

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 3, 2019

To view the video of this meeting, please visit our website at www.sau17.net and click on School Board Videos under the School Board menu

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, Peter Broderick. The following were recorded as present:

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Peter Broderick, Chair
Dr. Pamela Brown, Vice Chair
Electra Alessio
James Baker
Larry Heath
Jamie Fitzpatrick
Tammy Mahoney

Adam O'Rourke -Student Council Representative

ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
Michele Croteau, Business Administrator (Excused)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM by Chair Broderick with the singing of the National Anthem led by 4 student members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.
2. **ACTION ON MINUTES-** Review of Public Minutes of [3/20/19](#). **Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to approve the Public Minutes of 3-20-19. Motion made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Heath.** No discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 3.1 **Manifests-Payroll Check Registers** #19A in the amount of \$500.00 dated 3-21-19, #19B in the amount of \$164,366.14 dated 3-22-19, #20 in the amount of \$820,316.10 dated 4-4-19 and #20A in the amount of \$1061.09 dated 4-1-19.
Manifests Check Register #21 in the amount of \$1,274,583.03 dated 4-3-15.

- 3.2 Nominations- Superintendent Ambrose shared the District-wide/shared staff nominations for 2019-1920. **Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to approve nominations, moved by Ms. Alessio and seconded by Mr. Heath.**

No discussion

Vote: All in Favor

- 3.3 Resignations-Superintendent Ambrose shared the resignation of High School Science teacher, Steven Bentley. **Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to accept the resignation, moved with regret by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Heath.**

No discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

- 3.4 Superintendent's Report- The upcoming presentation will take the place of a report.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1 Policy-Dr. Brown reported as follows: "Policy members met on March 27. Larry Heath, the superintendent and I attended. I agreed to continue as Chair of Policy. We reviewed revisions to over 30 policies from Sections D and E. Section D concerns DISTRICT FINANCES & FISCAL OPERATIONS, while Section E governs SUPPORT SERVICES, such as facilities, food services, and bus transportation.

"Most revisions discussed involve minor regulatory updates to legal references or wording. The revisions were recommended by the NH School Board Association's legal counsel and have been reviewed by our administrative team. The 32 revised D & E policies were forwarded to Board members in an Email on March 28. They will appear on the April 10th Board Agenda as Action Items for 1st & 2nd Reading. Six are new policies, but do not appear to be controversial.

"Policy requests that the Finance Committee give special attention to the D policies since these relate to fiscal operations – particularly policy DFA. We also request that Facilities members carefully review updated policy EC, since it concerns the Facilities Committee's authority. If there are any questions about these policies before the 10th, please forward them to Mr. Ambrose as soon as possible.

"At our March 27 meeting, I presented potential revisions to policies BDE and BDE-E which govern Board Subcommittees. I noted Board members voiced concerns at the March 20 Organizational Meeting when committee assignments were announced. The manner in which the assignments were made had changed - in two ways: 1) Board

input was not sought, though historically members have been asked to submit committee preferences. 2) Committees traditionally populated with 3 members were reduced to 2. Addressing the 2nd concern, first, I noted that the reduction in all subcommittees to 2 members by the Chair had been described as needs-based – because we have “so much work” next year, that “fewer members” per committee will help manage the load. I noted first, the Board’s workload is not necessarily increased, by continuing with 3-members. Two is a quorum for a committee of three. If a member is not available due to prior commitments - meetings can still proceed. Second, “fewer members” - two - present challenges. Subcommittees normally elect a Chairperson, and 3 members allow a majority vote for Chair. More importantly, the Subcommittees of Finance and Facilities have authority to make key fiscal and planning decisions for the Board. A 2/3’s majority allows them to complete regular business. Last, EISA does have “3 members” specified in policy BDE-E. “The Superintendent responded that the larger issue is that perhaps we have too many subcommittees - and they are meeting too often. He advised we consider eliminating some subcommittees. Personnel and Public Relations were mentioned. I said we should keep most of our Standing Committees, and populate them annually - but use them only as-needed. Subcommittees are a check-and-balance, whether they meet regularly or infrequently. “Addressing concern #1 – that Board preferences were not sought prior to making committee assignments, I explained the School Board Association’s sample policy BDE (which I presented for potential adoption) states, appointments made by the Board Chair **“shall be approved by vote of a majority of the Board.”** In other words, committee allocations should be collaborative and inclusive. Mr. Heath argued that the Chairperson is presiding officer and should retain authority. I said those who run for School Board do so based on specific passions. A contractor may seem “best suited” to serve on Facilities, but his reason for running might have been to increase teacher pay (Negotiations) - or improve Math scores (EISA). Board members run for a variety of reasons - and were elected for those reasons. Their preferences should be given consideration, I said. BDE & BDE-E will be discussed further at our next meeting on April 8, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.”

Chair Broderick announce that Mr. Fitzpatrick has been moved to Facilities Committee and he (Broderick) will add himself to the Policy Committee. Mr. Ambrose added that a schedule will be developed to help plan for what needs to be covered.

- 4.2 EISA- Ms. Mahoney reported that the next meeting is 4/10 at 4:30 PM.
- 4.3 Facilities- Mr. Baker reported that the group met today and the next meeting is May 1st at 4:30 PM.
- 4.4 Finance- Mr. Baker reported that the group will meet on April 17th at 4:30.
- 4.5 Public Relations-No report.

4.6 Personnel- Meeting – Dr. Brown reported that the next meeting is on 5/22 at 5 PM.

4.7 SST- No report.

4.8 Seminary –No report.

4.9 Budget- Mr. Heath reported that the next meeting April 11 at 7PM.

5. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. O'Rourke reported that the freshmen are fundraising, the sophomore's Pizza Fest is on and being advertised, juniors are prepping for prom on May 18th, and the seniors are prepping for end of year events. The Student Council discussed the plans for the rest of the year's events; Earth Day, Teacher Appreciation week, and the plant sale. The Southern NH Student Council meeting took place today at Salem High School. District officers were chosen and new ideas were shared.

6. **1st PUBLIC COMMENT**-None

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

7.1 Policies/Old Business- Dr. Brown explained that these 2 polices relate to compliance and regulation. DGD is a new policy.

7.1.1 DGD-School District Credit Card Accounts/Cards

7.1.2 EHB-Data Records Retention

Dr. Brown asked for a Motion for a 1st and 2nd Read on the two policies. The Motion was moved by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Alessio.

Mr. Baker asked about DGD, under Special Education on page 1 and 2 regarding destruction/retention of records. Superintendent Ambrose answered the question.

Vote: All in Favor.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Middle School Transition-Superintendent Ambrose noted that the meeting is running 20 minutes early and he suggested that perhaps waiting until the posted time of 6:45 for all the parents to arrive is best.

Dr. Brown asked for a Motion to begin the Middle School Transition presentation at a time starting at 6:45 PM.

Discussion ensued.

Vote: 6 in Favor, 2 opposed (Alessio, Heath). Motion passes.

Superintendent Ambrose presented the Middle School Transition.

To view the slides, [please click here.](#)

To view the video, [please click here.](#)

There will be a public forum to discuss this proposal on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

At next week's board meeting on April 10th, the passing of Article 8 and the options for reconfiguring grades (K-5) will be discussed. This will take place in the High School Library.

9. **2ND PUBIC COMMENT-**

Kyle Soucy (Kingston)-Thank you for the work on this presentation. Was there any consideration of starting times for Middle School and High School being different if this were to go forward? What are the non-monetary costs of putting 7th graders with 12th graders? Common areas are a concern.

Nicole Ash (Kingston)-Requesting that the School Board do their due diligence before deciding on the plan and investigate the needs of the students and not just the fiscal needs.

Heather Ingham (Newton)-Hopes the Board will consider the needs of the students, parents and the community before making any decisions.

Cheryl Gannon (Kingston)-Are there other schools in NH that have this model?

J.J. Defeo (Newton) - attends the Middle School and hopes the non-monetary costs will be taken into account because there are many flaws that we could find and we should look out for those. Talking to the student and the respective Student Councils would be in the best interests before making any decisions.

Corey Masson (Newton)-Policy DGD is not found online. Also, he challenges the Board to establish goals, document them and share them with the community. They should also establish a communication plan and timeline about redistricting and communicate that back to the community as well. How does this proposal fit into the Strategic Plan? How does this impact student achievement? What will the benefit be and how will it serve? What will the cultural impact be on staff and the students? How will being on carts impact recruiting long term? What if our enrollment increases as Windham did? Why aren't we talking about that?

Kelley Cullivan (Newton)-Why is there only one option that we are being presented with regarding the reconfiguration of K-6? We should make the most of our facilities. (Mr. Ambrose answered: these are great questions that should be brought to the public forum in May 15th. We are addressing the Article 8 passage and the reconfiguration at the April 10th Board meeting.)

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

◆ Discussion will begin on Article 8 (Reconfiguration) at 6:45 PM in the High School Library.

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th in the Sanborn Regional High School library from 6-9 PM

11 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**- RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (d)

Motion made by Mr. Heath to go into Non-Public Session, seconded by Chair Broderick. A Roll Call vote was held.

Vote: All in Favor

12 **ADJOURNMENT**- Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM

Minutes Respectively Submitted by:

Phyllis Kennedy
School Board Secretary

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