

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

November 17th, 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, Gibson, Austin, Pepin, Brennan, Paradis, Yoder, Hiller and Bolduc.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Dana Hilliard stated that Friday is community day and they are welcoming the Indonesian US Consulate General to SMS at 7:45am and he will do a presentation on Indonesian culture and they will have dancers and music. He stated that they received a grant forwarded by Amy Michaels and Emily Hayden for the students to learn about a teen who fought at risk and risked her own life for girls to be educated and the entire school will be going on a field trip to view the documentary He named me Malala. He stated that the Malala Foundation chose SMS as the sole representative for the state of NH for funding for the entire school to attend the film. If any of you would like to attend let us know because we have extra seats. There will be a wide variety of lessons covered in the film and the teacher chose a pre-lesson and post lesson for after the film. He handed out information regarding the October PBIS data. He stated that they had 41 majors which was a decrease of 51%, 63 minors which was a decrease of 58%. He stated that they had 369 students in the green zone or 97.9% of the student body, 8 students in the yellow zone or 2.1% and 0 students in the red zone. He stated that they are very happy with the data.
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 Gibson to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - October 27th 2015-Minutes of the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - October 28th 2015- Minutes of the Somersworth Policy Committee Meeting
 - November 2nd, 2015- Minutes of the JBC-Joint Building Committee Meeting
 - SYC-Steam Team Program Announcement
 - Somersworth HS Trip to Quebec City-April 15-17 2016
 - Maple Wood Newsletter December
 - Enrollment-November
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that she would like to thank Ann French from Profile Bank who donated \$1200 to the schools, \$600 of which went to the middle school and \$600 to the high school. She stated that today they had I apply day at the high school and she is pleased to report that we had 76 Somersworth High School seniors apply to 139 colleges and universities which is 73% of the senior class. She stated that it is amazing and she would like to thank Kyle Lontine, Amanda LeLacheur, Lisa Sloan and Emily Hayden for bringing this opportunity to students. She stated that she would like to recognize Carol McKenney the physical education and wellness teacher at the middle school for being inducted into the NHIAA Hall of Fame as an official. She stated that she would like to read a part from the program: "While Carol's coaching resume is most impressive and worthy of great praise, it is for officiating in the State of New Hampshire that her induction into the NHIAA Hall of Fame is predicated upon. Carol was a pioneer in the officiating ranks, especially in the sport of basketball. Carol was the first female official to officiate a girls' basketball championship game. As a positive role model for women in athletics and officiating for almost 40 years, Carol's contributions are almost too numerous to mention. While she has tried throughout her career to instill into her colleagues and athletes that good sportsmanship and a strong work ethic are two qualities that people will remember, it is certainly by these traits that we all will remember Carol McKenney." She stated that she grew up in Somersworth and has contributed to the city in a positive way.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

5.1 Somersworth Girls Varsity Volleyball Team: Supt. Mosca stated that there is a group of young women here tonight with their coach and it was an honor to watch them participate in the semifinals and then the final. She stated that this is a team of true grit, they were down 2-0 to the #1 team Gilford and they didn't give up, they persevered and overcame obstacles and it was amazing. She stated that they stuck by each other and clawed their way back and ended up in second place after five matches. She stated that it was phenomenal, amazing and a wonderful example of the great things that are happening at Somersworth High School. She stated that they would like to recognize them and present them with a certificate. Austin presented them with the certificate and congratulated them on a wonderful season. Supt. Mosca stated that their hope is to invite a different group each meeting so we see more of the students coming to acknowledge them for the great things that are happening.

5.2 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they met on November 2nd and Andy gave them a facilities update on the things that are going on. He stated that everything is on track for the winter and the equipment is ready to go. He stated that he asked Andy if there was any update on the natural gas prices and he said that they locked in as of today so we will save money on natural gas. He stated that the softball field is done and it looks great. He stated that the CIP presentation will be on the 24th at 5:30 at city hall.

Curriculum and Activities: Austin stated that the curriculum and activities committee will be meeting on the 23rd at the CTC.

Policy Committee: None

5.3 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that they had a second reading on one resolution from the Mayor's task force on the heroin crisis and it received full support of the council and passed. He stated that he attended a recreation meeting on the 12th and they are trying to get the sports programs together and try to combine things to have a savings. He stated that they are going to go back and get one representative to meet and brainstorm ideas and come back to see if it is feasible. He stated that they also had a finance committee meeting and it looks like the consumer price index will probably be zero or less. Paradis stated that in regards to the booster collaboration it has been going around that the board is dictating all of that but that is not the case. Marty Pepin stated that Councilor McCallion has been involved and they had the city of Portsmouth come in because everything they do runs through the recreation department. He stated that looking to consolidate wasn't brought up by the school it was brought up by the recreation department and it won't take place if the boosters decide not to.

5.4 Student Representative Report-Cassidy Akatyszewski: None

5.5 Policies: EHAA-Staff Personnel Computer Security, Email and Internet Communications, GBJ-Personnel records, ILDA- Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys and Research, JCA- Change of School or Assignment, and JICDD- Student Discipline/ Out of School Actions, JICK- Bullying: Austin stated that the policies are in the packet for review. He will read them by title only and read the changes that are outlined in the policy. He stated that these are the first reading and they will come back at the next meeting for a vote.

5.6 Smarter Balance Baseline Results: Supt. Mosca stated that the first slide outlines the law. "New Hampshire law requires the Department of Education to establish credible process for measuring and rating schools (RSA 21-N: 1, II (e)). In addition, RSA 193-C established the Statewide Educational Improvement and Assessment Program and section C: 6 states "each year, a statewide assessment shall be administered in all school districts in the state in grades 3 through 8 and one grade in high school. All public school students in the designated grades shall participate in the assessment, unless such student is exempted. Exemptions can only be approved through the Director of Assessment at the NH DOE. The following exemptions may be considered: medical emergencies/serious illness,

severe emotional distress, death in the family and Alt assessment. The NH DOE does not have the authority in state law to allow schools or districts to opt-out of or postpone the implementation of the statewide assessment; nor do school districts have the authority to allow students to opt-out of the assessment unless the student meets one of the exemption criteria. In addition, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires all districts that accept federal funds under this act to implement the statewide assessment in order to continue the receipt of funds.” She stated that the second slide shows an example of the report that will go home to parents. She stated that on the right side it will have the average score of the students, district and state. On the left side it will be the actual student score and standard deviation. She stated that there are four indicators: Level one is that they haven’t met the standards, Level Two they have nearly met the standard, Level Three is they have met the standard with few deficiencies and Level Four is that they exceeded. She stated that the bottom gives more detail. She stated that the reporting is very different than what we have done before and the teacher will be talking to the parents at parent teacher conferences. She stated that she wants to caution everyone that these are baseline scores as these are the first time we have taken these and this is just one snapshot.

Language Arts

Grade 3: 55% State Score 41% Idlehurst 62% Maplewood

Grade 4: 56% State Score 39% Idlehurst 33% Maplewood

Grade 5: 58% State Score 55% Idlehurst 69% Maplewood

Grade 6: 57% State Score 32% District Score

Grade 7: 59% State Score 39% District Score

Grade 8: 58% State Score 45% District Score

Grade 11: 59% State Score 39% District Score

She stated that in grades 3-8 they had 98% participation rate and in grade 11 they had 85% participation rate. She stated that the test was taken in isolation and there is no real value to it to an 11th grader taking the test seriously. She stated that this spring when the 11th graders take the test it won’t be the smarter balance it will be the SAT. She stated that it makes more sense and will have more relevance and value. Gibson asked if the SAT is the same as he took or is it different and does it have the same function. Supt. Mosca stated yes and no. We used it for college applications and a lot of colleges see it as one piece of the child and it is now a more holistic view of the child. Gibson stated that the SAT was targeted toward a certain segment of 11th and 12th grade students and if you are applying to colleges you have a different aptitude than someone going into the trades and he wonders how fair this is to the different segments taking it and if it is skewed toward college applicants. Supt. Mosca stated that it is more of a knowledge based test. Londonderry has been piloting it for two years and the College Board came at the last Superintendents meeting and they hope to have the contract signed this week and then we will have some trainings and she hopes with accommodations it will be a fair measure for all students. Hiller asked if there will be a PSAT. Supt. Mosca stated yes, we did it earlier this year as a pilot with the 11th graders and it went well and we may do it with the 10th graders next year.

Math

Grade 3: 53% State Score 38% Idlehurst 57% Maplewood

Grade 4: 49% State Score 39% Idlehurst 21% Maplewood

Grade 5: 44% State Score 27% Idlehurst 34% Maplewood

Grade 6: 45% State Score 24% District Score

Grade 7: 51% State Score 27% District Score

Grade 8: 44% State Score 37% District Score

Grade 11: 36% State Score 26% District Score

Brennan stated that these numbers are crazy at how far below the state average we are and we are

not that bad and she is hoping it is due the fact that it was a new test and that it coincided with other testing. Supt. Mosca stated that it is computer based and the administrators and myself took the test a year ago and the issue with the test is that they couldn't get the mouse to do what they wanted it to do so even if they knew the question it was hard to get it to answer it. She stated that this was the first time that they took a test like this. She stated that the NWEA scores were much higher than this and it is just one measure in time. She stated that the SAT will be a one day situation rather than a 2-3 week window so there are a variety of factors. She stated that these are baseline and she will be curious to see what they look like going forward. Paradis asked when we will test again. Supt. Mosca stated in the spring. Hiller stated that the SAT is one day in March, but what if they wanted to take the SAT in French or a particular subject. Supt. Mosca stated that would be separate from the accountability, it will just be math and language arts. Bolduc asked what a two week window means. Supt. Mosca stated that we have a window of time to take the test in case we need make up test if students are absent. Bolduc asked how long it takes to take the test. Supt. Mosca stated an hour and a half for elementary and middle school for each language arts and math. Bolduc stated that you don't have to do it in one session. Supt. Mosca stated yes, but we are testing all grades. Bolduc asked how long the student is missing. Supt. Mosca stated an hour and a half for math and an hour and a half for language arts. She stated that if they don't finish they can pause and go back the next day. Bolduc stated that time is of value and every minute of the day is important and has value. Supt. Mosca stated that she is with you, she doesn't create the law she just follows it.

6. ACTION ITEM:

6.1 RFQ Food Service Decision: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Gibson to accept the proposal with Café Services. Bolduc stated that my decision is based on the quality of food not with the numbers and he is disappointed with café services. He stated that they also have a whole list of who café services work for and for Fitz a list of who they don't work for anymore so we can't compare. He stated that he is interested in the quality of the food and they visited places when they went to café services and we need to do that again to taste the food. He stated that he would like to hear from the students on the quality because he has not been impressed the times that he has eaten at the school. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated the next meeting is December 3rd at 5:00pm at the North End Station.

8.2 Budget: None

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: Bolduc stated that they had a meeting yesterday and representatives from Banwell and North Branch were there. He stated that it was more of an update and Jeni went over the timeline for relocation of classes so they can start the project in March. He stated that a set of conceptual drawings will be displayed at City Hall, the SAU office, the high school and CTC. He stated that they had a meeting scheduled for November 30th but we probably won't need that one so the next meeting will be on December 14th. Joanne Pepin asked when the drawings will be displayed. Supt. Mosca stated that they are up already at the SAU and will be at the CTC and City Hall tomorrow. Paradis stated that it would be great to put a snapshot of those drawings on channel 95 to get people excited.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- November 19 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting
- November 30 2015- Joint Building Committee Meeting
- December 7 2015- Public Hearing followed by SAU Board Meeting
- December 8 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Bolduc stated that he is glad that Carol McKenney was recognized, she is a wonderful lady. Her father Mr. Bickford was a wonderful supporter for sports and even rode the bus to the games. Congratulations to her. Gibson stated that he would also like to congratulate Carol McKenney and congratulations to the Volleyball team for doing as well as they did, it is a major accomplishment. He stated that he likes the idea of recognizing different organizations in the school. Recognition is good for students because a lot of groups toil in obscurity compared to some sports so it will be nice to get a little lime light. He stated that the testing situation is really starting to irritate me. He stated that he knows that it is required but it seems like it chews up way too much time in schools and it would be nice to group it into one test to meet all the requirements rather than going through hoops. Hiller stated that she would like to thank the ward three constituents that voted for her, she is happy to have their vote and it was great to see you all at the polls. She congratulated Jess on her election to the council, we will miss you here. Congratulations to the volleyball team for a job well done. Rivers stated that he would like to congratulate the volleyball team, Gilford is a powerhouse and to compete against them is really awesome. Paradis stated that she would like to congratulate Carol McKenney, that is wonderful and she is great. She stated that she would like to congratulate the volleyball team, the marching band and the football team who came in second place. There are a lot of great kids and they are doing great things. Yoder stated that she would like to acknowledge Adrian Alford who did the job fair last month, she spoke with him and he heard from one parent who got hired as a result of it so that is really exciting and a fantastic opportunity for our community. Brennan stated that the parade is December 5th at 2:30, fireworks at 4:30 and tree lighting at 4:50. Joanne Pepin stated that in Foster's today she is impressed with the positive things Somersworth people are doing. She stated that on the front page students learned about the dangers of heroin from a former addict. Thank you Megan Fuller a graduate from Somersworth High School and they can identify with her. She stated that many times we have wonderful speakers come but the students can't relate to them but they can look at someone from here who is honest and open up their heart and trying to help them prevent addiction. She stated that she would like to praise Lisa Sloan who is the guidance counselor, she goes the extra mile. She stated that with what is going on with heroin addiction we need to do this as a community and by bringing a woman from Somersworth this hits home and she would like to commend everyone at the high school. She praised the students who take the testing seriously. She spoke to many students who think this means nothing but they are learning how to take a test and build stamina. Thank you to all who voted. Austin stated that he would also like to thank the voters. He wishes that it was double the numbers but he thanks those who did come out and took their role as citizens seriously. He stated that the resolution that the board forwarded on to the NHSBA has made it through the vetting process and will move to the delegate assembly in January.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Brennan to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with Chapter 91-A: 3 II (a) Student Issue (b) Personnel and (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Entered into nonpublic session at 8:10pm. A motion made by Brennan seconded by Paradis to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out nonpublic session at 8:24pm.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Paradis to accept the early retirement of Karen Burrill. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Board Secretary