

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

May 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday May 6, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Jon LeBlanc, School Board Chair, in the library at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett
 Jon LeBlanc, Chair
 Corey Masson
 Wendy Miller, Vice Chair
 Dustin Ramey
 Nancy Ross
 Isabella Dunham, Student Council Representative

EXCUSED: Roberto Miller

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

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

Under Unfinished Business, **add SREA**. Under New Business, **add c. Resignations, Nominations, Leave of Absence**.

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the April 15, 2015, public and non-public meeting minutes. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the April 29, 2015, public meeting minutes. Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #25 -\$1,237,395.92; Payroll #22 - \$803,114.88; Payroll #23 - \$750,444.51.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS will be reported under New Business: Discipline.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Isabella reported that Earth Week, April 20 through 24, 2015, was not a big success with students or staff. The students did have a successful clothing drive. Currently the Student Council is working on the upcoming Plant Sale at the high school.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS none

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT

Mr. LeBlanc thanked everyone for coming out. He said some hard decisions have been made concerning the budget and the SCS in the last few weeks. He referred to the spring weather and the blossoms that are beginning. He stated that regardless of the recent decisions, the flowers will still bloom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Annie Collyer of Newton applauded the SB for setting goals. She stated that people are still hurting economically. She stated that there is a disconnect with the SB members and the voters. She encouraged the SB to rebuild trust within the community. Ms. Collyer provided two handouts. Ms. Collyer suggested that the SB set as a goal building relationships with the taxpayers. Ms. Collyer reported that \$1.4 million has not been spent this year. She suggested that \$600,000.00 be returned to the taxpayers. She suggested the other monies be spent as planned on text books, instruments and Special Education.

Mr. Jim Baker of Newton said he has been a Newton resident since 1987. He said he recognizes that not a lot of people are willing to do what SB members do. He spoke of people losing their homes because they are not able to afford the taxes. He stated that Newton has seen a 36.8% increase in taxes in four years; Kingston has seen a 24% increase in four years. He stated that taxes are going up and enrollment is going down. He said it was time to give the taxpayers a break. He stated that taxes in the District are, on average, 33% over other towns.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Evan Czyzowski, SREA President, stated he was present tonight to address cuts and comments made by the SB. Mr. Czyzowski expressed dismay that the Special Education Program received the majority of the cuts from the budget. Mr. Czyzowski passed out an article, “Feds Put Brakes on Special Education Cutbacks”. Mr. Czyzowski requested that the SB look into the rules referred to in the article to be sure the District does not fall out of compliance. Mr. Czyzowski requested a look at the “plan” that the SB has in place to address how the classrooms will deal with the budget cuts/staff cuts. He stated these cuts will have an impact on student learning. Mr. Czyzowski said he wanted to address the comment that SREA

was too late in addressing the staff cuts. Mr. Czyzowski handed out SRSD Policy GCQA – Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force. Mr. Czyzowski stated that as SREA President, the policy was not followed. He stated he was never notified of the cuts in personnel. Mr. Czyzowski requested the policy be reviewed by the SB. Mr. Czyzowski stated that in this case, he was clearly not notified. Mr. Czyzowski stated the policy reads, “The School Board will make every reasonable effort to minimize the effects in reduction in force on the current staff by absorbing as many positions as possible through attrition (retirement, resignations and refusal of contract).” He stated that the people who lost their positions should be offered open positions in the District first. He asked the SB to reconsider their decisions. He stated it was an opportunity for the district to regain what was lost. The next issue Mr. Czyzowski addressed concerned the town voting. He stated he thinks the SREA does a good job getting the word out to the public to go out and vote. He stated the SREA members stand at the polls and send out mailings. He stated that the SREA cannot do it alone. He questioned why SB members and the Administration don’t work with the SREA to get the voters out. He asked what specifically bars SB members and administrators from going out to the polls?

NEW BUSINESS a. Discipline: Dr. Blake introduced the principals of the four schools. He stated there have not been any drug issues at the MS this year. Dr. Blake distributed handouts with the discipline statistics for all schools. Mr. VanderEls and Ms. Bamforth, elementary principals, stated neither school has had drug issues. Mr. VanderEls stated that there is a lot of discussion with the students about making good decisions. He spoke of the CARES philosophy at the elementary schools. Mr. Rutherford said there was one issue in the last year concerning drugs. One student reported that they had seen two boys (after school). One boy supposedly put something in their backpack thought to be marijuana. Mr. Rutherford contacted a parent of the students with his concerns. The mother looked in the boys backpack and did not find anything. Mr. Stack did a brief overview of the discipline numbers in the High School. Mr. Stack said that the Resource Officer, Mr. Theriault, is an integral part of the Administrative Team dealing with drugs at the HS. Ms. Ross thanked everyone for their presentations. Mr. Masson asked for a report on in-school suspensions at the HS. b. School Board Goals: Mr. LeBlanc reported on the status of where the SB goals stand. He stated some of the goals: Public relations and community involvement; becoming a top 10% district in NH. The SB members discussed goals. Mr. Masson stated it is a long drawn out process and they have come up with some exceptional ideas. Ms. Miller stated that the goals have not been brought forward sufficiently. It was agreed that more discussion needs to happen before voting on the goals. It was agreed that there will be a work session, May 13th at 5:30 PM. The starting time to be confirmed at a later date. c. Resignations/Nominations/Leave of Absence: Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the resignations of Kimberly Olins (Memorial School); Jenapher Hipkiss and Meghan Mongroo (Bakie School) and Joab Owen (High School – unsigned contract). Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the nomination

of Sarah Benson (grade 1 teacher Bakie School). Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of Jillian Zeeben (Grade 4 teacher Bakie). Ms. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT: Dr. Blake reported that he received: A letter from Vachon Clukay & Company regarding the School District audit; A letter from the Newton Board of Selectmen concerning a proposed information sharing meeting with representatives from Sanborn towns and School Board. The body of the letter follows:

We, the Newton Board of Selectmen, are writing today to propose an initiative to improve communication between our Boards. While we are all individual governing bodies, we are all members of a greater community and it is clear that at times we encounter the same obstacles. Most importantly, our Sanborn students use the same shared infrastructure and even in our modern technology age, it can be very difficult for us to share valuable information.

We would like to propose a series of regular meetings with representatives from each of our respective boards. The meetings would be an opportunity to come together to share knowledge and information relevant to the community as a whole. For example: towns could share information about upcoming events or issues that were encountered and how they responded to with endless possibilities that can present themselves from simple information sharing.

We would like to propose an initial planning meeting to be held on Monday, May 11th at the Newton Town Hall at 7 PM. The purpose of the first meeting would be to agree on an approach and set expectations; each board to send one representative to this first meeting. Future meeting size and quorum considerations could be discussed at this first meeting.

We hope you accept our invitations to open up communication between our communities for it is our belief that we will that we will greatly benefit from regularly scheduled meetings. We look forward to your response to this request; please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at (603) 382-4405 extension 10.

Dr. Blake received a flyer from the NH Dept. of Ed, for a presentation, "New Hampshire Convening on Competency Education", being held May 11, 2015, in Concord, NH. Also received was a letter from the NHSBA with the 2015-2016 NH SB Academy Calendar and a letter from the Kingston Conservation Committee.

Ms. Miller asked for an update on the insurance company? Dr. Blake reported that the Administration was working with the insurance company to come to an agreement and

payment. Ms. Coppola reported that she met with FEMA and that snow relocating/removal will be 75% covered by FEMA.

WRITTEN INFORMATION none

PUBLIC COMMENT Ms. Annie Collyer, Newton Recreation, invited the SB members to walk in the Newton Memorial Day parade on May 25th at 9:30 AM.

Ms. Cindy Quintal, referring to the SPED reduction in force positions, stated that word is getting out on what a wonderful SPED program that Sanborn has.

Ms. Cheryl Gannon asked where the District is in their goal to become a top 10% school district in NH. She asked where was the District when the goal was established? Where are we now? She stated that the whole idea of ranking seems suspect. She said to make sure that the goals are smart goals. Ms. Gannon asked when there will be a new Strategic Plan? She asked the status of the grant that the HS received for its drug prevention program? - A Student Assistance Counselor was hired at the HS.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT Mr. Masson stated that the SB and the District has taken on some negative publicity recently. He questions how the District can change the negative? He stated he was concerned about public perception vs. reality. Ms. Miller stated that it is not easy to “sit in this seat”. A lot of time goes into being a SB member. Sometimes the SB members can’t disclose information due to laws/privacy. Ms. Ross said she takes exception at being accused of not participating in the getting the vote out. She said she has personally held teas at her house and has participated in other voter related events

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 IIc

Ms. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:11 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **work session of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the **TBD at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the **Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

The next **regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board** will be held on **Wednesday, June 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the **Library at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

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.