

**JOINT MEETING  
SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 10, 2018**

**To view the video of this meeting, please visit our website at [www.sau17.org](http://www.sau17.org) and click on School Board Videos under the School Board menu**

A Joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and Fremont School Board was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Chairperson Peter Broderick and Vice Chairperson Susan Levine (Fremont) called their respective meetings to order at 6:04 PM. The following were recorded as present:

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Peter Broderick, Chairperson  
Dr. Pamela Brown, Vice Chair  
Jim Baker  
Taryn Lytle  
Tammy Mahoney  
Corey Masson  
Adam O'Rourke-Student Council Representative

**EXCUSED:** Larry Heath, School Board Member  
Michele Croteau, Business Administrator

**FREMONT BOARD MEMBERS:** Greg Fraize, Chairperson-via remote (Las Vegas)  
Susan Levine, Vice Chair  
Brittany Thompson  
Angela O'Connell  
Gordon Muench

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent of Schools  
Allyn Hutton, Superintendent-Fremont  
Susan Penny-Business Administrator, Fremont

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Broderick called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Vice Chair Susan Levine called the Fremont meeting to order at 6: 04

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by High School students Addison Tate and Matthew Pierson. Superintendent Ambrose highlighted their accomplishments as students in Mrs. Krumm's CAD class. They are working on a project to redesign some of the entrances for the Hopkinton Fair. This opportunity provides them a real-world, authentic application for their skills. It will also help them greatly with their aspirations to pursue careers in architecture after high school.

## 3. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Chair Broderick welcomed SAU 83, Fremont School Board to the meeting and asked for a Roll Call attendance. Sanborn School Board member Larry Heath was acknowledged as excused. Chairperson Fraize of Fremont was recognized as a remote participant due to his travel to Las Vegas.

## 4. DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion on NESDEC Study
- b. Update on Memorandum of Understanding
- c. Sharing of Goals
- d. FY19 and FY20 Goals

### a. Discussion of NESDEC Study

Superintendent Ambrose reported that they have been working hard on the NESDEC study. He posted a public survey on the internet and has received over 500 responses and that will close on Friday. The next step will be that the Board will take a look at the survey results, which are not votes per se, but just feedback and questions, and deliberate on a direction to then request the administration to do some deeper studies. Some themes are emerging; folks understand that we are running 4 buildings for 1600 students and we have a high school that's been built for 1100 students, that only currently houses 650 students. Parents in the community have a lot of questions and concern about what it would be like if their 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students were in a building with high school students. The survey was sent to the Fremont community as well and he hoped they will get involved. Regarding what the high school programming would look like, they haven't done an in-depth study yet, because the Board is just gathering preliminary information to make a decision about which options to pursue. Discussion will continue in more detail at the 10/24 Board meeting.

Ms. O'Connell asked if the survey results will be made public. Superintendent Ambrose responded that transparency in this type of process is critical, so yes, all concerns (such

as the Articles of Agreement between the towns of Kingston and Newton) will come to light, so we can review them.

Discussion on the NESDEC Study ensued with no decisions made at this time.

Ms. Levine asked if students were given the survey. Superintendent Ambrose responded that students were not surveyed at this time as they are focused on the taxpaying adults. Of course, in the future they would want to talk to high school students if things progress.

#### Update on Memorandum of Understanding

Superintendent Ambrose spoke with the Business Administrator, Michele Croteau, who could not be here tonight due to illness, but said she is very appreciative of the teamwork that streamlined the document, making it clear and concise. All agreed and there were no more questions.

#### b. Sharing of Goals

Each Board shared their goals:

##### Sanborn Regional School District Goals

1. Review the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) study information and come up with a recommendation for the best use of Sanborn Resources to support student success.
2. Complete a comprehensive review and update of policies to meet the standards of New Hampshire Law.
3. Set measures to evaluate where the district performance is with regard to meeting academic goals, per the new definition of Student Success and to map outcome goals into program resource allocations, and to adjust program resource allocations based on the outcomes.

##### Fremont School District Goals

1. The Fremont School District will support staff in developing and implementing quality student-centered learning and assessments, leading to increased student proficiency.
2. The Fremont School District will provide consistent communication including two-way communication and interaction with the greater Fremont community and Sanborn School District.

3. The Fremont School District will develop and implement consistent behavior expectations for the entire school community which supports a mutually respectful environment for teaching and learning.

Discussion ensued regarding data and academics. Fremont asked if Sanborn had any suggestions and/or comparative data. Sanborn shared their Definition of Student Success and their supporting data points.

c. FY19 and FY20 Goals

Ms. O'Connell asked for any insights or things that are being worked on as well as any opportunities for collaboration. Superintendent Ambrose answered that the Professional Development money put into the budget last year has been fantastic, saying they have a relationship with Columbia University, where a number of teachers and administrators have trained with the best minds in education with the best part being, of course, that they bring this back to the classrooms. In terms of the budget, the two primary needs are 1) adequate intervention for students prior to Special Education referral is lacking in all the grades. This is a big ticket item at 1.4 Million and 2), adding emergency funds for each department. In addition, teacher retention is critical.

Superintendent Hutton asked about the effect of teacher cuts on the High School's class sizes. Mr. Ambrose answered that those teacher cuts (3.5) were comprised of Family and Consumer science components that were eliminated, a choral teacher moved to half time, a Math teacher and a French teacher.

Dr. Brown commented that resource allocation is not serving students in two areas; the Middle School is in disrepair and the High School almost brand new, being severely underutilized because of declining enrollments. The other area is the cost-per-pupil expense which is much more than high performing schools, and yet we have lower test scores and pay our teachers lower salaries. If the classes could be brought up to the State average of 12.1, we could afford to pay our teachers more.

Mr. Masson asked for feedback from Fremont Board members who have high school students at Sanborn. Ms. O'Connell praised the Freshman Learning Community (FLC) as her son is thriving. She agrees that consolidation is a good idea but not at the expense of the student experience. Superintendent Hutton added that class size is not as easy fix as people think and needs to be a careful balancing act. Discussion ensued on class size, the FLC and the Accelerated Placement (AP).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jamie Fitzpatrick (Newton) - Appreciated the discussion during the Goals & Objectives portion of student proficiency and measuring outcomes. He would like to return to the discussion of grades. He is looking forward to Mr. Turmelle's presentation in two weeks, but after hearing last week of the math proficiency dropping to 30%, he stepped off from the elementary level to take a look at how we determine grading in the high school. So, at the elementary school, there are two levels of proficiency calling Exemplary and Proficient. There is no correlation to A-F grading and is a different system that doesn't map. You go to the High School rubrics and there's Exemplary, Proficient, and then we had another one called Basic Proficiency. So, a third measure is Proficiency. These are tied to numerical numbers, with 4 being the highest. So, Exemplary, same definition as grade school, does have a correlation and it's 3.5 to 4, which is about 87.5%. Proficient is 2.5 to 3.49 which is 62.5%. Basic Proficiency is 1.5 to 2.49 or 37.5%. So, we accept this as Basic Proficiency at the High School. In his opinion this is failing. We need to reassess our grading throughout the district.

Mr. Ambrose appreciated his opinion and will let Mr. Turmelle explain next week.

6. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Lytle commented that there is not a direct numerical correlation with regard to grading, as was just explained. This can be very confusing and is the main level of concern.

Dr. Brown commented that when she reviewed the class sizes at the High School, she did not include AP or Special Ed classes. Also, at last week's meeting she commented on our Math SAT scores and noted that PACE and Competency-based learning has been involved in our district for almost 10 years which was disputed by Mr. Masson and Ms. Lytle, saying it was only a few years. To clarify, the PACE Assessments were started in 2014-15 but the Department of Education states on their website that PACE is an approach for learning not just assessment driven. The NHDOE has been committed to PACE since 2005. The former Curriculum Director, Ellen-Hume Howard who currently works for New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI) stated on her resume that she had been working on Competency-based learning with Sanborn for over a decade. Also, they are studying the numbers. She has test scores for grades 3-11 going back to 2009, but they are State-wide assessments, so they are looking at the local assessments as well. They want to see growth in the scores.

Mr. Masson commented that it sounds like we need a meaningful accountability program which requires that each of the stakeholders in our communities help us understand what success means and how to be accountable to the students. We should continue to explore this together.

Mr. Baker commented on costs and class sizes. The Department of Education website and student-teacher ratios show across the board that Sanborn's is lower than the State average.

Taxpayers (and sustainability) are willing to pay a certain levels of their income towards a school district. It comes down to what the public is willing to support. The balance of providing the best education and keeping the taxpayers from revolting at the polls is key. So, looking at the big picture; gaps in class size, along with salary differentials and class sizes in other districts, means it all has to be balanced in order to have on-going support of the school district. There are many indicators to measure and he applauds Fremont's efforts to compare their students against other districts, saying we need to do the same.

7. 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC COMMENT-None

8. POLICIES

(Chair Broderick offered a 10 Minute break for Fremont School Board members while 2 policies are a reviewed). **Fremont Vice-Chair Levine made a Motion for a 10 minute recess, seconded by Ms. O'Connell. Vote: All in Favor**

8.1- Policy BDE-E Board Committee Missions and Statements of Purpose-Tabled

8.2-Policy DBJ-Line Item Transfer Authority-**Dr. Brown asked for a Motion for a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Read, moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.** Dr. Brown explained that Mr. Baker asked for language to be inserted to mention that we are using a qualified auditing firm. The Business Administrator agreed and also added language stating what the law requires. **Vote: All in Favor**

8.3-Policy CCA-Organizational Chart- **Dr. Brown asked for a Motion for a 1st & 2nd Read, moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

Dr. Brown reviewed recent additions. Discussion ensues over various positions.

**Vote: 5 in Favor, 0 opposed 1 abstention (Masson). Motion Passes**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Sanborn Regional School Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 6-9 PM in the Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

9.1 Agenda Items for Next meeting

- ◆ Policy BDE-E /Board Committee Mission and Statements of Purpose
- ◆ Grading Presentation by Mr. Turmelle
- ◆ Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Presentation by High School

10. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session at 7:35 PM per RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (e) moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Mahoney.**

A Roll Call vote was held. **Vote: All in Favor**

**Fremont's Vice Chair Levine asked for a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session at 7:35 PM per RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (e) moved by Ms. Thompson and seconded by Ms. O'Connell.**

A Roll Call vote was held. **Vote: All in Favor**

11. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM

Meeting 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.*

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**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES- CONTINUED**  
**October 10, 2018**

Sanborn Regional High School  
Kingston, NH

8:45 PM

In attendance: Mr. James Baker, Ms. Taryn Lytle, Mr. Peter Broderick, Dr. Pamela Brown, Ms. Tammy Mahoney, Mr. Corey Masson,

Others in attendance: Thomas J. Ambrose, Superintendent

**A Motion was made by Ms. Mahoney to seal the Non-Public Minutes, seconded by Ms. Lytle. Vote: All in Favor**

**A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM was made by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Ms. Lytle.**

**Vote: All in Favor**

Recorder

Thomas J. Ambrose