

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL JOINT SANBORN & FREMONT BOARD MEETING

January 22, 2014

A joint meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board and Fremont School Board was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m., by the Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Jan Bennett, Chairperson
Rebecca Hallisey, Vice Chairperson
Nancy Ross
Jon LeBlanc
Wendy Miller
Dustin Ramey

FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD: Ms. Ida Keane, Chair
Mr. Andrew Kohlhofer, Vice Chair
Ms. Tammy Kitt
Ms. Sharon Girardi
Mr. Gregory Fraize

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Brian J. Blake, SRSD Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau, Fremont School District Superintendent of Schools
Carol Coppola, SRSD Business Administrator
Ms. Sue Penny, Fremont School District Financial Administrator
Jennifer Pomykato, SRSD Director of Student Services

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bennett, Sanborn Regional School Board Chairperson, called the January 22, 2014 meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board to order at 6:08pm.

SALUTE THE FLAG

INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES

By motion of Mr. Fraize and second by Ms. Hallisey, the Sanborn Regional and Fremont School Boards approved the Joint Fremont and Sanborn Regional School Board meeting minutes of February 12, 2013. (Abstained – Tammy Kitt and Jon LeBlanc)

TUITION AGREEMENT

Ms. Keane presented the Fremont School Board concerns about the Fremont Tuition agreement, specifically the overall tuition expense and the special education tuition rate. Fremont pays 1.5% the tuition rate for special education students when the average is 25-33%. Ms. Keane stated that the tuition cost are detrimental to the district as it must shift monies intended for the Ellis School's K-8 programming and staffing to support the high school tuition. Fremont has no input into decisions which affect the taxpayers. Fremont pays toward capital costs but have no assets. Ms. Keane asked about SRSD's fund balance and what happens to unexpended funds at the end of the year. In closing, Ms. Keane asked that with these ongoing concerns about the agreement, is there an opportunity to open discussion on the agreement.

Ms. Bennett asked for clarification on the fund balance. Ms. Keane asked if any of the unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year are returned to Fremont. Ms. Coppola explained that by law, funds are returned to the member communities of the cooperative school district, therefore, funds are returned only to the two communities of Kingston and Newton with no funds returned to Fremont.

Ms. Keane asked if the Sanborn Board is willing to address these concerns. The huge increases are taking a toll and affecting the community's opinion of Sanborn Regional High School.

GUARANTEED MAXIMUM TUITION RATE

Ms. Keane explained that the Guaranteed Maximum Tuition Rate (GMTR) is part of the Sanborn-Fremont School districts' agreement. GMTR is calculated using district-wide expenses, removing out-of-district tuition and student transportation costs to determine per pupil cost. The GMTR is calculated based on anticipated costs. Ms. Keane stated that the Fremont Board is not questioning this practice, but the Fremont Board is asking to discuss ways to make this tuition cost more palatable, before end of this agreement. Otherwise, Fremont may look toward other High School options.

Mr. Ramey asked for details on the agreement. Mr. Kohlhofer explained that the voters in Fremont voted in January 2004 at a school district meeting to approve the 20-year tuition agreement. Sanborn voted in March 2004 to accept this same agreement. Dr. Cox reminded the Boards that the agreement allowed for the formation of a cooperative school district whereby Fremont could join the Sanborn Regional School District. Ms. Bennett stated that it is imperative to start a discussion about these topics but that this discussion could be over a three (3) year period prior to vote.

Ms. Girardi asked if it is true that Ellis become NEASC certified. Ms. Bennett wonders if that expectation were a misunderstanding. Dr. Cox stated that this seemed to be a public opinion. Ms. Girardi stated that this requirement was message of the former administration.

Ms. Bennett stated the districts could start with Business Administrators, asking each to develop a platform of costs that would help each district decide if it is a viable option to join as a cooperative school district. The Business Administrators could address actual costs and assessment costs for the three towns. Ms. Keane asked why the cooperative school district question did not go to the voters. Mr. Kohlhofer explained that the cooperative school district failed in school boards' committee. Fremont could not match the salary and benefit costs of the Sanborn contract. Mr. Kohlhofer explained that with the high cost of the tuition agreement, voters will continue to vote against future Fremont teacher contracts. The Fremont tuition costs have had significant impact on Ellis as seen in the elimination of the band and foreign language programs.

Dr. Blake will review with legal counsel but changes to the tuition agreement would need approval of the voters. Ms. Keane asked if legal counsel stated that the agreement must go back to the voters to specifically address these costs and the Fremont Board's questions to the Sanborn Board. Ms. Bennett asked for clarification on the questions the Fremont Board would like the Sanborn to address. Ms. Keane explained with the 14% increase to the GMTR, what are the new costs to raise the GMR to that level. The Fremont Board cannot explain why the taxes are so high. Fremont Board feels like Fremont taxpayers are at mercy of this tuition agreement. Fremont has no say, but only be expected to pay bill. Fremont is happy with Sanborn Regional High School but this is not an economical arrangement. Fremont does not want to look elsewhere.

Ms. Bennett stated that there seems to be a cloud of suspicion about these circumstances. She supports the notion of a cooperative that includes Fremont. The agreement does allow for discussion on forming such a cooperative school district but that the timeline allows this to happen within the first five years. Ms. Ross stated that she feels the agreement does not preclude the Boards from revisiting the formation of a cooperative school district. Dr. Blake stated that revisiting this agreement has been topic of discussion since arrival. Knowing Fremont's challenges with facilities and programs, he understands. The other question becomes whether Sanborn can afford to lose the revenue. Dr. Blake recognizes that these boards are trying to work with decision made of boards 10 years ago and are now asking how to make it right. Ms. Bennett asked if the next steps could include a smaller committee of both board. Ms. Keane agreed that this may be a wise option with input from legal counsel and administration, requesting that the two boards meet again to discuss the agreement. The Boards agreed to meet on Wednesday, March 5th @ 6:00 pm, before the regular meeting of the SRSD. Prior to this meeting, the Board members will review the original Tuition Agreement. Each board will seek legal counsel with the Business Administrators reviewing fund balance calculations; GMTR; Special Ed tuition rate of 50% rate (while other agreements require districts to pay 25-30%; Fremont's responsibilities to pay toward capital expenses but no assets. Mr. Kohlhofer stated that Hooksett pays same amount as Manchester.

Ms. Miller asked if there is a template used for the GMTR calculations. Ms. Coppola explained that this template is provided by the NH Department of Education to calculated budgeted costs not actual costs. Dr. Blake explained that the GMTR calculations due at this time of year are based on the proposed budget numbers which are always higher than the actual costs to Fremont. Ms. Miller asked if the GMTR timeline would be the same each year. Dr. Blake explained that both boards need this information during their budget preparation. Ms. Keane asked if the district could consider calculate the GMTR based on previous year's actual costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Keane thanked the SRSB for listening and considering the Fremont School Board’s questions and concerns. Ms. Bennett stated that the Board members have changed from the original agreement discussion. Ms. Bennett stated as one of those Board members, she is very sorry the cooperative school district did not pass during her tenure.

Ms. Bennett stated that the next joint board meeting will be Wednesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Bennett asked that each board member read over the SRSD-Fremont Tuition Agreement. SRSB will seek legal counsel on specific questions. At the next meeting, the boards will review the historical events impacting decisions made over the past decade. Ms. Keane asked if building Sanborn Regional High School was part of the plan for Fremont to join the high school. Ms. Miller stated that the high school was built based on the Fremont enrollment. Ms. Keane agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Keane made a motion to adjourn with second by Mr. LeBlanc. Vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer C. Pomykato
Recorder

Minutes of the School Board meetings are unofficial until approved at a subsequent meeting of the School Board.

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

January 22, 2014

A regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board was held on Wednesday January 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by School Board Chairperson Ms. Jan Bennett, in room 137 at Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston, NH. The following were recorded as present:

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Janice Bennett, Chairperson
 Rebecca Hallisey, Vice Chairperson
 Jon LeBlanc
 Wendy Miller
 Dustin Ramey
 Nancy Ross
 Nathan Mailloux, Student Council Representative

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

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

REVIEW AGENDA

New Business a. Senior Trip and h. Lacrosse will follow 11. Public Comment

MINUTES

Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the January 8, 2014 minutes. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. All in favor to accept the January 8, 2014 minutes. Ms. Ross made a motion to accept the January 15, 2014 minutes. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. Five in favor, one abstained – Mr. Ramey.

MANIFEST

The following manifest was signed by the School Board: Accounts Payable #18- \$822,354.73. Payroll #15 - \$721,902.55.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT None

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Nathan reported the prices for placing an ad in the Senior Year Book. Full page: \$350; one half page: \$250.00; one quarter page: \$150.00; and \$80.00 for a business card.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations Committee: Ms. Hallisey reported that the PR Committee discussed the District survey results and the next issue of The Essential News which will cover the Warrant Articles. Dr. Blake stated he was pleased with the survey results. Ms. Hallisey stated the comments were “very rich – more info/more detail”.

Budget Committee: Ms. Ross reported that the Budget Committee held a Public Hearing January 15, 2014.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENT Ms. Bennett commended the Budget Committee’s preparation and delivery of the budget information. “The information was excellent, clear, very positive.” Ms. Bennett reported that the Superintendent’s Evaluation was now complete. There were 81 respondents.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT None

New Business

a. Senior Field Trip: A presentation was made by Tommy Woodhouse on the Senior Field Trip to Bingham, ME. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the Senior Field Trip to Bingham, ME, May 16 through May 18, 2014. Mr. Ramey seconded the motion. All in favor to approve the Senior Field Trip to Bingham, ME.

h. Lacrosse: Ms. Haley Lang Terrio made a presentation/request to have a Lacrosse program at the High School JV level. The program would be fully funded by volunteers and participants by fundraising. She stated she was ready to begin fund raising. She stated there are students in the school that are interested in playing lacrosse. Ms. Bennett stated she is not inclined to support the program at this time. There are policies and procedures in place concerning fundraising, and Ms. Terrio’s plan of offering a cash calendar are in conflict with the “games of chance” part of the policy. A discussion was held about the specifics of the program. Mr. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the formation of a lacrosse team at the high school. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. Further discussion followed the motion. One in favor, five against starting a lacrosse program at the high school. Motion fails.

b. Memorial Propane Project: Tabled

c. Yearbook: Ms. Ross made a motion to purchase a full page ad in the Senior Yearbook. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

d. Seminary Campus/ADHOC Committee: Ms. Bennett reported that letters went out to the original ADHOC Committee of 7-8 years ago. The information is available on the SAU website.

e. Preliminary Report of Community Survey: Discussed under Committee Reports – Public Relations.

f. Budget: Dr. Blake encouraged the SB members to get the word out about the upcoming Deliberative Session February 5, 2014. It is important that the public is well informed.

g. Warrant: The 2014 Warrant Articles were read and voted on by the SB.

Article 3. Operating Budget: Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend the Operating Budget as presented in Warrant Article 3. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. All in favor

Article 4. Fund Balance Retention: Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend the Fund Balance Retention as presented in Article 4. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. All in favor

Article 5. Recorded Votes and Numerical Tally: Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend Recorded Votes and Numerical Tally as presented in Article 5. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. All in favor

Article 6. Estimated Tax Impact: Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend Estimated Tax Impact statement as presented in Article 6. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. 3 in favor; 3 opposed.

Article 7. Rescind Senate Bill 2 (SB2): Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend Rescind Senate Bill 2 (SB2) as presented in Article 7. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. 5 in favor; 1 opposed.

Article 8. Tax Cap: Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend a Tax Cap as presented in Article 8. Ms. Hallisey seconded the motion. 0 in favor; 6 opposed.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED/SENT Dr. Blake shared a letter from Brian Stack, SRHS Principal thanking the SB for their support in the implementation of the Career Pathway Learning Community program.

WRITTEN INFORMATION Dr. Blake read a letter from Gail LeBlanc, rescinding her resignation as School District Clerk. Ms. LeBlanc will continue in her position as the SRSD Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT none

School Board Comment

Ms. Ross stated she was happy to see the info on the Career Pathway Learning Community Program. She stated she was very impressed with the projects and the students.

Mr. Ramey stated he is a big advocate for athletics. He stated he does not support taking athletes away from established sports. Dr. Blake suggested the Policy Committee look into a procedure to establish how activities are added to current programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Filing Period** for positions on the Sanborn Regional School Board, the Sanborn Regional Budget Committee and the District Moderator will open on **Wednesday, January 22, 2014**, and end on **Friday, January 31, 2014, at 5:00 PM**. *The candidate filing forms may be obtained at the SAU Office from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The School District Clerk will be available on the last day to file from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston.*

The **First (Deliberative) Session** of the Annual School District Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 7:00 PM** at the **Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium, 17 Danville Road, Kingston.**

The next regular meeting of the **Policy Committee** will be held on Wednesday, **January 29, 2014, at 6:00 PM, at the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston.**

The next regular meeting of the **Public Relations Committee** will be held on Tuesday, **February 18, 2014, at 2:00 PM, at the SAU Office, 178 Main Street, Kingston.**

There will be a **Public Hearing February 17, 2014 at the Middle School in Newton, NH, at 6:00 PM**. Two Warrant Articles will be discussed – Articles 7 and 8. **Snow date February 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Middle School.**

There will be a **Public Hearing February 19, 2014 at the High School, Kingston at 6:00 PM**. Two Warrant Articles will be discussed – Articles 7 and 8. **Snow date February 20 at 6:00 PM at the High School.**

The next regular meeting of the **Personnel Committee** will be held on Wednesday, **March 5, 2014, at 6:00 PM, Room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.**

The next regular meeting of the Sanborn Regional School Board will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 7:00 PM, Room 137 at the Sanborn Regional High School, Kingston.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II

Ms. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:24 PM. Ms. LeBlanc polled the Board. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. LeBlanc
School Board Secretary

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