority vote.
6. Support Staff Agreement - year 1 & 2 increases & tax impact
7. Special Meeting -Support Staff-if Article # 6 is defeated, call a special meeting needing a 3/5 majority vote.
8. Swasey Gymnasium and Chase Field House
9. Enter into Conversation with the Town of Kingston to Sell the Old High School Campus.

Discussion ensued on Articles #5 & #7, which are special meetings that Ms. Coppola explained can be called by the School Board to address a defeated Article , a” do-over” that then could go to a ballot vote. (Dr. Blake and Ms. Coppola reiterated that these draft documents introduced tonight have not been reviewed yet by legal counsel but are being utilized for content so that the Board can propose what to bring to the voters moving forward.) The Board agreed on the general language but legal counsel will be sought.

Article #8-Old High School Campus provoked discussion which will be discussed during the Facilities report.

Discussion about # 9 prompted the Board to agree to add the language of “to sell **some or all**” or “**a parcel of**” regarding the Old High School Campus parcel and Enter into conversations “**about negotiating with**” the Town of Kingston.

Mr. Broderick weighed in that the Teachers’ Contracts are foremost in his mind and to be minimal on other Warrant (CIP) articles. Mr. Masson asked whether considering the 1<sup>st</sup> year CIP recommendations would be acceptable. Discussion ensued on CIP issues and questions of deferment.

Dr. Brown questioned whether the windows at the Middle School are in violation of a fire code. Ms. Coppola answered yes, they are. This would cost \$150K to bring them up to standard. Dr. Brown would like to see this as a Warrant Article. Ms. Ross pointed out that there are many life-safety issues in the CIP and how to address them all? Mr. Masson believes the Middle School is a priority. The Board reviewed the CIP line by line costs for safety issues and the ADA compliance costs at the Swasey Gym. Ms. Bennett believes that keeping the warrant articles as simple as possible is key. Mr. Masson commented that our fiduciary responsibility is to take care of safety issues. Dr. Brown

asked whether having the fire department weigh in would make a difference on the urgency of the matter. Mr. Masson commented that the report produced by Leadership would show the urgency. Mr. Giordano asked about how we weigh these decisions, based on danger vs. not? Mr. Masson pointed out that the proposed budget does not have the CIP issues in it and if it is adopted; there will be harsh decisions made based on the value of safety issues held by each board member. Dr. Blake added that having these on separate warrant articles, and having them turned down, means we cannot take care of them at all. Mr. Masson asked for the Facility report to address Warrant Article #8. (Board agreed to pause from “Warrant Articles and hear Facilities Report from Ms. Bennett).

### **Facilities Report (from Committee Reports- item a)**

Ms. Bennett informed the group of the narrative report received by the University of Southern New Hampshire and the Athletic Director’s usage report on the huge impact of closing Swasey Gymnasium and Chase Field House. The consensus is that until this Envision Kingston decision is made (which could take 2 years), we will need to make the Swasey Gymnasium ADA compliant which will cost \$167,460K. Ms. Bennett asked Dr. Blake to read the synopsis of the ADA compliance constrictions from our attorney. Ms. Bennett ended by saying that the Facilities Committee would like to definitely put this on as a Warrant Article.

### **(b. Draft Warrant Articles continued)**

Mr. Masson and the group discussed the requirement to fix the ADA issues and approved the general Warrant Article # 8 and discussed whether to include another warrant for the life-safety issues at the schools. After a discussion of the line items for safety issues at the schools, Ms. Ross proposed putting some in a warrant and some in the budget. Dr. Blake added that just putting the Middle School windows on a warrant makes more sense so that we have opportunity to fund other safety issues by other means. **Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to make a warrant article to replace the Middle School windows for \$161, 300, moved by Mr. Broderick and seconded by Ms. Ross. Vote: All in Favor.**

### **c. Occupancy/Capacity Middle School-** Dr. Blake gave the statistics for the gymnasium:

Bleachers Folded:

1. Concentrated/Town meeting style-685 people
2. Less concentrated/tables & chairs-319

Bleachers Unfolded

1. Concentrated/609 (square footage/7)

2. Concentrated/284 (square footage/15)
3. 233 people bleacher space

Dr. Blake brought up the serious parking issue at the Middle School. Discussion about seating, space and parking at Middle School versus the High School ensued.

- d. **Academic Calendar-** Dr. Blake reviewed the Academic Calendar for 2017-2018. After discussion, **a motion was made by Ms. Ross to accept the Academic calendar for 2017-2018, seconded by Ms. Bennett.**

**Vote: All in Favor.**

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

Mr. Masson asked that we remember the following:

*Leadership is Performance  
You have to be  
Conscious of your behavior,  
Because everyone else is*  
Carly Fiorina

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Cheryl Giordano** (Newton) commented that the public may not aware of the safety issues and ignoring these may result in accidents and lawsuits. Also, the ADA signs and fire exit signs may be required.

**Jim Baker (Newton)** commented on the drainage and sewage aspects of the Greenhouse Project saying that where it drains (into the septic or away from it) should be considered. He also brought up the costs having only heard utility costs mentioned and not the total operating costs with items such as repairs, maintenance and personnel costs.

**Cheryl Gannon (Kingston)**-commented that the fields and Swasey Gym are used by many students, so if the warrant article fails, where will they go? Concerned that not building these into the budget is a mistake.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Ross expressed her unhappiness at a post made on the Newton–Kingston Taxpayers Association website by a Board Member in regard to what was discussed at a previous meeting. She felt that the post blatantly misrepresented the facts. Ms. Ross also took offense at the

“derogatory and cavalier” tone taken by the Budget Committee in regard to the cuts they are making. Ms. Ross shared examples of comments she had read/heard. In closing, Ms. Ross shared a positive letter that a teacher sends out to her students which fosters their self-worth, saying in essence that there are many levels at which one can be considered “smart” and/or successful.

Ms. Gluck shared her disappointment in the number that the Budget Committee put forward, saying that “the nearly million dollar reduction will be detrimental to the educational programs and opportunities we provide at Sanborn”. Ms. Gluck outlined the cuts, saying it was drastic. She encourages the community and students to get involved at the Public Hearing and at the Deliberative Session and “weigh in” with their own votes.

Mr. Giordano shared a recent experience with the Choir Group where he visited Bakie School and witnessed how personable Ms. Rutherford is with every student as he believes every administrator is in our district, emphasizing that they all display the same professional devotion to their students and their jobs. He implored everyone to work together well on the Budget and Warrant Articles (mentioning the teacher contracts) and to move through this process compromising as much as possible.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Mr. Giordano is currently working on a newsletter to send to the national Student Council.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **Excellence in Student Achievement (EISA)**-Ms. Bennett informed the group that they are working on the policy itself, a presentation planned for a sample of a student’s average day, and in making sure that student centered education is the focus. Goals were discussed and the next meeting is 2/15 at 5:30 PM.
- b. **Policy Committee**- Ms. Ross asked for a Motion to reaffirm CCB and CF. Motion moved by Ms. Bennett and seconded by Dr. Brown. **Vote: All in favor.** Motion made to agree on the first read of CD and JH-R. Board all agrees.
- c. **Budget Committee**- Ms. Gluck & Mr. Masson reviewed the Budget Committee’s final bottom line of \$32, 717, 382 which was a reduction of \$964, 775.00 from the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget involving staff cuts. Line items were reviewed and a lengthy discussion ensued.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. **Students With a Voice**-Mr. Masson asked that the Board consider addressing the petition signed by 76% of the student body by legal counsel in Non-Public and then pan to publically address it at a future school board meeting with parents in attendance.
- b. **Budget Number**-Our budget number is \$34, 539, 366.
- c. **Deliberative Location**- After discussion of parking limitations and seating, **Mr. Broderick made a Motion to hold the Deliberative at the Sanborn Regional High School versus the Middle School, seconded by Ms. Pierce. Vote: All in Favor.**
- d. **Tutoring Proposal**- Mr. Giordano informed the group that Mr. Stack liked the proposal and suggested it could start now as a FLT (Focused Learning Time) or as a variation of an ELO (Extended Learning Opportunity) as a Teaching Assistant. Mr. Giordano also looks forward to it starting in the 2017-2018 full school year. Questions were asked about who would spearhead this endeavor. Mr. Giordano will look into it. Ms. Ross commented that trying it now and working out the details will be worthwhile. Mr. Masson asked Mr. Giordano to report on his experience in developing curriculum. Ms. Bennett added that this exercise is critical in learning how to teach. Dr. Brown mentioned Policy IJOC (dedicated volunteers) which requires background checks and should be looked into. Agreed by members.
- e. **Road to the Deliberative** – Mr. Masson asked about having another meeting on 1/25 for the public regarding educating them on the budget similar to one held on 12/12/16. On January 18th, he proposed having a curriculum based focused board meeting with Administrators in attendance. After discussion of the upcoming events and clarification by Mr. Masson, it was determined that January 18<sup>th</sup> would be the meeting that all items are addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS**-None

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT**-None

**WRITTEN INFORMATION**-- None

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING 1/18/17**

- a. **Strategic Plan**
- b. **Students With a Voice**
- c. **Curriculum**

**d. Public Hearing debriefing**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Budget Committee Public Hearing** will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Sanborn Regional Middle School, 31A West Main Street, Newton, NH.

The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

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 25, 2017**, and ends on **Friday, February 3, 2017** at 5:00 p.m.

*The candidate filing forms may be obtained at the SAU Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The School District Clerk will be available on the last day to file from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 8, 2017** at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Sanborn Regional High School.

The **Second (Voting) Session of the Annual School District Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the **Swasey Gymnasium** (Sanborn Seminary Campus) for Kingston voters and in the **Newton Town Hall** for Newton voters.

**ADJOURNMENT**- Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 PM, moved by Ms. Ross and seconded by Ms. Bennett. **Vote:** All in favor.

**NON-PUBLIC Meeting**--RSA 91-A: 3-(a) Personnel. A Motion was made by Ms. Ross to enter into the Non-Public session, seconded by Bennett. A roll call vote was held by the secretary. **Vote:** All in favor.

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.*