

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2014**

A joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and the Fremont School Board was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson Jan Bennett and Fremont School Board Chairperson Ida Keane. The meeting started with a Salute to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD

Janice Bennett, Chairperson
Dustin Ramey, Vice Chairperson @ 6:15pm
Nancy Ross
Jon LeBlanc
Wendy Miller
Corey Masson
(John Morano – excused)

FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

Ida Keane, Chairperson
Andrew Kohlhofer, Vice Chairperson
Tammy Kitt
Shannon Bryant
Gregory Fraize

ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent – SRSD
Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau, Superintendent – Fremont SD
Jennifer Pomykato, Director of Student Services
Carol Coppola @6:35pm

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE THE FLAG

INTRODUCTIONS

AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

MINUTES OF January 22, 2014 (Joint Boards' meeting)

Ms. Ross made the motion to approve with second by Mr. LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014 Joint Sanborn and Fremont School Boards meeting.

Discussion:

Keane asked for the minutes to change from "unexpended" to "unassigned" funds on page one under "Tuition Agreement", as written within the first two paragraphs. Ms. Bennett asked if these terms mean the

same. Ms. Keane stated the language reflects the terminology as used by the Fremont School District. Ms. Keane asked the minutes to reflect a change on the last sentence of page one - add "affecting the public's opinion of the SRHS's 20 year tuition agreement". Ms. Keane asked to add to paragraph 1 of page 2, add "at the end of the tuition agreement" to last sentence. Ms. Keane asked that the correct percentage in Paragraph 5 (line 4), page 2 should read "14.9% increase".

Motion made by Mr. Fraize with second by Mr. Kohlhofer to accept the minutes of January 22, 2014 Joint Sanborn and Fremont School Boards meeting. All in favor (Fremont School Board). SRSB vote to approve was 4 – 0 – 1 (Masson abstained)

FREMONT-SANBORN TUITION AGREEMENT

The Board Chairs (Ms. Bennett and Ms. Keane) stated that their respective Boards secured legal counsel. Ms. Bennett explained that per SRSB's legal counsel, any substantive changes must go before the voters. Ms. Bennett stated that the SRSB's goal is to reach a long-term, fair, and amicable agreement that is transparent. In polling fellow board members, all were in agreement with this statement.

Ms. Keane asked if there should this be a subcommittee to review the Fremont-Sanborn tuition agreement or should this task be accomplished through a public meeting of the both boards. Dr. Blake suggested a subcommittee with two board members from each board to avoid quorum of the Fremont Board. Mr. Kohlhofer agreed this would be a good place to start. Ms. Bennett also agreed.

Ms. Keane feels there are only a few points to address such as Fremont's need to build their budget over actual costs rather than projected numbers. This year the budget had considerable dollars added to the budget that were not needed. Mr. Kohlhofer agreed. Dr. Blake stated that if these calculations were completed by October 1, this would help budget preparation for both districts.

Ms. Miller asked who legal counsel for each district is. Ms. Keane stated Fremont's legal counsel, Attorney Will Phillips of Peterborough, provided feedback to the Fremont-Sanborn Board agreement. Ms. Bennett and Ms. Keane stated that neither district can use Gordon Graham, the first legal counsel for this agreement. Dr. Blake stated that Sanborn Regional School District's legal counsel is Attorney Robert Casassa.

Mr. Kohlhofer and Ms. Keane asked if the Boards could set this subcommittee's first meeting date. Ms. Bennett stated that SRSD has a negotiations committee (Ms. Bennett and Mr. LeBlanc) who will represent Sanborn. Ms. Keane and Mr. Kohlhofer will represent Fremont.

Ms. Bennett and Ms. Keane indicated that they would be interested in revisiting a discussion about the Cooperative School District. There was discussion and questions about this last committee. Dr. Blake referenced the minutes of July 9, 2007. The report indicates impasse. Board members inquired if there were committee minutes available; each board will investigate. Ms. Keane stated there was surprise in Fremont that there was impasse in this discussion. Ms. Ross suggested starting with the five reasons the Committee went to impasse. Dr. Blake reported: 1) Financial costs to join (range from \$1.5-\$1.6 Million); 2) Middle School space issue at Ellis; 3) Accreditation @ SRSD - four schools; Ellis building issues might impact accreditation application 4) cost of upgrading the Fremont teachers' agreement to align with SRSD salaries and benefits 5) Proposed articles - school board, indebtedness, districts' compensation.

Ms. Bennett asked if there could there be a 9-12 co-op. Dr. Cox-Buteau stated there would need to be a separate board for this 9-12 co-op. Fremont would need a K-8 board as would Sanborn. Salary negotiations

would be a challenge for both districts. The other factors would be administrative supports as well as other issues as described in the committee's report.

Coppola joined the meeting at 6:40pm to set the calendar for this subcommittee. The Boards agreed the date of the first meeting is May 5 at 6pm at SRHS (either room 137 or room 100). Ms. Coppola asked if there is anything needed for this meeting. Ms. Sue Penny, Fremont Business Administrator and Ms. Carol Coppola will exchange information as needed. Dr. Blake and Dr. Cox-Buteau will join this first meeting.

Ms. Keane stated the specific areas of the agreement to review include: Section 6A (special education tuition); unassigned fund balance (actual numbers); actual vs. estimated tuition (GMR); Paragraph 7 as described in the current agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Girardi (former Fremont Board member) thanked the school board for reopening discussion on the agreement.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Board members Ms. Keane, Mr. Kohlhofer and Mr. Fraize thanked the SRSB for opening discussion. Ms. Bennett hopes that the districts may move forward. Dr. Blake agreed that the circumstances have changed; underlying issues of the last agreement have changed. Ms. Keane stated that the Fremont tax rate is very high, especially compared to regional districts. Mr. Kohlhofer stated that the district and the Fremont community will have no debt within the next few years which will affect the district in a positive way.

ADJOURNMENT

. Ross made a motion with second by Ms. Miller to adjourn this joint Sanborn Regional School Board and Fremont School Board meeting at 6:50pm. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Fraize made a motion with second by Ms. Kitt to adjourn this joint Sanborn Regional School Board and Fremont School Board meeting at 6:50pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectful submitted,

Jennifer Pomykato, Recorder
Director of Student Services, SRSD

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

