

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

June 10 2014

Somersworth City Hall

7:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Austin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm upon call of the roll the following members were present: Rivers, Austin, Paradis, Gibson, Pepin, Philpott, Brennan and Bolduc.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Dana Hilliard stated that he handed out to the board some data points from the end of the year survey of staff comparing the last four years. He stated that this is an anonymous survey given to staff each year. He stated that he also included the student survey which helps to track data on culture and climate. He stated that we use this data annually to establish school wide goals. He stated that we look to see if we met our goals and then meet over the summer to come up with new goals. He stated that they met most of their goals this year. He stated that one area where he never thought we would hit 100% and we did was that the entire staff feels that they are supportive of each other. He stated that he will report more on it in the fall.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** None
 - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Pepin to approve the consent calendar as presented. Approved were:
 - May 27 2014-Minutes of the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - Enrollment-June
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that graduation is next Wednesday at 6pm at the Whittemore Center. She stated that school ends on the 19th with a full day of school. He stated that the 8th grade recognition is on June 18th at 10am. She stated that the middle school did a celebration on Friday for Gordy Hilliard and it was a great tribute to Gordy for his years of service. Joanne Pepin asked what time they should arrive at the whittemore center. Supt. Mosca stated 5:30pm.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **BOARD REPORTS:**
 - Building, Grounds & Transportation:** Rivers stated that they met last Thursday at 8:30 and discussed two items. He stated that a hot water heater broke at the High School on the 4th and they replaced it on the 5th. He stated that the other issue they discussed was the HVAC replacement and that will be discussed under action item.
 - Curriculum and Activities:** None
 - Policy Committee:** None
 - 5.2 **City Council Update:** Marty Pepin stated that there was a light agenda with nothing to report for the school department. He stated that high street will be repaved this coming year late in the fall so we may have some issues with the busses when school starts.
 - 5.4 **Student Representative Report:** Dan Orzechowski: None
6. **ACTION ITEM:**
 - 6.1 **Superintendent Permission to Summer Hire:** Austin stated that at the last meeting of each year the board gives Jeni the authority to hire during the off season in order to fill the slots. He stated that Jeni will make the offers and then they will come to the board. He stated that in the past we have always trusted Jeni to make the hires and he would support a motion to allow this to happen again. A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Pepin to allow Superintendent Mosca to do summer hires. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.
 - 6.2 **Approve Tuition Agreement between Somersworth/Rollinsford:** Austin stated that you were all provided with a copy of the agreement Paula and I signed off on Monday. He stated that it is here tonight for action in order to ratify the contract. A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Paradis to approve the tuition agreement between Somersworth and Rollinsford for transition as presented. Austin

stated that it is a shame that we are not doing this at city hall in public with the cameras because we want to make sure that everyone understands. Rivers stated that the article that was released in Fosters last night there was some confusion in my mind as they talked about next fall and he wants to clarify that it is the fall of 2014-2015. Austin stated that the agreement starts on July 1st 2015 for student transitioning. Gibson stated that based on the tuition agreement that means that they don't have to have an application approved by the board. Austin stated that is correct, that would only come into play if someone wants to come here outside the agreement. This agreement would allow without board approval. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Joanne Pepin stated that maybe it would be appropriate next time we are on camera to explain to the public to make people aware. Austin stated that next time that happens is in August and by then we are beyond this and questions may have already been answered locally so if it makes sense to do he will do that.

6.3 HVAC Approval: Rivers stated that the city council offered us \$120,000 with the hope that we would get two units. He stated that we put it out to bid and had seven potential bidders. He stated that there was a mandatory walk through and we only had Eckhardt & Johnson attend the walk through. He stated that the bid came in on May 22nd and we opened the bid. He stated that the bid was for \$178,805 which we considered high. He stated that the options were to accept the bid, go back out to bid but the committee decided to see if we could get Eckhardt & Johnson to reconsider their bid. He stated that they resubmitted their bid and decreased it to \$170,000. He stated that the committee met last week and decided to recommend accepting the bid and they will use the \$120,000 from the city council and the additional will be funded from the savings on the locker project. Gibson stated that we have a continuing pattern of no bidders when we put items out and asked if this is going on in other districts. Supt. Mosca stated this is the first time we only had one bidder, the last two rounds we had three bidders. Gibson stated that since he has been on the board there have only been one or two bidders on any contract and asked if we should take a closer look at this. Supt. Mosca stated that every district does things differently; some items don't go out for bid so it varies. She stated that the other piece is that folks are saying that they have plenty of work. She stated that when the economy is bad more people need the work and this may not have been a big enough job. D'Agostino stated that we did this at a different time of year, last time we started in the fall and January which gave companies time to plan. She stated in the summer companies already have their plans in place. She stated that summer time is the busiest for school so there are a lot of variables that contribute to getting responses. Austin stated that maybe there is a way to survey the companies on why they didn't bid. Supt. Mosca stated that Andy can ask about that. Bolduc stated that there are two different ways to bid, you can have an open bid for everyone to bid and the other way is to send out invitations to companies who do a good job and have done work for you. A motion made by Paradis seconded by Bolduc to award the bid for the HVAC project to Eckhardt & Johnson with an amount of not to exceed \$170,000. Gibson asked if the \$170,000 included any contingency. Supt. Mosca stated no. Brennan stated that no contingency makes me nervous. Gibson stated that if we run into any issues we are cooked as far as money. He is not in favor of doing the two units. Bolduc stated that he is not a fan of contingencies; if they say they can do it for a certain amount of money they should and if they can't he wants to know why before we vote on it. Paradis stated that it is important to note that if we reduced it to one unit the money won't just get split in half; it will cost more if they have to come back so it is a good two for one deal. Gibson stated that we bid for two units so there is no way of knowing that it would be more. He stated that we are going into a tax cap year and he is very leery of having every cent committed to projects. He stated that the \$50,000 we were saving on lockers was money to have helped us out if something came along during the year. He stated that he would like to have a few dollars in reserve to call on. Philpott asked what the difference in cost is from the other units we have. D'Agostino stated that they are different units than we got before. Supt. Mosca stated that they average from \$90,000-110,000. Paradis stated that these are the last two units that we wanted to get out of here. Philpott stated that we shouldn't

have counted on the \$50,000 as we weren't expecting to have that as a backup until last month. Austin asked what the risk is since Eckhardt & Johnson did the walk through of them encountering a problem. Andy Lucier stated that he can't picture anything that would change the price. He stated that they know our buildings and it is pretty straight forward. Joanne Pepin stated that getting money out of the city council is like getting blood from a stone and she doesn't want to lose the \$120,000 and to pass up the chance to get two HVAC units done would be foolish on our part. She stated that we should get it done while we can. Gibson stated that he is not saying that we should give the money back; we should just do only one unit. Paradis stated that the money can only be spent on HVAC units. D'Agostino stated that we haven't used any contingency on the other units. Gibson stated that contingency has nothing to do with my feeling on this work. He stated that we are going into a tax cap year and if something happens he wants to have money to fall back on. Joanne Pepin stated that she doesn't want to replace one and then find ourselves needing to replace the other one. We have the money now so we need to use it to prevent something happening. We have not prevented things in the past and now we are paying the price. She stated that she will vote for two and trust the committee. VOTE: Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 6-2 with Gibson and Brennan opposed.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated that they met last month and didn't have a quorum and she is not sure when the next meeting is but she will let the board know when she finds out.

8.2 Budget: Austin stated that the budget update is in the packet as of June 6th. He stated that he asked Marie to be prepared to talk to this specifically as this is the last report in the fiscal year. He stated that he will caution people that we are not anywhere near the final number. D'Agostino stated that this is very preliminary because as of the last manifest we were paying bills for April so we are still waiting on May and June bills. She stated that we have encumbered money for expenses that we have anticipated and as we pay things out we may release money. She stated that you will get a final report in August because we have the auditors coming in September and because we are a department of the city before we report to the state the end of year financial status the auditors review to make sure that we tie out to the city. She stated that also included in the packet is the manifest schedule for next year. She stated that if it falls on a board meeting we will bring them to the meeting. She stated that we have to have the majority sign the manifest before the city will sign our checks.

Joanne Pepin asked about the additional bond interest. D'Agostino stated that this was because the city did a BAN and didn't know when we got the bond what the interest would be.

8.3 CTC Renovation Update: Paradis stated that we had surveys done and we will be talking about them at the meeting tomorrow at 2:30pm at the CTC conference room.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **June 12 2014- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
- **June 20 2014-Rollinsford Board Retreat**
- **July 22 2014-Somersworth Board Retreat**
- **August 12 2014-Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **August 21 2014- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
- **August 26 2014- Somersworth School Board meeting**
- **September 22 2014- SAU 56 Board Meeting**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: Paula Woolley thanked the board on behalf of the Rollinsford Board. She stated that it was hard work but it was cooperative and collaborative to get the agreement to be in the best interest for all students. Tracey Laurion a Rollinsford Resident and a parent of a student at SHS, thanked the board for the families in Rollinsford that still wanted to have their kids finish in Somersworth where they started. She stated that the Pops concert at the high school on Saturday was a fabulous show

and they rocked the place. She stated that they had 170 presold tickets and sold another 100 at the door. She thanked the board for all their hard work and patience.

10.2 Board Members: Austin thanked everyone for their hard work on the transition agreement, it is a win win for everyone and it gives people a choice that they were looking for and benefits the students as a whole and both communities benefit. He stated that he is glad that we are able to move forward and he thanked the Rollinsford board as they couldn't have done it without them. He stated that this is the last meeting before school ends and he thanked the staff at all levels for all their work as it has been a challenging year and somehow we made it through in one piece. Congratulations to the students and the seniors. Have a wonderful summer.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Brennan to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with Chapter 91-A; 3, II (b) Personnel and 91-A: 3, II (e) Negotiations. VOTE: Upon roll call vote the motion passed, unanimously. Exited into nonpublic session at 7:50pm. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Philpott to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited nonpublic session at 9:04pm.

A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the nominations of Devin McNelly as the Assistant Principal at the Middle School. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Paradis seconded by Brennan to accept the proposed SACA contract as presented. VOTE: upon roll call vote the motion passed, unanimously with Austin and Philpott abstained.

A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the proposed Custodian contract as presented. VOTE: upon roll call vote the motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Paradis to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval