

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**May 7, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday May 7, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Ms. Janice Bennett, Chair, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:           Janice Bennett, Chair  
  Jon LeBlanc  
  Corey Masson  
  John Morano  
  Wendy Miller  
  Dustin Ramey, Vice Chair  
  Nathan Mailloux, Student Council Representative

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

EXCUSED:                               Nancy Ross

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Move 14a. *Overnight Field Trip* to be presented before Administrative Report.

**MINUTES**

Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the April 16, 2014, meeting minutes. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. Five in favor; one abstained: Mr. Morano.

**MANIFEST**

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #26- \$1,042,662.68; Payroll #22 - \$771,389.91; Payroll #23 - \$712,001.70.

**NEW BUSINESS**

14a. Overnight Field Trip: Ms. Dee Hambucken presented a request for an overnight field trip to France during Spring Break 2015. Ms. Bennett responded that it is hard to approve something “we don’t know a lot about”. The SB gave a “thumbs up” to the concept and asked Ms. Hambucken to report back when the details were more definite. The request for the overnight field trip will be put on the June 4, 2014, SB agenda.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** Dr. Blake reported that there is an issue with head lice at Memorial School. He reported that there are currently five cases of lice at the school. Dr. Blake reported that there is a SB policy in place in regards to head lice. Dr. Blake reported that some parents have expressed their concern. One parent, Ms. Julie Allman was at the SB meeting tonight. Dr. Blake reported that the District has been in communication with the health department at the state level. Ms. Bennett asked if there was a protocol in place in each of the SRSD buildings. No. Ms. Miller reported she received 21 emails from concerned parents. Some parents are upset with the SRSD policy. A discussion followed concerning the issue. A suggestion was made that the schools do a “head check” of students returning to school. The Health Department and the American Pediatrics do not recommend keeping students home. Mr. Masson stated that this is community challenge. What happens when a child who has never had lice doesn’t want to go to school because they’re scared of getting lice? How do “we” fix that? It was mentioned that at Atkinson Academy, teachers and staff are trained to deal with lice and the prevention of lice. Dr. Blake reported that he will be contacting Atkinson Academy to learn more about this. The SB agreed to look at the current policy.

Dr. Blake reported that many SB members received emails concerning the recent article in US News and World Report on top ranking high schools in the country. Dr. Blake reported that the article is based on 2011-2012 data and that the main factor in determining the ratings is the AP scores. Dr. Blake reported that SRHS offers a select/few AP courses. SRSD has students earning college credits, but these aren’t figured in the ratings. He stated that SRHS student-teacher ratios are where they should be. He also stated that moving to full year classes will help Sanborn ratings. Mr. LeBlanc asked if SAT scores are taken into consideration? No.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Nate reported that the elections for student and class council are coming up in a few weeks.

There will be a blood drive Monday.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Ramey reported that the Seminary Ad Hoc Committee had met last week and toured the old seminary campus, the field house and Chase Field.

Ms. Coppola reported that the Finance Committee met April 22<sup>nd</sup>. They reviewed interim reports. A new financial audit company was hired at a savings of \$8,500 to the District. A number of budget items were approved. Health insurance rates for the upcoming year were discussed. Year end purchases were also discussed. The budget will be further discussed later in the meeting.

Dr. Blake reported that the Fremont Negotiation Committee had met and will be taking a closer look at the tuition agreement. Further discussion will take place in the non-public hearing following tonight's public meeting. The next Joint Sanborn/Fremont SB meeting will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in Fremont.

### **SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT**

Ms. Bennett stated that this is an exciting time of year in the schools. She encouraged SB members to attend as many events as they can. "Always gratifying. Always satisfying." She stated it's wonderful to see the results of the school year.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Julie Allman, the parent of a first grader at Memorial spoke to the SB about her concerns of the lice issue at Memorial School. She stated that the over-the-counter medication for lice did not work for her child, and she had to bring her daughter to a professional at a cost of \$200 to solve the issue. She stated that lice may not be a health issue, but for her daughter it is. She stated that there needs to be a head check throughout the school. "It's everywhere. It's on the bus. It's frustrating." She asked the SB to review their policy.

Mr. Noyes wanted to address two current news articles. He spoke of the US News and World Report. He stated that it's not entirely helpful to dismiss the article. Mr. Noyes referred to a recent article in the Eagle Tribune concerning Governor Hassan's visit to the SRHS. "Very positive." Governor Hassan visited SRHS to see the competency based grading system in place.

Mr. Noyes stated that it is clear that the lice issue is a community issue. He asked if there were resources available for the District to tap into.

Mr. Noyes stated that in respect to openness, the Fremont Negotiations be open to the public. Mr. Noyes made a formal request that the Fremont Negotiations be open to the public.

Ms. Gannon apologized for being late to tonight's meeting and that she was surprised that there was no camera to record tonight's meeting. Concerning the lice, she stated that it was great that SRSD has a policy concerning lice. "Seems like an unusual outbreak." She suggested that Sanborn see how other schools deal with this issue. She asked about state resources available.

Ms. Gannon spoke of the US News and World Report article on high school ratings. She stated she doesn't know how much stock can be put into this. Of Sanborn's goal to be a top 10% district, Ms. Gannon asked the SB, "Where are we now? Top 20%, top 50%?" She stated that Sanborn has made great strides. She asked if there was a goal. How do "we" know when we are there? "Where is Sanborn right now?" "Are we close?" "Are we far?"

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT** Ms. Miller reported that a teacher appreciation lunch was recently held at Memorial School. She also reported that there is a bulletin board at Memorial where parents can “pick a flower” with classroom “wishes”. The teachers put their wishes for classroom supplies on the flowers, and parents may pick a flower and fulfill the request. Ms. Miller stated that she appreciated everyone listening to the concerns of the Memorial School community regarding the lice issue.

Dr. Blake reported that the SB will be providing lunch to all SRSD staff on the last day of school in appreciation to all the teachers and staff.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Budget: Ms. Coppola gave a history of healthcare expenses in the district.

A hand-out entitled “Sanborn Regional School District Estimated Financial Results as of 5-1-14 FY2013-2014” was reviewed. Year end purchases were discussed. The SB had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the report. The FY2014-2015 budget was discussed. Reductions from the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget were discussed. All capital projects have been deferred. Additional reductions are necessary for a balanced budget. Currently there is an \$85,844 shortfall. Ms. Coppola stated there is approximately a \$300,000 credit in the healthcare line item. She stated the SB could vote/make a motion to transfer the approximate \$86,000 from the health care fund to cover the deficit. Mr. Masson suggested that a list of possible reductions be made before making a motion to use the healthcare monies. Ms. Bennett asked why the District changed auditing firms. Ms. Coppola stated the new firm is \$8,500.00 less than the firm the District currently used. Ms. Coppola stated she did not think there’ll be any issue with the new firm. Ms. Bennett asked if they were dissatisfied with the firm the District was using? No. Mr. Ramey asked about unexpended funds being returned to the towns of Newton and Kingston. The answer was that the voters approve the bottom-line budget figure; it is up to the SB to allocate how it gets spent. Special Ed unexpended funds always go back to the community. A list will be prepared by Ms. Coppola’s office of proposed savings in the 2014-2015 budget.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

b. Nominations: A motion was made by Mr. LeBlanc to approve the nomination of Sandra Moore, Special Education teacher at Bakie School. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Moore will replace Diane Pictrowski. Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the nomination of Sarah Wisecarver, Grade 3 at Bakie School. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Wisecarver will replace Lindsay Lanzer. Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the transfer of Trisha Black, PK sped teacher Memorial (.5) to Grade 2 teacher Memorial. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor.

c. Leave of Absence: Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the request for maternity leave to Kristin Tooker, Bakie School. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT** none

**WRITTEN INFORMATION**

*Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Sanborn Regional School District Curriculum Update* was distributed to the SB Members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Noyes commented on the lice issue stating it is more than a medical issue. Students have the potential to be stereotyped or bullied. He hopes that teachers are talking about this and preventing it. Mr. Noyes also referenced a recent article he read that 15 hedge fund managers made \$25 billion in ME, NH and VT. He stated all that money is going to those few folks, not going to create jobs.

Ms. Gannon stated she was having a hard time following the budget discussion. There was no handout in the public packets. She also cautioned the SB about public perception in regards to the budget. She related a story that happened in the District years ago when the voters voted no on a warrant article to purchase a new truck. The District found the money and went forward and purchased the truck anyway. She cautioned the SB when making decisions that they keep the community on their side.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A work session **of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Monday, May 12, 2014, at 5:00 PM**, at the **SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston, NH**.

The next **Fremont Sub-committee meeting** will be held on **Monday, May 19, 2014, at 6:00 PM**, in Fremont.

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 7:00 PM**, Room 137 at the **Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston**.

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board Finance Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 6:00 PM**, Room 137 at the **Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston**.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 IIa; RSA 91-A:3IIId; RSA 91-A:3 IIe**

Mr. LeBlanc motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:15 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.*