

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

December 5, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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
Tammy Mahoney
Corey Masson –Via Remote Connection

Adam O’Rourke -Student Council Representative

ADMINISTRATORS:

Thomas Ambrose, Superintendent
Michele Croteau, Business Administrator

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:02 PM by Chair Broderick with the Pledge of Allegiance led by students from the Memorial School.

Mr. Masson was identified as participating remotely from Austin, Texas. He is unable to make the meeting in person as he is travelling for business.

2. **ACTION ON MINUTES of 11-7-18** –Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to approve the **Public Minutes of 11-29-18. Motion made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Baker.** No discussion.

Vote: All in Favor

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Manifests-Manifests Expenditures #12 in the amount of \$48, 048.65 dated 12-5-18, # 12A in the amount of \$4,337.05 dated 12-5-18
- 3.2 Resignations-None
- 3.3 Nominations-None
- 3.4 Superintendent's Report- Superintendent Ambrose gave an update on the ongoing Professional Development activities. Literacy expert, Penny Kittle came to address teachers at the High School and Middle School. Her values, beliefs and practices in instruction align perfectly with the vision for the district. The Professional Development funds have made a huge difference over the last year. This year, the esteemed Columbia Writing Workshop instructors will come here to work with our teachers. Dr. Haynes has implemented some important work around Phonics instruction for Kindergarteners and First Graders based on what she has learned through Columbia's program. The lists of Professional Development accomplishments are long and productive and he thanked the Board for their support.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Policy – Dr. Brown reported that the group met tonight and reviewed some “C” Policies for a 1st Read on December 19th. On that evening, there will also be a 2nd Read on the A& B Policies. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 9 at 4:45 PM in the SAU conference room.
- 4.2 EISA- Ms. Mahoney reported that the group met on Monday, December 3rd at 4:30 PM. They discussed the following: The upcoming PACE Performance Data, assessing the AP Program and the possibility of operating a pathway to an Associate's Degree (these are 2 of EISA's adopted goals for the year), the challenges of the AP program and potential solutions. Middle School Principal, Ryan McCluskey, reported on Student Exhibitions at various grade levels, which helps students exercise the skills that would ultimately be needed for a capstone defensive learning. Over one-half of the Graduating Class participated in “I Applied Day”, whereby students submitted college applications. The other one-half are meeting with Guidance to review their post-graduation plans. The importance of the 11th Grade SAT scores is being promoted by Administration. The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 19th at 4:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

- 4.3 Facilities- Mr. Baker reported that the next meeting is Wednesday, January 9th at 3:45 PM.
- 4.4 Finance- The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 4:30 PM.
- 4.5 Public Relations-Ms. Mahoney reported that the next meeting is December 12th at 5:30 PM.
- 4.6. Personnel- No Report – Next date TBD.
- 4.7 SST- Mr. Masson reported that the next meeting is Monday, December 16th.
- 4.8 Seminary Discussion-No Report
- 4.9 Budget Committee-Review of the budget will begin on December 6th.

5. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. O'Rourke reported on the progress for the *12 Days of Caring* project. Donations are coming in and it is being advertised in the school and in the community. The sophomores are having a *Tacky Sweater Day* on December 20th with raffle and prizes. For Winter Carnival, the idea of adding a teacher lip-sync is being discussed.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**- None

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annie Collyer (Newton)-Commented on the amount of work that goes on in subcommittees and that EISA has spearheaded some incredibly exciting options for the students. She thanked them for their efforts.

Tammy Gluck (Newton)-promoted the Drama Club's Holiday Show on Monday, December 10th at 7 PM. This is student written and directed. Cookie decorating for all ages takes place at 6 PM and the show begins at 7PM. The Band Chorus concerts are also taking place over the next 2 weeks. Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 PM is the Middle & High School Band Concert. Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 PM is the Ellis Winter School Concert and Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM is the Bakie / Memorial Winter Band Concert (@ SRHS).

Michael Turmelle (Director of Academics, Professional Learning and Student Affairs)-announced his departure at the end of December to begin a job with the *New Hampshire Charitable Foundation*. He thanked the Board and the Sanborn District for all of the opportunities that they have given him and for the tremendous friendships he has developed over the last 9 years with amazing students, staff members and administrator friends, who will be his friends for the rest of his life. He added that folks from the outside look at what the Sanborn District is doing in all areas with amazing interest. His Position with the *NH Charitable Foundation* came about because of the work we are doing here. They have pledged over 100 Million dollars to improve early childhood education, the opioid epidemic, and college and career initiatives. So, he looks forward to taking what he has learned here and bringing it to students across the State.

At 6:30 PM, Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to enter Non-Public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (d) moved by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Alessio. A Roll Call vote was held. Vote: All in Favor

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Public Hearing-Commenced at 7 PM with Superintendent Ambrose giving a timeline of the Seminary Property since the Warrant Article passed, which said that the School District could enter into a discussion with the Town of Kingston regarding the potential sale of the Seminary Property to them, to include the Seminary, adjoining buildings, sports fields, and gym. In negotiations, exploring the idea of a land swap for a large portion of the Fairgrounds emerged. This appealed to both parties. They believed the Fairgrounds to be buildable but have determined recently that it may not be. There is a question of an aquifer there and whether the land is buildable. Superintendent Ambrose and the Seminary Task Force members (George Korn, Electra Alessio, Lynn Gainty, Dr. Pamela Brown, Larry Heath, Corey Masson , At- large member , Tammy Gluck, Michele Croteau and Thomas Ambrose)met with the Selectmen of both towns and they agreed to wait a year and not put forth any Warrant at this time. The structure of the meeting tonight will be to take questions and concerns so as their work continues, they can address those questions and hopefully come to an Agreement.

Electra Alessio (Task Force member) stressed that the idea of this swap is still an option but the testing of the land before the snow flies is not. Available copies of the two appraisals were distributed. One came in at \$1.8M before the remediation of the Seminary Property itself and the other came in at \$800K. The mitigation for the Seminary would be 2.5-3 Million dollars. The Fairground appraisal provided by the town assessor came in at 272,000 as is.

Lynn Gainty (Task Force member)-gave an additional update on the decision to wait which includes surveyors not being available to complete a survey on the Fairgrounds,

soil samples being collected, questions regarding accessibility to the water or how much usable land is there if they want to put a water source in. Of the 55 acres, it is critical to see what is viable. She added that there are (management) leases on the sports fields and Swasey Gym that will go back to the school for use of those facilities. The question of whether the *Kingston Heritage Commission* will be involved in deciding the future use of the Seminary or if selling it to a developer is an option, are questions that will have to be decided. A Purchase and Sale Agreement will need to be developed with those details addressed.

Karen Lovering (Kingston)-If buildable, what portion of the Fairgrounds would be used, all or some? What would be built? Ms. Alessio responded that there are 50+ acres and over one half is wetlands, and the other half, they believe is buildable, definitely for more fields. She said that they won't know for sure until the test pits are done and when they determine where and how the septic sewer would go in. This all costs money and the two towns are picking up the costs with Kingston paying more. We would like a win-win for all, so the public's input is critical. Mr. Ambrose added that there are no plans to build any new facilities on that land. The original agreement had some criteria that things would stay status quo for about 10 years with an option to continue to use the fields for 5 year blocks up to 20 years. Land is hard to find so having that parcel for future needs would be advantageous, if it is buildable. We are giving up buildable land so we want to be sure we have the same in the swap.

Annie Collyer (Newton)-Has a number of questions: Is keeping the Seminary heated at 60K yearly the best use of District money when we are supposed to be educating the children? Perhaps the Town of Kingston should take over that bill, since their aim is to have it in the future. Also, having invested in the fields and facilities as we have, only to have to start over again in 10 years at the Fairgrounds, does not make sense. Ms. Alessio responded that 150K was put into preserving the exterior of the Seminary because upkeep is important to many in the community and the building is part of the National Historic Register. The charrette done a few years ago, in an effort to broaden the tax base, recommended Kingston as a destination place, like Wolfeboro which would take 20-25 years to cultivate. The vision is to use this land. No matter what goes in there, it will be costly. Mr. Ambrose added that maintaining the building is important for the value of it.

Cheryl Gannon (Kingston) -What does Kingston plan to do with the seminary? The other buildings that would be leased from the school, will that include the community use that is currently in place? What happened with the charette's vision for the community? Ms. Alessio answered that until we own the property, no plans have been made, but the vision has not died. She encouraged involvement in the *Kingston Heritage Commission* who continues to foster ideas for the future. This is a process that

will take time, like 20 years. Groups and organizations would still be welcome to use the fields and facilities.

Paula Pelletier (Kingston)-Have the Kingston laws been reviewed regarding the protection of the aquifer and the wetlands in that area? She is part of a group that is working with the Department of Environmental Services to determine through testing what dumping has gone on at the Fairgrounds. So, have the town ordinance been looked into for protections they provide? Mr. Ambrose responded that her comment is exactly why they put the brakes on. The well radius could be an issue as well, and the septic system installation, so slowing it down was important.

Mr. Baker asked about the environmental concerns she is investigating and could she share the results with the Task Force.

Robert Geoffrey (Kingston) - asked about the possibility of selling off enough land with the Seminary, splitting the profit and keeping the fields and gym there for use. Mr. Ambrose answered that it has been talked about and is a possibility.

Sue Jewett (Kingston)-The term “even swap” of land is problematic to her as it does not seem to be land for land but land for land with a building. We need to know the cost of bringing the Seminary up to code because it could be a money pit. She added that selling it to a developer with deeper pockets than the taxpayers of Kingston may be a better idea. Also, has the property been put on the market before? Mr. Ambrose answered that it has not been put on the open market. He appreciates her feedback.

Jim Ricker (Kingston)-A 1985 Sanborn graduate who attended the Seminary, he works by day for an environmental engineering company and suggested a model of “Enhanced Use Lease” where a group buys and renovates buildings and manages them. He feels it could be successful with the Seminary. Superintendent Ambrose asked that he contact him for further discussion.

Judy Cronk-Smith (Kingston) - graduated from the Seminary in 1954 and would hate to see the building destroyed as it was the most beautiful building she has ever been in. It has been difficult to see the surrounding buildings destroyed. She would hate to see condos in the center of town. She was Sanborn’s District Clerk for 13 years and has seen the town grow and knows how hard the school district is working to preserve the Seminary and hopes others will too. Sports fields at the Fairgrounds is an idea she agrees with.

Jeff Donohoe (Concord area)-he works in redevelopment extensively and applauds the Board for spending the money to heat the building. He has seen buildings where the heat is shut off and in one year, the building is destroyed. The value of the building is

preserved when it is kept on. He came to the meeting with Jim Ricker and Mr. Ambrose asked him to contact the SAU office.

Debbie Powers (Kingston)-Chair of the *Kingston Heritage Commission* addressed the question of what would happen to the Seminary building. We don't know what will happen with the land right now, but we have promised is to make sure that we have public meetings to share ideas and anything that is decided will go to town warrant. We want to obtain the property and then decide how to move forward. The school could decide to sell the land to a developer, but they could just put up condos. An economic resurgence could come about with the Seminary in the right hands.

Tom Winternitz (Kingston)-said the Seminary is a landmark and was once the best high school in New Hampshire. He believes the tradition could still continue by making it a Junior College. The school could be suited for that building similar to where he attended, Thomas Alva Edison Junior College which is an online nursing school now. The Sanborn students could use this as a next step to further their education.

Corey Masson (Task Force member) - How much has it cost to maintain the Seminary building annually? Answer by Mr. Ambrose - it was \$45,271 for the last 5 years.

- 8.2 Budget Discussion- Mr. Ambrose explained the budget process where the Superintendent works with the administrative team and presents the budget to the School Board. They then deliberate and adopt a number to send to the Budget Committee for their review. The Budget Committee reviews the budget and the hope is to arrive at a point where the two budgets agree, so that the number is presented at the Deliberative in February. If we don't agree, then two separate budgets are presented and the voters decide. The Proposed Operating Budget Number is \$36, 112, 427.

Mr. Baker made a Motion to amend the Proposed Operating budget of \$36,112,427 with a 1.4% decrease to \$35,648,007. Motion seconded by Dr. Brown.

Mr. Masson commented that he is not in favor of this Motion as it is not student focused. Although we are fiduciary agents, it concerns him that over the years the review of certain line items defies the Definition of Student Success. Snow blowers do not equal success. As Mr. Ambrose has said this Proposed Budget "just gets us by", so this proposed reduction is not allowing for the critical resources that our students need. It is unreasonable to support this and he hopes that others are more reasonable than that.

Chair Broderick commented that the review process of line items makes a case for any cuts or increases and Mr. Baker did not come in with the specifics of where he recommended those cuts be made.

Mr. Baker responded that he is not looking to micromanage this reduction but to address years of poor planning and to have the Superintendent and Administration figure out where the money can come from. Last year, we had a good budget plan. This year, everyone has worked hard but the issue of too many facilities and declining enrollments has not been addressed. The overspending is in the lower grades, with \$3K more per child than other comparable sized elementary schools. We need a Middle School plan and a Seminary plan, which are both being worked on. We have employment contracts to put before the voters that we want to pass. All of these are costs the taxpayers will need to fund. The Operating Budget is too high but the good news is we are dealing with a temporary condition that a viable plan regarding facilities will make for savings eventually.

Mr. Heath commented that he is not in favor of the Motion. He would like to see an item by item explanation from Mr. Baker of how that number was reached.

Mr. Baker responded that it is more money than the Default Budget and his gut feeling is that in March that is what we will deal with. The Teachers and Taxpayers have taken the hit before and the Operating Budget hasn't. He is not going to micromanage where it comes from.

Dr. Brown commented that the new number that Mr. Baker is proposing is an increase in the budget for next year and we had a 1.5% on expended surplus this fall which was returned to taxpayers. The enrollments are not expected to increase and rather than micromanaging, which is not the Board's job, she does see areas for savings with facilities in the next 18 months. Expenditures in the next year and a half are the biggest moving target in the district. She would like to add back in the Emergency Fund used for various purposes, which is \$ 1 Million, as a warrant article to the voters. The 3 Collective Bargaining Agreements are coming up with staff increases as well. A modest increase is completely reasonable.

Mr. Masson added that removing money "just because" is not to be supported.

Ms. Mahoney clarified that the number reached tonight will be sent to the Budget Committee and they will come up with their own number, so tonight's is not a final number. Mr. Baker's number is 30K higher than the Default Budget and she agrees that voters will probably see that Default number compared to the 1M higher Operating Budget and along with the teacher contracts and vote them down. She would like to find a compromise between the two proposals.

Mr. Ambrose offered a solution of meeting half-way (230K) to Mr. Baker's number. He said if they go with the Default, only Special Ed would be funded. There is an open position that could be used .

Ms. Alessio commented that she is not in favor of decreasing the budget. She recommends moving forward with a priority budget, one that lets the voters know we have a new sheriff in town. There is the risk of it being cut but Mr. Ambrose has credibility and we need to take the chance and tell the voters what we need. Let's give the voters a chance.

**Vote: 2 in favor, 5 opposed (Alessio, Broderick, Heath, Mahoney, Masson)
Motion does not pass.**

Mr. Hearsh asked for a Motion to approve \$36,112,427 as the budget we present to the Budget Committee, seconded by Ms. Alessio.

Vote: 4 in favor, 3 opposed (Baker, Brown and Mahoney). Motion passes

9. **2ND PUBIC COMMENT**

Tammy Gluck (Newton)-Concerned that a School Board member can come forward with a number with no back-up to defend it. The Superintendent and Administrative team are well qualified to make determinations and not trusting them is bothersome. If you bring a budget to the voters as a unified team, do not assume that voters won't pass it.

Crystal Brown (Newton)-Glad the future is bright and she looks forward to 18 months from now when more money will be available, when there is an end in sight. The budget is higher but it is good knowing all the things that we are doing to facilitate change and lower taxes down the road for the students.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Next Meeting Agenda

- ◆ Budget
- ◆ Policies

10.2 Announcements

10.2.1 The next Sanborn Regional School Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 6-9 PM** in the Library at Sanborn Regional High School.

10.2.2 The next Budget Committee will be held on Thursday, December 6th at 7PM in the Library at Sanborn Regional School District.

11. **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**-At 8:46 PM, Chair Broderick asked for a Motion to enter Non-Public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (d) moved by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Alessio. A Roll Call vote was held. **Vote: All in Favor**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**- Meeting adjourned 8:46 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.

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SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES- CONTINUED

December 5, 2018

Sanborn Regional High School
Kingston, NH

8:48 PM

In attendance: Peter Broderick, James Baker, Pamela Brown, Larry Heath, Electra Alessio, Tammy Mahoney, Corey Masson (via remote).

Others in Attendance: Thomas J. Ambrose, Superintendent, Michele Croteau, BA

Update on the 3 Collective Bargaining Agreements by Mr. Ambrose and other private issues.

Motion made by Chair Broderick to seal Seminary negotiation Minutes until negotiation is complete, moved by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Alessio.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:15 by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Alessio

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Recorder: Michele Croteau