

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2013

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday May 8, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett, Chairperson
 Rebecca Hallisey, Vice Chairperson
 Renee King
 Jon LeBlanc
 Wendy Miller
 Dustin Ramey
 Nancy Ross
 Molly Statezni, Student Council Representative

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools
 Jennifer Pomykato, Director of Student Services
 Carol Coppola, Business Manager

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

Dr. Blake began the meeting by announcing that Chief Briggs, Kingston Police Department, was awarded the NHSAA Champion for Children Award for the Southeast region. Dr. Blake thanked Chief Briggs for his ongoing efforts for the kids. Chief Briggs goes “far beyond what is expected of him”. Chief Briggs thanked everyone. He stated that he “has a different philosophy dealing with kids”. When it comes to dealing with kids, he likes to “come up with a good solution and end up with happy kids”. He stated that he has a great working relationship with the SRSD staff. “I’m a small piece of the plan.” A breakfast will be held Friday in Concord where Chief Briggs will receive his award. Cake was served following the presentation.

At 7:22 PM, Chair Bennett called the meeting back to order. “Thank you Chief Briggs, hope you all have a wonderful time Friday in Concord.”

REVIEW AGENDA

#9. Facilities Committee Report will be discussed under #14, New Business. Also under New Business, add Nominations.

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 17, 2013 (public and non-public) were reviewed. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. In the non-public minutes, it was noted that it read, "Ms. Ms. Ross". It was requested to delete one "Ms." All in favor to accept the SB minutes with the one deletion.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #25 - \$800.00; Accounts Payable #26 - \$949,388.86. Payroll #22a - \$76.48; Payroll #23 - \$703,688.72.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Pomykato made a presentation to the SB on the Preschool Program. She started the presentation with a background of the program. Under Special Ed Laws and Rules, children are entitled to services at 3 years of age. The good news is that more 3-5 year olds are participating in the SRSD Child Check screening. If children are found eligible for special education services after the screening, they are added to the preschool roster. For children with disabilities from infancy, Early Childhood agencies notify the District to expect these children at three years of age.

NH Department of Ed. expects Districts to maintain a 50% ratio of students with disabilities and 50% students without disabilities. Sanborn's number of preschoolers with disabilities grows each year. Student Services has been monitoring the program over the past five years. SRSD has not been able to follow the 50/50 ratio guidelines due to space and staff needs.

Ms. Pomykato reported that some of the solutions include schedule changes and seeking outside contracted services and staff. The program, which has been held at the Bakie School, will now have a classroom at Memorial School. To staff this program, the final decision was a reduction in force of another special education position. The district will now contract for school psychologist services rather than retain this position as a district employee. Ms. King asked where they would find space at Memorial School as they are already at their maximum. Mr. VanderEls responded that due to the reduction in a teaching position, space will open up. One reduced classroom will become the preschool. Ms. Ross asked if the 50/50 ratio was based on the first day of classes in the fall. Ms. Pomykato responded that it's not easy to predict. Ms. Hallisey inquired if new staffing and furniture would come from the SPED budget. Ms. Pomykato stated that the plans are still in the "refinement stages". "Will a preschool teacher be hired?" "Yes". "Where will the furnishings come from?" "They'll be provided by downsizing other classrooms." "How does staff advertise for preschool openings?" "Public notice in the

newspaper.” Children without SPED plans are chosen by a lottery. Ms. Bennett thanked Ms. Pomykato for her presentation.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Molly reported that the Student Council is working on the plant sale to be held May 31st. All proceeds will go to a homeless shelter.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ross reported that the Budget Committee had met. It was basically a reorganization meeting. Mr. Barry Gluck was voted Chair and Mr. Tom Gasse was voted Vice Chair. She reported that there’s not much to do before the fall.

Ms. Ross reported that the Personnel Committee had met and discussed job descriptions. The SB members received hand-outs on the job descriptions. The Superintendent’s evaluation was also discussed. Ms. Ross will be reporting on that next month.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT

Ms. Bennett reminded everyone that the Ford Fundraiser was being held at the High School tomorrow. The money raised will be split between the PTO, Music Boosters and funding field trips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kurt Baitz congratulated Chief Briggs . “You couldn’t find a nicer guy, an extraordinary man, who really cares about this town. Not only is he the Police Chief, he’s the Mayor!”

Mr. Baitz stated that he is disappointed with the SB goals. He stated that the SB needs to move at a faster pace. “The SB goals should include what’s going well and what’s not going well”. “People are afraid to talk about what’s not going well.” The SAU housing needs to be addressed. Do we rent space; revisit using the Seminary campus; is it time to abandon the Seminary campus? “You need to continue to fight for something you want.”

Mr. Baitz stated that the math program at the HS needs to be addressed. There needs to be some concept at the SB level. There needs to be some direction from the SB. Once direction is given, the SB will receive feedback from the HS and community. “You need to move faster.”

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT Ms. Ross congratulated Chief Briggs. “Such a wonderful individual, an asset to the Community. We are extremely fortunate to have Chief Briggs.”

Ms. Ross stated she had received a phone call from Ms. Judy Rubin concerning the Seminary building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Filming Project: Dr. Blake reported that tonight's SB meeting was being taped. A link will be set up on the webpage to house/view the videotaped meetings. Dr. Blake asked the SB if they would like to spend \$20,000 to \$25,000 for four permanent fixed cameras. Ms. Gannon was taping the SB meeting from a camera affixed to a tripod. The consensus was to continue taping from the tripod and not spend the money on fixed cameras for now. It should be noted that Ms. Gannon volunteers her time to recording the meetings.

Dr. Blake distributed a handout concerning the SB work session scheduled for May 15th at 6:00 PM to be held in the HS library. Ms. Bennett asked the SB members if there were any other topics they would like to see addressed. None were added.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignations: Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the resignations of: Kelly Hochmuth, Bakie School Special Education; Taylor Prendergast and Katie Vandervalk, Special Education, Memorial School. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the resignations as presented on the May 8, 2013 memo.

b. Job Descriptions: Dr. Blake reported that some of the District support staff job descriptions had been revised. The review of the job descriptions was part of the last negotiations with the SREA. Board members asked if there were any considerable changes. Dr. Blake reported that there were some considerable changes. Some of the job descriptions went back to the 80's. Dr. Blake reported that a variety of people at different levels reviewed and had input into the new job descriptions. All in favor to accept the new job descriptions.

c. Facilities: Ms. Coppola reported that she had met with Ms. Ellen Hume Howard and the needs at each of the schools had been discussed. She asked Ms. Hume Howard and Mr. Michael Turmelle to report on the Learning Level Library. A request of \$124,466.36 to purchase this program has been made. The money would come from the 2012-2013 unexpended funds. The leveled library represents reading materials both as books and as online resources that offer students of different reading levels the opportunity to engage in content reading at their instructional level in various topics studied. The materials include reading levels for both our struggling and gifted readers at each grade and in the content areas. The materials will be used at all four schools. It was reported that this allows the District the ability to support the Common Core. The program is geared toward individual student's strengths and weaknesses.

Ms. Coppola also reported on the April 23rd Facilities Committee Meeting. Needed improvements in the District include: Memorial and Middle School Parking Lots (\$46,086.00);

Siding & Window Replacement in the Technology/Grounds Building (\$33,752.00); Middle School roof (\$59,500.00); Level Learning Library – District Wide (\$124,466.00); Climate controlled storage at Memorial School (NTE \$30,530). A discussion was held on the requested improvements. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the five projects at a cost of \$294,334.00 from the 2012-2013 unexpended monies. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. All in favor to fund the five projects.

14. d: Nominations: Dr. Blake recommended hiring Susan Coops, Special Ed Teacher at the Bakie School. Ms. King made a motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Coops; Ms. Ross seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the nomination of Ms. Susan Coops Special Education Teacher.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT none

WRITTEN INFORMATION: none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bart Noyes thanked the SB for resuming filming of the SB meetings. He asked that the PR Committee poll the area schools to see how they record their SB meetings. Mr. Noyes spoke of the different variables that come into play in becoming a top 10% school district in NH.

Ms. Gannon wanted the public to know “For the record, the only payment I have received over the years recording the SB meetings is an occasional piece of cake.” Ms. Gannon said she would continue to volunteer recording the meetings. She stated it may be hard to hear the audio, it may be inaudible. Ms. Gannon thanked the SB for resuming the filming. She asked how the public will know that the taped meetings are available online?

Ms. Gannon stated she was disappointed in the SB goals. “. . . don’t know that any of the goals were met.” “Something needs to be done about housing the SAU.”

Ms. Gannon asked what percentage of students are reading below grade level? She stated she is very concerned that the District has so many students reading below grade level. Who will monitor the students/programs to see that they are successful? Ms. Gannon would like to see more data on the success of the reading programs and the level learning library.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Miller spoke of the Level Learning Library. She stated it encourages students to learn. The students are better able to understand when presented to their level of reading.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board work session** will be held on Wednesday, **May 15, 2013, at 6:00 PM, in the HS Library.**

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on Wednesday, **May 22, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.**

The next regular meeting of the **Sanborn Regional School District Personnel Committee** will be held on Wednesday, **June 5, 2013, at 6:00 PM, in room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.**

Non-Public Session- RSA 91A:3 II b and c. Ms. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:21 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. LeBlanc
School Board Secretary

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