

## SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 12, 2013

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by Chairperson Nancy Ross in Room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Nancy Ross, Chairperson  
Janice Bennett, Vice Chairperson  
James Doggett  
Cheryl Gannon  
Rebecca Hallisey  
Wendy Miller  
Dustin Ramey

### ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools  
Jennifer Pomykato, Director of Student Services

### EXCUSED:

Ms. Carol Coppola

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

### REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

### MINUTES

Minutes of the January 23, 2013 and January 16, 2013 were reviewed. The following changes/additions were made to January 23, 2013 minutes. First paragraph, "Under RSA 91A:2111A-E it is permissible for members to attend via electronic devices", should read **Under RSA 91A:2111A-E it is permissible for members to attend via electronic devices.** In the January 16, 2013 minutes under **NEW BUSINESS** the sentence which reads "...Horne Construction would not renovate the building" should read **...Horne Construction would not renovate the headmasters building.** Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the changes/additions to the minutes for January 16, 2013 and January 23, 2013 and Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Ms. Ross polled the board to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion to approve carries; vote 7-0.

### EXPENDITURES REGISTER

None

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

None

## **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Molly Statezni reported on the Winter Carnival, which is a “Nickelodeon” theme. Students will decorate hallways and bleachers. There will be a Pep Rally and Lip Synch contest during the week. Ms. Statezni reported that there was a regional student council meeting, but she was unable to attend.

## **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Policy Committee**

Ms. Bennett shared report from the February 4, 2013 meeting. Policies reviewed: JRA, JRE-E, JRE-R, Tobacco Use Prohibited, Support Staff Services – Section E. Next meeting is not yet scheduled.

### **b. Seacoast School of Technology Committee**

Mr. Doggett and Dr. Blake updated the Board. Legislative changes make the resident districts responsible for SST tuition for Charter School students (Great Bay e-Charter School as example). Sanborn Regional High School has a cap on the number to attend at 100 seats. The concern would be that charter students could take the place of Sanborn Regional High School schools. This year, two GBECs students attend SST; last year there were three. Ms. Hallisey asked would freshman and sophomores be able to attend as charter students, Dr. Blake responded no.

## **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT**

Ms. Ross stated that the Board was encouraged by attendance at the deliberative session. She encouraged the public to vote on Tuesday, March 12. Ms. Ross stated that the joint Fremont/Sanborn Regional School Board meeting was positive. The Fremont administrators shared various data reports, including what the Ellis School staff does to support their students’ transition to Sanborn Regional High School.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jack Kozac asked what the school board’s position is on having tax impact statement included on the school district warrant articles.

Bart Noyes stated that he felt the Deliberative Session was constructive. He apologized for misinformation about Bedford not having a public high school. Mr. Noyes added that the starting salary for Bedford was \$10,000 more; Sanborn and Timberlane was \$6,000 difference. He stated the salary comparisons may be misleading when reviewing minimum, average and maximum salaries. Mr. Noyes commented that the Tax Impact Statement could be calculated in a variety of ways, if board agrees to define how this statement was determined.

## **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Gannon commented on the Sanborn salary matrix and the impact of not having a contract for 3 years. Salaries remained stagnant and turnover of staff may have resulted in younger staff at lower pay. Ms. Gannon asked about the NECAP results timeline for release and analysis. Ms. Gannon stated that she is concerned that Fremont scores are higher than Sanborn. Ms. Gannon stated that the Fremont meeting raised questions on the K-12 foreign language. The minutes talked about the culture survey and the math program; Ms. Gannon would like more information. Goals include staying informed; Ms. Gannon hopes for update on programs per school board goals.

Ms. Bennett stated the school board did take a vote at the last meeting regarding adding the Tax Impact Statement to the warrant articles. The motion did not pass. We would need to make a motion to reconsider. Dr. Blake agreed.

Mr. Doggett commented the board has reopened votes; this would be a similar situation to allow full membership vote. Ms. Gannon stated that out of respect for our constituents, the Board should reconsider.

Ms. Miller stated that when she attended the recent kindergarten forum with 15 parents in attendance at Memorial School, each person seemed to want more information about the tax impact of the warrant articles.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Overnight Field Trip**

SRHS's Outing Club requested Board approval for an overnight field trip on February 16, 2013. Mr. Doggett made the motion to approve the SRHS Outing Club's overnight field trip on February 16, with amendment to suspend school board weapons policy, thereby allowing the students to carry supply list tools as needed for the Outing Club trip. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote of 7-0.

### **b. Winter Coaches**

Mr. Doggett motioned to accept the nominations for the 2012-13 winter coaches as listed on the 4b publication with assurance that this is in compliance with school board policy. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Ms. Gannon noted that the date on the document was post season. Dr. Blake commented that it was an oversight. Motion carried with vote of 6-0-1 (Gannon abstained).

### **c. Spring Coaches**

Mr. Doggett motioned to accept the nominations for the spring 2013 coaches. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote of 6-0-1 (Gannon abstained).

### **d. Policies**

Mr. Doggett motioned to accept for second reading Policies JLIE and JLIE-R. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried with vote of 7-0.

Mr. Doggett motioned to accept Policy IKF-R for first reading. Ms. Bennett seconded. Dr. Blake highlighted changes on Policy IKF-R. Ms. Gannon asked if SRHS offered an alternative diploma. Ms. Pomykato outlined that by policy the high school pay petition for an alternative diploma under exceptional circumstances. Motion carried by vote of 7-0.

Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept policy JICG for first reading. Ms. Miller seconded. Mr. Doggett asked the policy committee to clarify language under the statement of purpose. Ms. Miller wanted to know if this applied to staff and teachers. Mr. Doggett offered clarification to policy including the paragraphing. Ms. Ross also offered language for consideration by the Policy Committee. Motion carried by vote of 7-0.

Dr. Blake presented Policy JRA; Policy as presented is for reaffirmation. Ms. Gannon asked if this policy includes any changes to the laws. Dr. Blake stated legal references are included. Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept Policy JRA for first reading. Ms. Bennett seconded. Ms. Gannon questioned why written request for parent and student access to records. Ms. Pomykato stated that older student records may be scanned and not readily available in paper format; time is needed for access. Ms. Ross explained that there is not deliberative delay in access to records. Dr. Blake explained the fees for records' copying were added. Ms. Gannon asked if records are sent through email and electronic transmission. Mr. Doggett suggested that since Policy is silent on electronic transmission, the practice should be hard copies only. Motion carried by vote of 7-0.

Motion to accept Policy JRA-E (FERPA Rights) for first reading. Ms. Hallisey seconded. Mr. Doggett stated that JRA-E replaces JRA-R to align with requirements. Motion carried by vote of 7-0.

#### e. Deliberative Session Changes

##### Warrant Article 3 – Operating Budget

Amendment to Warrant Article 3 distributed by Dr. Blake. Budget Committee vote after Deliberative Session was 2-4 in support of amendment as voted on by the public at the Deliberative Session. Ms. Bennett made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 3 as amended at the Deliberative Session for a total amount of \$31,683,936, reflecting an increase of \$97,167 from the proposed budget. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. Ms. Gannon stated that she is in support of the comment made at the Deliberative Session; in spite of the work done by the Board and the Budget Committee, the public could change the Warrant Article number by an arbitrary number. Ms. Gannon stated that in this case, the speaker who made to motion to amend the budget increased the budget number by the amount cut by the Budget Committee. Motion carried with vote of 5-1-1 (Mr. Doggett-no; Ms. Gannon abstained.)

Dr. Blake asked Ms. Gannon for clarification as to her vote. As the School Board representative, Ms. Gannon voted against the Budget Committee's proposed budget; this evening Ms. Gannon abstained. Mr. Doggett explained that voting in abstention is a choice but does not negate the vote at the Budget Committee.

### Tax Impact Statement

Mr. Doggett stated that the town of Newton will include the per thousand tax impact of each article. Dr. Blake asked if this would be based on current or future property valuation. Mr. Kozec stated (from audience) that this would reflect current valuation. Ms. Ross explained that in Kingston, the selectmen voted to not include the Tax Impact Statement because of the possibility of confusion. Mr. Kozec explained the process and logic of why included in Newton. Ms. Ross stated at Board meeting on January 16 the Board voted 3-3 against adding the Tax Impact Statement. Ms. Gannon asked Dr. Blake if there is legal counsel recommendation. Dr. Blake replied there is not.

Mr. Doggett made a motion to place the Tax Impact Statement on the voting ballot. Ms. Miller seconded. Ms. Hallisey asked if the district were to return money to the taxpayers, would this affect the tax impact. Dr. Blake stated that if the Board votes to add the Tax Impact Statement that this would be a real number based on current information not actual information at time of tax rate setting. The Kingston selectmen's concern was that the public would be confused by the information. District cannot anticipate the impact of budget monies returned nor the impact of changes in other revenues. Ms. Ross asked if the Tax Impact Statement would be accurate? Mr. Doggett stated that often the amount is lower than reported. Mr. Noyes stated from the audience that RSA 32:5, V enabled voters to include Tax Impact Statements by warrant article. Ms. Ross asked if this must be by warrant article. Mr. Kozec stated that the Newton Town Administrator proposed the Tax Impact Statement at the Town Deliberative Session. The voters approved adding this information. Mr. Doggett stated that according to RSA, any town may vote to include Tax Impact Statement. Ms. Ross stated that should she would not support this motion. Ms. Hallisey stated that according to the moderator, the vote taken at the Deliberative Session is not binding. Ms. Miller asked why some votes are valid and others are not, such as the budget amount. Dr. Blake explained that by statute, the changes are allowed. Mr. Ramey stated that information is provided to the taxpayers via multiple sources; adding information to warrant article could make things more confusing. Ms. Ross agreed that there are a multitude of media sources for this information. Ms. Hallisey stated that this question may need to go to the voters and that it is too late for a warrant article.

Mr. Doggett referred to the RSA language and stated he is certain there will be a warrant article next year. Mr. Noyes stated that the Deliberative Session exists only for the Warrant Articles presented on the ballot. A warrant article to include the Tax Impact Statement was not on the ballot. Even though discussed at the Deliberative Session, there was no warrant article on this matter. Ms. Bennett stated that it is clear that even the Board cannot agree on the procedures or process for this vote. Mr. Doggett stated that providing information is better than denying the information. Mr. Ramey stated that the information must be accurate. Ms. Hallisey asked if this is the first time the information could be added to the ballot? Dr. Blake answered in the affirmative and explained that for a warrant article to be added it must be by petition and brought forward to the voters. Dr. Blake is not certain that this warrant article could even be added as beyond the deadline for this year, but that it could be added next year. Mr. Doggett stated this is only information. Ms. Miller asked if the tax impact is not added, is this hiding information. Ms. Ross stated that the public sessions and publications provide this information.

Mr. Kozec stated from the audience that Americans have the right to transparency. Mr. Noyes stated from the audience that there is a process by which a practice may be established. The law outlines the process through warrant articles; it cannot happen this year. Ms. Gannon asked if it was not legal to add the information this year, but must wait until next year. Mr. Noyes answered in the affirmative.

Ms. Ross asked for the vote on Motion to include Tax Impact Statements to the School Budget Warrant Articles. Motion did not carry by vote of 2-4-1. Ms. Ross, Ms. Hallisey, Ms. Bennett voted no; Mr. Ramey abstained.

#### **COMMUNICATION RECEIVED/SENT**

- a. SRHS Yearbook  
Board discussed adding a page to the yearbook as in the past. Mr. Doggett made the motion to include a school board page in the yearbook. Ms. Bennett seconded. Motion carried by vote of 7-0.

#### **WRITTEN INFORMATION**

None

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

- a. Foreign Language
- b. SRSD Math Programs
- c. NECAP Analysis
- d. Committee reports

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Noyes stated that the Town of Hampton has the Tax Impact Statement on their warrant article. Mr. Noyes agreed that abstention from vote is correct. If vote is recusal the board member cannot participate in discussion. Mr. Noyes asked if there has been discussion by the Board or administration related to including students with disabilities in athletic events. Dr. Blake replied, not yet.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The next regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00pm at the Sanborn Regional High School (Room 137), 17 Danville Rd., Kingston.
- b. The Second (Voting) Session of the Annula School District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 8:00am to 8:00pm in the Swasey Gymnasium (Sanborn Seminary Campus) for Kingston voters and in the Newton Town Hall for Newton Voters.

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

Motion made by Mr. Doggett to enter Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (Personnel). Ms. Pomykato polled the Board. The Board entered non-public session at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer C. Pomykato  
Recorder



