

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD
JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

A joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and the Fremont School Board was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson Jon LeBlanc and Fremont School Board Chairperson Andrew Kohlhofer. The meeting started with a Salute to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD

**Jon LeBlanc, Chairperson
Wendy Miller, Vice Chair
Janice Bennett
Dustin Ramey
Roberto Miller
Corey Masson
Nancy Ross**

FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

**Andrew Kohlofer, Chairman
Susan Levine
Jennifer Brown
Angela O'Connell
Greg Fraize**

ADMINISTRATORS:

**Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent – SRSD
Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau, Superintendent – Fremont SD
Carol Coppola
Jody Gutterman**

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE THE FLAG

INTRODUCTIONS

DRUG AWARENESS

Dr. Blake informed the Board that we secured a grant which has enabled us to hire a drug counselor at the high school and who also works at the middle school. Dr. Cox-Buteau said they have the first risk analysis and are awaiting the results and will be shared with the entire Board. We need to be sure we are covering our bases.

Ms. Miller asked what they do with the mental health students. Dr. Cox-Buteau explained they have two counselors. They address those issues along with special ed services.

Dr. Blake referred to elementary kids exhibiting signs of mental health issues and options to bolster their assistance.

Mr. Kohlhofer discussed reasons why they might be acting out in school. One reason could be that there are problems in the home.

Ms. Bennett wants a pathway to make kids feel safe about reporting stuff.

Mr. Kohlhofer stated the right questions have to be asked also. There needs to be a focus on the system and not just the child.

CURRICULUM

Dr. Blake stated that both districts are working together for curriculum alignment.

Ms. Cox-Buteau said they are trying to get infused so the kids have as much experience as possible.

Mr. Kohlhofer asked about the math program and if there are any problems with it.

Dr. Blake mentioned that it has settled down and they don't have any new math teachers this year. It has been much more stable. The children are coming in with similar experiences in math.

Dr. Cox-Buteau stated that both districts use Everyday Math. The final idea is having a coordinated curriculum. They will keep working toward communication and alignment and it is moving forward very well now.

BUDGET

Dr. Blake stated there are questions around the budget. If Sanborn prepares the budget for next year, what kind of numbers do we see from Fremont. He asked if there are any issues we need to be aware of in building our budget. He asked if there is a fund balance we can talk about.

Dr. Cox-Buteau informed the Board there are 63 students from Grade 8 coming in from Fremont.

Mr. Kohlhofer stated there is a decline in enrollment which is an opportunity to offer extra things to the students without increasing the budget.

Dr. Cox-Buteau stated there is a demographics study on their website.

Mr. Kohlhofer informed the Board that Fremont struggles with the tuition and he looks to find savings. He mentions this issue comes up every year in Fremont.

Dr. Blake said at the high school level we are anticipating a slight decrease. We have 209 students in Grade 12 at opening enrollment. We had 136 Grade 8 students coming here next year, plus the 63 students from Fremont so the enrollment is fairly level.

Dr. Blake also informed the Board they are in the process of negotiating a teacher's contract.

Dr. Cox-Buteau asked if there are any areas of struggle besides the contract. Dr. Blake also mentioned the health care is. He also stated that 70% of the budget is staffing which consists of salary and benefits. We have 312 district-wide employees.

Ms. Levine questioned the class size and Dr. Blake explained it is difficult to look at class size at the high school level because of the classes that are offered. They are looking at how they can do more online courses, such as, VLACS. The class size discussion at the high school is always tough. He stated that the having Grade 8 in the high school is not the optimum situation.

Ms. Coppola asked has the Budget Committee given any guidance on what they want to see.

Dr. Blake explained the Board just had a work session to talk about areas they want the administration to look at. The Budget Committee hasn't and probably won't give numbers. They will present the budget to the School with the designated cuts.

Mr. Kohlhofer asked about the unreserved fund balance. Fremont doesn't see any taxpayer relief from that and Fremont residents ask questions.

Dr. Cox-Buteau asked if Sanborn Regional School District historically has a substantial fund balance.

Dr. Blake explained the three areas that add up to be whatever the fund balance is: Special Education, Unanticipated Revenue, and Unexpended Fund Balance. This year there is \$1 million remaining with \$650,000 being Special Education money. The balance of the \$650,000 and \$189,000 was the unanticipated revenue.

Ms. Coppola explained spending the unanticipated revenue can be allowed, however, there is a process that needs to be followed.

Ms. O'Connell asked to look at a portion of the \$189,000 go to Fremont. It would show good faith that we are working together with the taxpayers.

Mr. LeBlanc said that is something we can talk about and find a way we could calculate it out.

Mr. Kohlhofer asked about a line item transfer. Ms. Coppola explained that she can approve a transfer if it is under \$10,000 but it must be approved by the Finance Committee if it is over that amount.

DRESS CODE

Dr. Blake discussed the Dress Code. One of the issues was with allowing the students to wear hats. It was decided the students were allowed to wear hats in the common areas but hats need to be removed in the classroom. He mentioned the Student Handbook has the detailed dress code. The School Board has a bulleted list and it is vague. He stated they are struggling with the dress code but it is a work in progress.

COOPERATIVE

Mr. Kohlhofer believes a 90 acre parcel in Fremont would be an optimal place to build a middle school. He added that Fremont is happy with the kids coming here and would like to provide a permanent place for their kids.

Ms. Bennett said they need to start with the business administrator doing a cost analysis and providing a chart for everyone to see exactly what they are looking at.

Dr. Blake said the Boards will have to talk and they would need to look into the law. He added that this is a lengthy process.

Dr. Cox-Buteau stated that if the cost analysis looked good to the Joint Boards, then they could move forward with the Cooperative Committees to learn what the impact would be.

They agreed that this could possibly be presented to the voters a year from now as a warrant article.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT - None

Dr. Cox-Buteau announced the next Joint Meeting will be held in May 2016 and will be held in Fremont.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Mahoney
Recording Secretary

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**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson Jon LeBlanc.

ATTENDANCE

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD

**Jon LeBlanc, Chairperson
Wendy Miller, Vice Chair
Janice Bennett
Dustin Ramey
Roberto Miller
Corey Masson
Nancy Ross**

ADMINISTRATORS

**Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools
Carol Coppola, Business Manager
Jodi Gutterman, Student Services Director**

The meeting began with a Salute to the Flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

Dr. Blake indicated the district report card was discussed at the last meeting and should not be on the Agenda. He would like to add Conferences under the Administrative Report.

Ms. Ross would like to add Strategic Planning as item C under School Board Committee Reports and include the results of the Budget Committee Workshop.

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the minutes of September 9, 2015 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Masson. VOTE: Unanimous

EXPENDITURES REGISTER

#6 Vendor \$299,243.46
#7 Payroll \$792,568.05

MANIFEST

The manifest was reviewed and signed by the Board members.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Conferences

Dr. Blake updated the Board on a retreat he attended in August which covered negotiation issues and laws that have been approved or are in the process of being approved.

Dr. Blake attended a workshop on Public Relations and Social Media and the changing demographics of New Hampshire. It covered how to utilize social media to increase presence around the community.

This past weekend, he attended a session discussing the book “21 Trends” written by Gary Marx. It talked about the trend around the world and commented it was great information.

Today he attended a session “Best Practices” which focused on DRA and changes to the system in terms of tax rate setting and property valuations.

Dr. Blake also attended a session today with Business Administrators regarding the Department of Labor and a possible change to how hourly employees are paid. Their total hours worked for the year would be split into equalized payments throughout the course of the year.

The last session Dr. Blake attended today was on fire and safety codes regarding the mismatch between fire safety and school security.

Dr. Blake will attend sessions tomorrow on Risk Management, Health Care, and Information Management.

Ms. Gutterman attended a session on Title 9 and a Homeless Liaison workshop. She will also attend another one on Monday regarding homeless children and the rules that govern them. We do not have many homeless children but the definition of homeless is children who do not have a fixed residence.

Ms. Coppola attended a session on health care for the District and the different health plans. She will follow up with how the Sanborn Regional School District will be affected.

Mr. Masson informed the Board of the Strategic Planning Board session he attended. It was their third session. He explained they are sticking with the existing format and looking at seven or so core buckets of focus groups that will still exist.

Dr. Blake stated they will follow up with a survey and report back on what their findings and what the needs of the focus groups are and potentially send out a community wide survey.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – Monique Ricard

Monique updated the Board on Reach the Beach. There were many volunteers and it was a success.

A planning conference is scheduled at Camp Lincoln on September 29th for all Student Councils in the Region.

Sanborn Spirit Days are coming up.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A – Policy

Ms. Miller reviewed with the Board the new policy – JBAB Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students

B – Budget

Ms. Ross updated the Board on the Budget Committee meeting of September 10, 2015. Ground rules were discussed which also included beginning and ending times of their meetings and will be finalized at their next meeting. Much of the evening was spent reviewing a survey the Budget Committee would like to send out. The survey is still being fine-tuned. Survey Monkey is how it would go out. She read the survey questions to the Board. The Budget Committee discussed publishing a budget related article in the newspaper. The next meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2015.

C – Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

Mr. Masson stated the primary item of discussion was the current enrollment and cost per student. They will be adding a preliminary budget session.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Mr. LeBlanc talked about the three working sessions he has attended discussing the budget and topics to give to the administration of what is most important to them. The topics of focus are: 1) Invest in student enrichment, 2) Capital Improvement, 3) Slow the salaries and benefits and, 4) Drug Awareness and Curriculum Program.

Mr. LeBlanc attended the Sanborn Academic Awards. Many achievement awards were presented and two students were presented an award for Honors with Distinction. A press release will be forthcoming.

Data and Statistics – Mr. LeBlanc provided some analysis with how the Sanborn Regional School District compares to other districts in Rockingham and the State as a whole. Our teacher salaries in 2014/2015 were 9.4% lower than the average for the State salary for teachers.

Mr. LeBlanc asks for the taxpayers to take an objective look at the statistics and data. He stated there is not a significant difference compared to the County or in relation to the State averages.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Gluck, Newton resident, addressed the Board. She attended the 5 year Strategic Planning meeting and mentioned the small turnout. She believes the administration needs to be better at planning and give the community more time to get involved. She believes more advance notice should be given to the community.

Evan Czyzowski, President of the Sanborn Regional Education Association addressed the Board. He spoke in favor of the pay structure being proposed by the Department of Labor for hourly employees. He stated this would benefit the para educators, in particular, because they would have consistent pay throughout the year.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Bennett congratulated Mr. Ramey on his marriage.

Mr. Masson apologized to Newton for not attending the District Area Board Meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Ms. Miller attended the Area District Wide Board meeting. They discussed the safety with communication from the Town and School. He believes the Board should invite Newton to talk about the “Goal of working together and making it happen.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Middle School Roof

Ms. Coppola provided an update for the Board. They have made significant progress. The contract has been signed, they are waiting on the bond and the insurance policy, and they have approval from the architect.

b. Policies

Ms. Miller brought forward Policy JBAB Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students as a First Read to the Board. This policy is a result of NH and federal discrimination laws and clarifies it for the students.

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept policy JBAB as the first read. Seconded by Ms. Bennett. VOTE: unanimous

Ms. Miller brought forward revised Policies BEDG-R, BGB, BEDG-R1 as a First Read.

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept policies BEDG-R, BGB, BEDG-R1 as a First Read. Seconded by Ms. Bennett. VOTE: unanimous

Ms. Ross made a motion to reaffirm policies BHC and BIA. Seconded by Ms. Bennett. VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Ross made a motion to approve for First Read to allow the deletion of KDB and KDBR because they are redundant. Seconded by Ms. Bennett. VOTE: unanimous

Dr. Blake informed the Board of an overnight band trip to New York City planned during Spring vacation. They will play on the USS Intrepid. The cost per student is \$600. The money will come from fund raising activities. Itineraries are included in the Board's packets.

Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the field trip to New York City. Seconded by Ms. Bennett. VOTE: unanimous

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT

a. Sandown Withdrawal Study

Dr. Blake informed the Board he received an email from the Superintendent asking him to speak with one of their Board members regarding the withdrawal study and the possibility of Sandown students attending our schools. Dr. Blake asked the Board if they would entertain discussions on this. It is very preliminary at this point.

Mr. Ramey said he doesn't know the pros and cons and would like more discussion. Ms. Miller agrees with Mr. Ramey.

It was the consensus of the Board to have Dr. Blake enter into discussions to gather more information.

WRITTEN INFORMATION

Dr. Blake stated a non-public session will be held after the public meeting is adjourned.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The Sanborn Regional School District Report Card will be on the agenda for the work session at the beginning of the Board meeting scheduled for October 7, 2015.

Ms. Ross asked to have the issue of the Seminary placed on the agenda. The Budget Committee members were looking for status on it.

Dr. Blake requested the Board forward their questions for legal counsel directly to Carol by October 2, 2015.

Mr. Masson asked to have a copy of the financial report with the current status of our budget for the current year. Ms. Coppola will provide that to him. It doesn't need to be an agenda item.

Ms. Miller wants to extend an agenda time after the next meeting for the Newton Board.

Mr. LeBlanc stated there was a negotiating session for the teacher contract which laid the ground rules. They have set 5 meeting times, including a Saturday, and hope to get the contract out early.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Sanborn Regional School Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the School Board Room (Room 137), at the Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Ross made a motion to go into non-pubic session according to RSA 91-A:3 II. Seconded by Ms. Miller. Vote: Ms. Bennett – Yes, Mr. LeBlanc – Yes, Mr. Masson – Yes, Mr. Miller – Yes, Ms. Miller- Yes, Mr. Ramey – Yes, Ms. Ross – Yes 7-0-0 Motion passes

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Mahoney
Recording Secretary

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