

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

February 15, 2017

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Corey Masson. The following were recorded as present;

SCHOOL BOARD Corey Masson, Chairperson
Nancy Ross, Vice Chair
Jan Bennett
Dr. Pamela Brown
Peter Broderick
Sheila Pierce
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 letter “d” under Subcommittee Reports for addition of the Budget Committee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2017. Motion moved by Ms. Bennett and seconded by Ms. Ross. Dr. Brown requested that the following additions (in bold) be made: On page 4, in the second paragraph, “She went on to say that despite our **student-to-teacher** ratio continuing to trend **11%** below the State average and our performance indicators not rising for all types of learners, we continue to spend more each year. Several typos fixed as well. **Vote: All in Favor as amended.**

Mr. Masson asked for a Motion to approve the Non-Public Minutes of February 1, 2017.

Ms. Bennett moved the Motion, seconded by Ms. Ross. No changes.

Vote: All in Favor.

EXPENDITURES REGISTER & MANIFEST – REVIEW AND SIGN

The Board reviewed and signed the Manifest Check Register #15 for \$169,432. 60 dated 2/15/17 and the Payroll Check Register #16 for \$800, 217.13 dated February 9, 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING: ARTICLE #14-DEFAULT BUDGET

Chairperson Masson called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Dr. Blake read the Article #14. Mr. Masson opened the meeting to Kingston residents for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Holt-questioned why there is a public hearing when the Article was already presented at the Deliberative Session. (Dr. Blake answered that it is the law to offer the Hearing to address public comment and answer any questions about the Article. Dr. Blake added that the Board can keep the session open in case others arrive late and close it later in the evening).

Cheryl Gannon- Is against the Article saying that as a member of the Budget Committee, the voters should know that the attitude of those members on the committee advocating for this Article (see the January 19th Budget Committee video) were disrespectful of the public's ability to understand the Article and the Budget Committee should not be the body that takes on this responsibility.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Discipline Presentation- Dr. Blake explained that over the last couple of weeks /months there has been commentary on Facebook and views expressed in other arenas about discipline at the High School. Much of this information is inaccurate and Dr. Blake invited the Principals (Mr. Stack, Mr. Turmelle and Ms. Hadwen) to attend in order to explain to the Board, Sanborn's approach to discipline and how they have managed to decrease disciplinary incidents due to efforts in programming, teaming and other initiatives. At a later date, Dr. Blake would like to invite teachers to join the discussion as well to hear their perspectives. Mr. Stack and the Principals reviewed/discussed the following:

- Discipline excerpt from the SRHS Student Handbook
- Student Discipline Referral Forms

- In-school suspensions, Detentions & Planning Room
- Out of School Suspensions
- Educating Students to make better choices
- Teacher input on student and follow through
- Restorative Justice Model/Conflict Resolution
- Progress/success regarding behavioral incidents

Extensive discussion ensued on the above presentation.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Masson thanked the Board and the public for attending the Deliberative and for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Holt (Kingston) as a staff member commented on the many factors that contribute to disciplinary issues. He added that increasing the student-to-teacher ratio will only increase those issues and he urges the public to be aware that the students will suffer consequences. He closed by saying, "Sometimes it is smarter to spend the dollar than to save the penny".

Abigail Parrot (Kingston) announced that the *Students with A Voice* organization would like to hold a *Meet the Candidates* night for those people running for a district office to be held the week of March 6th. More information will follow on the actual date and time.

Cheryl Gannon (Kingston)-commented as a member of the Budget Committee (and not speaking for the whole Board) that the Budget Committee's Deliberative Session presentation was not sanctioned by the full committee. The slides were shown to them but the concerns voiced by some were largely ignored. Nine slides were new or altered and not approved nor presented in a neutral way. She feels that the Committee seriously overstepped its bounds and that moving forward they should adhere to their responsibilities.

Cheryl Giordano (Newton)-commented that Principals' presentation was very thorough and informative. She added that she learned a lot that she did not know and wanted to thank them for it.

Jim Baker (Newton)-commended the Budget Committee on the process that they undertook saying that they worked with Administration to look at the expense history for the last 3 years so that the budget number they came up with was based on actual expenses, and was not an estimate. He added that having attending the Budget Committee meetings for the last 2 years, his observation is that the prior Budget Committee Chair has an issue with the current Chair, a philosophical dissonance in how they approach the budgets and that the current Chair could

obtain information that the prior Chair could not. He closed by saying that the Budget Committee did a good job.

Mary Cyr (Kingston)-commented that she is glad there is a structured discipline matrix at the High School and she understands that every situation is different. However, she has heard in the community that the delivery of consequences is not consistent and parents are frustrated. She cited a student of a friend who had multiple tardy slips and the student relayed that there were no consequences for her because she is a good student and the teacher won't make an issue of it. Ms. Cyr encouraged the Principals to be more consistent in their approach.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ross felt compelled to comment based on what she heard at the Deliberative Session which called into question the integrity of the School Board and the Business Administrator. She admonished the moderator for not allowing anyone to challenge the bold-faced lie uttered and she apologized to Ms. Coppola. Ms. Ross also corrected inaccuracies posted on social media regarding how the Default Budget is developed and how decisions were made by the School Board when recently approached by the Budget Committee.

Ms. Gluck agreed with Ms. Gannon about the actions of the Budget Chair in planning for the Deliberative Session and wished there could have been more discussion. Regarding Mr. Baker's comparison of Budget Committees year to year, she commented that there has always been good coordination between Administration and the Budget Committee, just different ways of approaching the task.

Mr. Giordano thanked the public for their comments and encouraged people more to come forward as it is one of the best ways to know what their concerns area and it is true democracy in action.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Giordano shared that Winter Carnival 2017 packet of upcoming events.

Monday Feb 20th - Disney day

Tuesday Feb 21st - Twin / Squad day

Wednesday Feb 22nd - Fancy - Dress up day

Thursday Feb 23rd - Throw back day - dress like you did in HS - or Dress like a historical figure

Friday Feb 24th-Class Color day

Freshmen - orange, sophomores - pink, juniors - purple and seniors yellow

Also, on behalf of the Student Council and several faculty members, he thanked the Board and the community members who came out in support at the Deliberative Session. Lastly, Mr. Giordano informed that the Student Council is applying again for National Honors Council, a national award that we have one for the last 3 years in a row.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Policy**--Ms. Ross re-introduced 2 policies for Final Read (CBA -Superintendent's Policy and IJK-Supplemental Materials, formerly Movies and Videos)

A Motion was made by Ms. Bennett and seconded by Ms. Gluck to approve the Final Read of CBA. Vote: All in Favor

A Motion was made by Ms. Bennett and seconded by Ms. Gluck to approve the Final Read of IJK. Vote: All in Favor

- b. **Personnel**-Ms. Ross informed the group of the Principal Search efforts underway for positions at Bakie Elementary and Memorial School. There will be two public forums (parents and children, and the public is welcome) to obtain input regarding these positions. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

- Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Bakie Elementary School
5:30-6:30 PM

- Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Memorial School
5:30-6:30 PM

An online survey will be made available as well. Mr. Masson pointed out that this is an aggressive timeline as there are searches being done now across the State and positions being filled.

- c. **Budget Committee**- Ms. Gluck informed the group that the Budget Committee held a Public Hearing on Saturday, February 11th at 5PM at the Newton Town Hall. The goal of the meeting was to vote on the Warrant Articles after the Deliberative Session. They voted not only on the amended Articles but on ALL the Articles as follows:

- Article #3 Operating Budget: 7 in favor /1 abstention
- Article #4 Teacher Contract: 4 in favor/ 3 opposed/ 1 recusal

- Article # 6 Support Staff Contract: 6 in favor/2 opposed
- Article #9 ADA Compliance: All in Favor
- Article #10 Middle School Windows: 3 in favor/5 opposed
- Article #11 Ice Hockey 2 in favor/5 opposed
- Article 12 Capital Improv. Swasey/Chase 3 in favor/5 opposed
- Article 13 –Bakie, Memorial, Middle CI 3 in favor/5 opposed

Dr. Blake (per legal counsel) clarified that the only Articles that can be voted on after the Deliberative **are ones that have been amended**. Those that stayed the same cannot be re-voted on. So, that pertains to #3, #11, #12 and #13 for everyone in terms of re-voting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Deliberative Re-Votes**-Mr. Masson segued into the School Board’s re-votes for Articles #3, #11, #12 and #13.

Motion made by Ms. Bennett to recommend Article #3 (Operating Budget) as amended in the amount of \$34, 196, 468. Motion seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Ross and Ms. Gluck commented that it was a great compromise.

Dr. Brown commented that she supports the Article as amended but feels that the increase of 500K is not necessary and if approved does not have to be spent in FY18. If the School Board would be willing to explore and implement program reforms, the spending levels and the property tax growth can be contained.

(To see more, please view the School Board video available online at www.sau17.org)

Mr. Masson asked for clarification on a sentence Dr. Brown read regarding the Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessment as it relates to SAU17.

Mr. Broderick called for a “Point of Order” saying that we are off track.

Mr. Masson agreed but asked that the conversation continue to obtain information.

Dr. Blake clarified our position on Smarter Balanced Assessments (Grade, 3 for reading, - Grade 4 for math, Grade 8 (for both) and 11th grade (SAT) and explained PACE.

Mr. Masson pointed out that we all want better outcomes but since PACE has still not had time (a full 4 years) we continue to be pioneers in that quest.

Vote: Motion Moved: All in Favor

Motion made by Ms. Gluck to recommend Article #11 (Ice Hockey) as amended. Motion seconded by Ms. Ross. No discussion. Vote: 6 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries.

Motion made by Ms. Ross to recommend Article #12 (Capital Improvements to Swasey Gym /Chase Field) as amended.

Mr. Broderick commented that he wants the public to know that they are approving an appropriation and even though it is \$1, the Board has the authority to do this.

Ms. Ross agreed but also pointed out that the Board didn't put this on the Warrant but left it in case of the emergent need to address the issues.

Dr. Brown commented about Article #12 (and her comment applies to Article #13) that at the Budget Hearing and the Deliberative Session, these articles were brought up as being malicious, cynical ploys and as not a secret as the CIP is posted on the website. Dr. Brown read from a statement saying that that these comments fail to acknowledge that a plan is not an action and that once a plan is decided, only a warrant signals to voters that a plan is now needed. (To see more, please view the School Board Video available online at www.sau17.org).

Ms. Ross commented that she did not want to approve those Articles as put on originally because they were 1) confusing to the public and 2) the School Board wanted to be prudent and thoughtful of what the voter could afford.

Ms. Gluck added that the Board spent hours, painstakingly going over what to bring forward in Warrant Articles to the voters. She added that in her opinion, the Petition Warrant Articles were created to sabotage other things.

Mr. Broderick commented if we put it in the plan, we should vote for it which is what he did. Ms. Ross pointed out that we have plans year after year and we put forth what we feel we can do.

Mr. Masson brought up the feasibility study and the CIP plan. Mr. Masson questioned why Mr. Broderick did not bring up and propose the full 1.2 Million CIP if he believes we should follow the plan.

Motion moved. Vote: 5 in favor/2 Opposed

Motion made by Ms. Pierce to recommend Article #13 as amended. Motion seconded by Ms. Ross. No discussion. Vote: 5 in favor, 2 Opposed.

NEW BUSINESS-None

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT- Dr. Blake reviewed Mr. Stack's Graduation Letter which sets a tentative date of June 9th given the snow days we have. If we have more it will push it out to the 16th of June. **Motion made by Ms. Bennett to approve the tentative date of June 9th as the date for graduation, seconded by Ms. Ross. Vote: All in Favor**

WRITTEN INFORMATION—None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING 3/8/17

Mr. Masson recommended leaving agenda items open for now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Public Forum will be held for input on the Principal Search at Bakie Elementary, 179 Main Street in Kingston, NH on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 from 5:30-6:30.

A Public Forum will be held for input on the Principal Search at Memorial Elementary, 31 West Main Street in Newton on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 from 5:30-6:30.

A Public Hearing will be held for Newton Voters on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 PM at the Sanborn Regional Middle School, 31A West Main Street, Newton, NH.

The next **Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017** at 7:00 PM at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road in Kingston, Room 137.

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 10:05 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.