

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

April 21st 2015

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, Hiller, Brennan Pepin, Gibson and Bolduc. Absent: Philpott

2. COMMENTS BY VISITORS: Sharon Lampros stated that she wanted to report to the board a decision that the leadership team made in regards to the skinny schedule. She stated that they implemented the skinny schedule this year to provide an opportunity for students who struggle with the 83 minute block. She stated that she gave the directive to go back to the departments and look at the data and they were disappointed to see across the departments that there was no increase in success and they had more students failing. She stated that they found that the science classes with labs, art and some math classes had a hard time to get the lesson started and do an activity and then it was ready to end the class and they found that the special education students went from three to four courses and some students went from four to five courses and the students felt that frustration and voiced it. She stated that the concern is that the short period is not enough and the leadership team is asking that we don't do the skinny classes next year because it has not been effective. She stated that she wanted to share that with the board.

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 Rivers to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:

- April 7 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
- April 8 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board CTC Architect Firm Interviews
- April 15 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Budget Workshop
- Maple Wood Newsletter-May
- Idlehurst Newsletter-May

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Paradis stated that on April 10th she attended the kids are our business breakfast with Karen Hiller. She stated that she was impressed and excited that they did a panel of experts on what happens beyond the classroom and we had two representatives from Somersworth, Meredith Jacques the guidance counselor at Idlehurst and Eric Chandler from the Somersworth Police Department. She stated that Somersworth was well represented Jackie Puk the nurse at Idlehurst was there as well as other police officials and she was very proud of Somersworth that day. She stated that on May 5th at 6:30 Idlehurst is hosting a common core awareness night hosted by the Idlehurst PTA. She stated that reaching higher NH is doing the presentation.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5.1 Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they met on the 14th as a subset of the city finance committee, we were involved as you know the city departments have been working to identify duplicate services that might lend themselves to efficiencies and we are looking to save money. He stated that one proposal is to have the school district facility manager serve for the city as well for city hall, the library, police department and public works. He stated that council members took a look at it and felt it needed more work so they sent it back to Jeni and Bob so there is more to come on that. He stated that they met Friday afternoon with Banwell to focus on getting an overview on where we want to go and the avenues we want to pursue with the renovations of the CTC. He stated that they had a worthwhile discussion and our next meeting is on the 15th of May.

Curriculum and Activities: Paradis stated that in the program of study booklet which is fantastic a parent brought to my attention on the first page it outlines 21st century learning expectations on academic, social and civic and under civic it talks about community service. She stated that she feels that the curriculum and activities committee should look at community service again. She stated that it has been mentioned that if other schools are doing it, we should look into how they are doing it and

take another look at it.

Policy Committee: None

5.2 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that they met last night and celebrated Diane Dubois retirement and the jazz band came and they are fantastic. He stated that you have a lot to be proud of there. He stated that the budget was not taken off the table but he is sure that it will be next meeting.

5.4 Student Representative Report: None

6. ACTION ITEM:

6.1 Handbooks 2015-2016: Hiller stated that she would like to point out that in both elementary schools they have the old board members. She stated that she also wanted to talk about the school policy on immunizations, it says that any child that is registered must meet the requirements within thirty days and failure to apply to that may result in exclusion. She asked why they give thirty days, so much could happen. She stated that the high school one says day one. Supt. Mosca stated that part of the issue is at the high school level the records move with the kids and sometimes parents are getting an appointment which takes time and we have homeless students that we have to accept on arrival so we need to have a buffer to allow for that. She stated that 99% of the time we have the records on day one. Hiller stated that the high school handbook lists the immunizations on page 65 that are required and it gives k-12 but it isn't in any of the lower grades books and she thought that it would be important for parents. She stated that it is also out of date; there are new recommendations that have come out this year from the CDC. Supt. Mosca stated that these are drafts only; she will have Sharon update those. She stated that they didn't put them in the lower grades because the nurse sends them out. She stated that they try to give basic information to the parents but a lot of things at the elementary level get sent home. A motion made by Rivers seconded by Hiller to approve the 2015-2016 draft handbooks with the possible suggested changes. Bolduc asked if these would come back to us after they have been finalized. Supt. Mosca stated that folks have given me suggestions and she will incorporate those so they can move forward with getting them printed. She stated that there won't be time to bring them back. Gibson stated that there is a lot going on in the news regarding waivers for immunizations and asked if NH has anything covering that. He stated that this seems to be straightforward that there are no exceptions. Supt. Mosca stated religion is an exception. Hiller stated that there are three exceptions, religion, against the idea of vaccinations and a philosophical difference allows you not to do it. She stated that NH determines those things. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.2 Meetings 2015-2016: Austin stated that these are for the regular board meetings and the budget workshops. Supt. Mosca stated that there has been one change; Wednesday September 9th will now be Thursday September 10th. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Paradis to accept the 2015-2016 meeting schedule as amended. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.3 Food Service Contract: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the food service contract as presented. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously.

6.4 Transportation Contract: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Gibson to accept the transportation contract as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.5 Meal Prices 2015-2016: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Paradis to accept the meal price increases as presented. Bolduc stated that he would just like to remind everyone that the reason we have to adjust the prices is because it is from guidance from the federal government and that controls where we have to go. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.6 Re-nomination list Certified Staff 2015-2016: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to accept the Re-nomination of certified staff as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated that the next meeting is on Thursday the 23rd at 5:00 at Kelley's Row.

8.2 Budget: Austin stated that he and Jeni addressed the city council last night as they had asked where the funds would be spent if additional money came our way and we will continue to provide information to council in order to move forward with the discussion.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **May 11 2015- SAU 56 Board Meeting**
- **May 12 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **May 21 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
- **May 26 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: Lori Lane stated that they are hosting a college and career fair at the high school at 6:00pm tomorrow night with a community dinner at 5. There are over 40 colleges and business coming to talk to students and families and we would love to see you if you want to stop by. Sharon Lampros stated that to answer Jessica's questions on the 21st century learning expectations as part of the NEASC process for accreditation we have formed a core value committee to look at those. She stated that it has to go through a vetting of the community, staff and board so there is a revamping process for those.

10.2 Board Members: Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to commend Jeni and Don for their presentation, she was in the audience and she was extremely impressed with the how attentive the councilors were and it was because it was presented in an easy to understand way. She stated that the tax payers complain about where the money is going and the way it was presented you can see what we're losing. She stated that she hopes that they will call their councilors and say we need it back. She stated that she commends the kids in the jazz band, they were remarkable and the way that they represent Somersworth high school shows what the schools are doing. She stated that the music teacher goes above and beyond and it shows we have classy teachers. She stated that we don't pay teachers a lot but we have the best. She stated that the committee that Sharon spoke about she has been asked to be on that and they had a meeting last week and it is a very eclectic committee with really good ideas and she can report on that in the future if you want. Paradis stated that the presentation was remarkable and nothing short of beautiful. She stated that the questions that were asked were answered with expertise and ease. She stated that she wanted to remind everyone that spirit up Somersworth is on May 9th. Rivers stated that he wanted to remind everyone that there is a reception Friday from 9-11 for Diane Dubois. Gibson stated that he read the minutes from the building, grounds and transportation committee joint meeting and he understands where the council is coming from but at the same time there is an old saying that everything costs on way or another and no matter how you shift it around if you ask someone to do more work load they are going to expect to get paid for it, whether it is the city or the school there has to be a consideration of a joint operation. He stated that he is not an advocate for block scheduling and the original concept was not to be across the board schedule it was designed for the courses requiring expanded time. He stated no offense but using lab type courses as to why the mini schedule didn't work is not a fair presentation of why it didn't work. He stated that we should review what other districts are doing and if there are successful systems. He stated that the presentation was great and he hopes that if people feel the school is doing a good job that they contact their councilor to urge them for an override or a withdrawal from the reserve fund for the shortage this year. He stated that the bad thing about this budget is that we are digging a hole and we are running out of places to dig. He stated that it is sad to see all the wonderful things that are happening be lost over the years. He stated that he is very attached to his wallet but we have a decision to make as a community, are we going to help the next generation get a start or put them behind the eight ball. Please support your

schools and contact your councilors and urge them to do what they can. Bolduc stated that the band performance was impressive, they did a fantastic job. He thanked Sharon for making the report on scheduling; he was one who didn't want to change to block scheduling. He stated that he is not sure that one year is proof of how it is going to come out. He stated that people learn at different rates and he doesn't know that one year is a fair assessment to make. He stated that he would like to see them try again. Austin stated that he would like to recognize Diane Dubois, she has been an outstanding civil servant to the city for a long time and she has never hesitated to answer any questions and he has nothing but positive feedback and he congratulated her on her retirement and hopes that she enjoys it. He stated that Matt Lagarde did an outstanding job with the Jazz ensemble, thank you to the Mayor for bringing them in.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Hiller to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with 91-A: 3, II (b) personnel. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Entered into nonpublic session at 7:40. A motion made by Gibson seconded by Joanne Pepin to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Paradis to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval