

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

March 10th 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, Philpott, Hiller, Pepin, Gibson and Bolduc. Absent: Brennan
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Marty Dumont of 73 Crest Drive stated that it is a pleasure to stand before you and thank you for the school system you are in charge of. He stated that the word neighbor means a lot to a lot of people. He stated that he is here to represent St. Ignatius Parish and they had the pleasure of having the Somersworth Schools as their neighbor. He stated that there was an occasion where we needed to take the children out of school to keep them safe and they were honored that Mike Quigley called Father Mike and there was never a hesitation the church was wide open and the children came. He stated that the experience was marvelous and it is not quite often we can say thank you and we have a special staff at the SAU and he wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of that. He stated that Jeni, Mike and all the staff we couldn't ask for better people to visit. He stated that Father Mike enjoyed every thank you note and it was heartwarming to know what we are producing out of the schools. He thanked the board, the staff and especially Mike Quigley. He stated that the Superintendent sent a janitor over to the church to clean up after which went above and beyond. Sharon Lampros stated that it is course selection time for parents of high school students. She stated that the board received the course selection books tonight and they are very excited about it. She stated that guidance will be visiting the futures classes the week of the 16th-20th to distribute registration sheets with historical grades on the back to know the credits required to graduate. She stated that parents can sign on to PowerSchool from the 23rd-27th to make sure that the students choose courses that they truly want to do as we build the schedule based on what they sign up for and they would encourage parents to be involved. She stated that they are beginning the drug and alcohol requirements season for parents who have children attending prom or graduation they are required to attend the drug and alcohol presentation. She stated that they are also screening a documentary called Kids are Dying regarding the heroin epidemic which is important to educate our community. She stated that they will be opening it up to everyone Wednesday night and will be presenting it to the student body on Thursday afternoon. Tamara Halle stated that Mr. Eastman has been working with the student council to do something for the student who passed away. She stated that they will be having a bake sale and jeans day and student council will buy a tree to plant to honor Jasmine. Mike Quigley stated that he would like to invite everyone to the Dr. Seuss carnival tomorrow night from 6-8. He stated that they will also be having a talent show called American Idlehurst in April and auditions will be held on March 25th and 26th.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** None
 - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Paradis to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - February 16 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Grievance Meeting
 - February 16 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Public Hearing
 - February 16 2015- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - Email: Citizen SAU 56 Budget Concerns
 - Enrollment- March
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Paradis stated that her and her husband will be hosting a memorial service for Marcel Hebert on March 21st from 10-12 on 17 Hamilton Street and it is open to anyone. She stated that she will be attending the 4th annual kids are our business breakfast hosted by SASS and A Safe Place from 8-9:30 at the Portsmouth Country Club on April 10th. Austin stated that from March 19th through the 22nd he will be attending the National School Boards Association Conference in Tennessee and he will be representing school boards in New Hampshire and he will bring back what he learns.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **Sharon Lampros-High School:** See attached presentation. Gibson asked about the proficiencies instead of grades. Lampros stated that we do both. They are competency driven to receive a

passing grade and part of the skills should be competencies. She stated that it is a blended model. She stated that they also have competency recovery if they have a passing grade but they are missing competencies to work on those and pass the course. Gibson stated that at one point the grade point average was part of the evaluation for the colleges and asked how this relates to that. Lampros stated that they still do a grade point average. Rivers stated that he had some concern on competency based grading but he was pleased to see articles on York Middle School getting feedback from teachers and students and so far they have had good responses so he felt better after reading that. Lampros stated that there are different challenges for elementary and middle school but the high school has experience and is willing to share their wisdom. Supt. Mosca stated that the new standards are looking at standards based education k-12 so that is the track we need to be on.

5.2 Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated he attended the walk through on March 3rd for the RFQ for the CTC renovations and they will be meeting on the 23rd to open the bids. Austin asked if the work has been done on the lighting retrofits have been done. Andy Lucier stated yes.

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.3 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that the Mayor has scheduled a public hearing prior to the city council meeting on the 16th to discuss a resolution for a bond for \$2 million for the renovation of the CTC. Gibson stated that a public hearing on a \$2 million dollar bond on a school building and asked how that came about. Supt. Mosca stated that she got a call late Friday from Councilor Sprague that there is a strong possibility that we could move up in the renovation project. She stated that Councilor Sprague needs to go back to the committee with a commitment. She stated that she and Lori will be presenting on March 18th so the council agreed to meet on the 16th to talk about the bond. She stated that they will look to do a bond anticipation note because we have debt retiring in 16/17. She stated that we are looking for a guarantee for those dollars. Gibson stated that the bonding authority lies with the council but doesn't the school have to propose that there be a bond. Austin stated that this is part of the process for the CTC renovation; we have known it was going to happen. Supt. Mosca stated that she met with the Mayor, City Manager, City Finance Director, Sharon and Lori on Friday. She stated that they are following the process that we have to go through. She stated that they had to post the public hearing and have a resolution introduced Monday evening and hopefully the council will take action Monday night. She stated that in front of you is a document that we will have available for the public hearing and the council is also receiving. Bolduc stated that he shares some of the same concerns. He stated that we are being committed to a bond that we don't even know we need yet, this board could decide not to go forward with this and the number is more every time he hears it. Supt. Mosca stated that the resolution will say 1.65 million, the numbers haven't changed. She stated that our assumption is that it will be a 6.5 million dollar renovation and the state will fund 50-75% of that and we have known all along that we would be responsible for 25%. She stated that the resolution as very last minute but they wanted to meet the deadlines. She stated when they do the BAN if we don't go forward were not borrowing any money so we are not obligated. Bolduc stated that he is hearing 50-75% but then you say that we are only obligated to 25% what if we only get 50% from the state are we obligated to the other 50%. Supt. Mosca stated we are, the RSA is written that it is anywhere from 50-75% but we know what the state has done to date is fund the 75% so our obligation would be between 25-50%. She stated that if you look at the CIP plan our plan is the 25% and the only real difference is we had projected doing this in 16/17. She stated that we are trying to line up the financial process in order to meet the deadline. Bolduc stated that the state can change their mind at any moment and it is hard to raise dollars now to do what we need currently so he worries about taking money if we can't do it. Supt. Mosca stated that all this is doing is presenting a public hearing in order to move forward with the BAN. She stated that this helps us move into a different slot, we will know by June if the state budget passes and the

exact amount we will get. Bolduc asked if we have any written communication from Concord. Lori Lane stated that she does have an email. She stated that one of the challenges is that it moves at lightning speed so when they make a decision you have to act quickly. She stated that it is unsettling but this is just how the process works. She stated that she has an email that came today from Lisa Danley and there are four centers Somersworth, Rochester, Whitefield and Plymouth who are in the queue and none have approved projects. She stated that the other projects have been funded at 75% so it would behoove you to move forward and get your ducks in a row to secure the funding for this biennium because who knows what will happen in the next biennium. She stated that was Councilor Sprague's concern. Bolduc stated that he is not resisting but he has some questions, when he saw it in the paper he has never heard it at a meeting and these are things we should know ahead of time. Austin stated that you received an email on Friday afternoon so this board was notified. Lane stated that things happen so quickly and it was like this where she used to work as well; it is just the way the process works. Supt. Mosca stated that from tonight moving forward it is important to check your email every day. She stated that she got the call at 3:15 on Friday and she was at city hall by 4 and Don put the email out by 5:15 because we did not want you to hear it somewhere else first. Gibson stated that when they did Idlehurst the school board produced a resolution to request a bond from the city council so he wants to make sure it is done right. Austin stated if you are looking for a document to authorize you are not going to find it, it happened too fast but the Superintendent already said she met with the city officials so the process is being followed. Marty Pepin stated that we had a meeting where this was presented to the city council and it was said that this might happen so it has been discussed that it was a possibility that it would be a last minute thing. He stated that he is sure that the council will have questions and it will be debated at the meeting as well.

5.4 Student Representative Report: Sharon Lampros stated that they have been in communication with Dover and have set a graduation date and they are requesting June 18th and they will split the cost with Dover and it will be held at the Whittemore center. She stated that the student council is hosting a wheelchair basketball game on March 18th to raise money for unified sports. She stated that they will be hosting a semiformal in April. She stated that National Honor Society is hosting a triviathon in April and a blood drive in May. They are also having a luncheon for the teacher workshop day on the 13th. She stated that Drama is doing the Little Shop of Horrors from March 26th-28th, at 7pm every day and a matinee at 2pm on the 28th. She stated that the freshman is hosting March Madness with the seniors versus the staff on Thursday March 12th. She stated that the prom is on May 9th at the Frank Jones Center. She stated that the math team is going to a state meet on March 18th. She stated that youth to youth is beginning a new campaign in April. She stated that the jazz band will be performing March 14th at UNH.

6. **ACTION ITEM:** None

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated that the next meeting is on March 26th at 5pm at the gathering place.

8.2 Budget: Austin stated that Marie handed out an updated version of the budget which changes the available balance to about \$158,000 after releasing some encumbrances.

8.3 CTC Renovation Update: Paradis stated the next meeting is tomorrow at 2:30 at the CTC conference room.

FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **March 19 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**
- **March 23 2015- SAU 56 Board Meeting**
- **March 24 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting_**

10. **CLOSING COMMENTS**

10.1 Visitors: Lori Lane stated that there has been a collaborative effort between the three CTC centers working with Saffron and Albany and this Friday during the professional development day representative from Albany Composites will be doing a presentation for the high school and middle school staff to help them understand the role they play in economic development in this area and she would extend the invitation to the board to hear about the incredible stuff they do there. It is Friday at 11am.

10.2 Board Members: Paradis stated that she received word that the memorial services conflicts with the Mayor's Public safety meeting so it will be on March 21st from 11-1 instead. Rivers stated that he would like some clarification on the next Mayor's forum if it is ward one or ward two. Austin stated ward two. Hiller congratulated Marty Dumont on the ward three council positions and she looks forward to working with him. Bolduc stated that he would like to get an update on snow days and if we need to make up any days at the next meeting. He stated that he received an email regarding a meeting on March 30th for consumer driven health plans and asked if he can attend. Supt. Mosca stated yes it is open to everyone. Bolduc thanked Sharon for her presentation tonight; it is always informative and interesting.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Joanne Pepin to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with 91-A: 3, II (b) personnel. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Entered into nonpublic session at 8:15. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Paradis to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out of nonpublic session at 9:00.

A motion made by Philpott seconded by Gibson to accept the resignation of Mike Ainaire effective immediately. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Paradis to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval