

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

October 27th, 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:** Sharon Lampros stated that she is here to report for the student representative tonight as she is singing with the choir at the seacoast choir festival where seven schools perform individually and then they merge together at the end for a performance. She stated that Friday night will be the last home football game and it will be senior night. Saturday is the Halloween dance from 7-10pm. Tamara Hallee stated that they will be having a breakfast for the veteran's on November 10th at 8:15am and you are all welcome to attend. She stated that they will also be having the job fair tomorrow night at Idlehurst at 5:30pm.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** Joanne Pepin asked that the Art Partnership with Frisbee Memorial Hospital be removed from the consent calendar. Austin stated that this will become discussion item 5.7.
 - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Paradis seconded by Hiller to approve the consent calendar as amended. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - October 13th 2015-Minutes of the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - October 19th, 2015- Minutes of the JBC-Joint Building Committee Meeting
 - Idlehurst Newsletter November
 - Maple Wood Newsletter November
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that a lot of work has gone into planning the community job fair at Idlehurst. The administration will be there to help with resume and interview tips. She stated that some jobs will be ready to hire on the spot. She thanked Adrian Alford who took the ball and ran with it and they hope for a great turnout and it is a wonderful opportunity for the community.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **NWEA Presentation:** Supt. Mosca stated that she is sharing a snapshot in time of the students taking the NWEA test. She stated that this is a computer based test to help us create intervention groups based on the student's strengths and where they need help. She stated that this test reading and math and it happens twice a year. She stated that the scores are standards based and give scores based on LO, LO-AVG, AVG, HI-AVG and HI. She stated that it is important for kids to be in the AVG-HI range. She stated that for this presentation she gave two columns one showing the LO and one that covers all the other standards.

Maple Wood Reading Results

Grade 1: LO-27% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 73%

Grade 2: LO- 8% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 92%

Grade 3: LO-18% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 82%

Grade 4: LO-2% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 98%

Grade 5: LO- 15% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG- 85%

Maple Wood Math Results

Grade 1: LO-38% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 64%

Grade 2: LO- 15% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 85%

Grade 3: LO-15% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 85%

Grade 4: LO-4% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 96%

Grade 5: LO- 18% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG- 82%

Idlehurst Reading Results

Grade 1: LO-21% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 78%
Grade 2: LO- 27% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 73%
Grade 3: LO-14% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 86%
Grade 4: LO-21% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 79%
Grade 5: LO- 22% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG- 78%

Idlehurst Math Results

Grade 1: LO-32% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 68%
Grade 2: LO- 14% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 86%
Grade 3: LO-13% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 87%
Grade 4: LO-25% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 75%
Grade 5: LO- 20% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG- 80%

Paradis stated that with the math results they seem to be higher on the LO numbers and asked if you attribute that to not having full day kindergarten. Supt. Mosca stated that could be a correlation. She stated that they will take this again in the winter so it doesn't give a lot of time to see growth. She stated that it will be interesting to see if that holds true next year. Hiller asked if this is the first year we have done the NWEA test. Supt. Mosca stated that no we have done it for more than five years. Hiller stated that she would like to see the numbers compared to last year. Supt. Mosca stated that we can do some research on that. She stated that we take the kids at the low end and determine intervention groups and this is only one data point and it helps us to see where the weaknesses are. She stated that a number of factors play into this because we have kids move in and move out. She stated that we use this as a data point but we don't hang our hat on it, it is only one piece that we use and we also rely heavily on informal assessments. She stated that we use this because it is standardized and smarter balanced is competency based so it gave us practice and knowledge. She stated that the NWEA test changed last year to up the ante and to look at the results compared to this year would be skewed because the test was different.

Middle School Reading Results

Grade 6: LO-21% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 79%
Grade 7: LO- 16% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 84%
Grade 8: LO-10% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 90%

Middle School Math Results

Grade 6: LO-22% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 78%
Grade 7: LO- 21% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 79%
Grade 8: LO-23% LO-AVG/AVG/HI-AVG/HI- 77%

Supt. Mosca stated that at the next meeting they will have the smarter balanced results which will also be in math and reading. Bolduc stated that he is not a big fan of these tests; you just spoke to the fact that we have been doing it for five years and it changed last year and skewed the results so we don't have anything to compare it to. He stated that he would like to see the last four years to make a comparison. He stated that he has trouble with spending time doing this when we could do something else. He stated that he is not a fan of standardized test because our students are not the same caliber as California, and asked if this is just in New Hampshire. Supt. Mosca stated that NWEA happens all over the country. She stated that standardized means that it is scored a certain way. She stated that it helps us with intervention groups to help with learning practices. She stated that the results help us better gauge what we do in instruction. She stated that we assess the student's every day informally and gather information all the time about learning to prepare our lessons. Bolduc stated that we need to put more faith in our teachers than the people who make up the tests because it is not the same one coast so the other coast. He stated that everyone doesn't get the same questions because it adjusts. He stated that there are five different scoring levels and you are only showing two levels and it would be nice to see where the rest of the students fall. Supt. Mosca

stated that we want to see the kids to be in the average to high range. She stated that the teachers have the breakout of the groups. She stated that this is just a snapshot in time. She stated that we want kids to perform to their ability because that truly tells us where their strengths and weaknesses are and that is what we do in class is adapt to their strengths and weaknesses. She stated that we want kids to reach and stretch. Bolduc stated that it would be interesting to me to see the other groups to see if they are on the cusp. Putting the information all together misses a lot. Austin stated that the value of the test is not trying to compare a group of kids year to year the value is to establish interventions. It is a snapshot on who needs help and that is why we focus on the LO. Hiller asked if the LO category includes special education. Supt. Mosca stated it is all kids. Hiller stated that some special education kids will not see improvement. Supt. Mosca stated no, she would not say that, we have some special education students in the High range depending on their needs. Paradis stated that we have about an 18-20% special education population. Supt. Mosca stated it is around 25%. Bolduc asked how that compares to other districts. Supt. Mosca stated that we are higher than other districts

5.2 Sexual Abuse Presentation: Sharon Lampros stated that this is not an easy topic to discuss and it is our goal to educate our efforts in district to make people more aware and to support the victims. She stated that the work is directed by the Department of Education with guidelines for New Hampshire school employees on recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. She stated that the school employees have a specific charge and they must make a report directly with DCYF and inform the police department as well. She stated that regulations are spelled out in RSA 169-C:29 where it states that the first step in helping abused and neglected children is learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. An abused child means a child who has been:

- Sexually Abused; or
- Intentionally physically injured; or
- Psychologically injured so that said child exhibits symptoms of emotional problems generally recognized to result from consistent maltreatment or neglect; or
- Physically injured by other than accidental means.

A neglected child means a child:

- Who has been abandoned by his parents, guardian or custodian

She stated that SASS has a hotline available and they have recently merged with A Safe Place, a domestic violence crisis agency. She stated that their mission is that SASS is dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse, sexual assault and stalking, while supporting victims, survivors, and other impacted by sexual violence. She stated that the services offered by SASS are:

- A confidential 24-hour sexual assault crisis hotline
- 24-hour advocacy and support at police stations, hospital emergency rooms, child advocacy centers and the courts
- Support groups for rape survivors, sexual abuse survivors, parents, and others affected by sexual violence
- Professional training and consultation to police departments, hospitals, schools and other in the community
- Sexual abuse and sexual assault prevention education in the schools for children, teens and parents
- Sexual harassment prevention workshops, for teachers and children in schools, and managers and employees in the workplace

Idlehurst and Maple Wood

Tamara Hallee stated that at Maple Wood and Idlehurst they have SASS come in every year K-5, they have monthly guidance lessons, small group and individual and the nurse also aides in community outreach for

parents and children. She stated that they remind staff that they are mandated to be reporters. She stated that at the elementary level SASS brings in puppets so it is on their level and they let them know who they can go to.

Middle School

Hilliard stated that at the middle school an example of sexual harassment lesson outline from October 2015 includes:

- 7th grade lesson-summarized and condensed-given in 2 classroom sessions by counselors Kelly Warren & Erin Cote
- ASCA Competencies: PS:A1.6,7,8 (expressing feelings, personal boundaries, & self-control), PS:A2.1,3,6 (Personal rights, respecting others, effective communication skills) PS:C1.2 (understand the consequences of your decisions)
- SLO: Students will be able to define and recognize sexual harassment, understand the difference between wanted and unwanted interactions and how to get help.
- Data: Pre and Post surveys

Hilliard stated that topics for the SMS classroom guidance curriculum include the following topics which may be on an individual or small group basis:

- Self Esteem
- Self-Control/Personal Responsibility
- Bullying/Relational Aggression
- Where/When/How to seek help (for self or others)
- Sexual Harassment/Sexual Abuse
- Empathy & Diversity awareness
- Problem Solving

Hilliard stated that they contract with SASS and they do presentations for each grade level and they include the following topics:

- 6th Grade: Sexual Harassment and Bullying: students learn to define playing, flirting, sexual harassment, & bullying, review examples of each, and discuss bystander interventions
- 7th Grade: Media Matters: students view popular media images to generate discussion on gender stereotypes and images of sexual violence in the media and consider its effects on perception of gender, relationships and self-esteem
- 8th Grade: Healthy Relationships: students are challenged to consider power imbalance and abuse within relationships by reflecting on a real-life case study, and discuss communication skills and other components of a healthy relationship

High School

Lampros stated that wellness will transition from semester course to individual course and the key component is healthy relationships and the symptoms of an unhealthy relationship. She stated that they will also talk about consent and what consent look like and sounds like and define rape and who and where you can go to get help. She stated that they are creating a K-12 community of caring and we are trusted people as adults we need to model healthy relationships and even as a school board and city council as well hopefully the students will see that and see a sense of direction. She stated that the high school has access to SASS as well and it includes:

- SASS advocate in house 2014-2015 for one hour every week
- SASS presentations to Wellness 2014-2015; planning stages for 2015-2016-
- Adolescent care series: Consent, awareness, respect and empathy- 3 sessions for 180 minutes- She stated that in order to do the program, they prefer a small setting of 30-40 students so it is time intensive for small grouping and it puts us in a difficult decision of our priorities and something has to go but it is an important thing to embed so we do the best we can.
- SASS development of a high school program- K.E.Y workshop-Knowledge, Empathy & You

Other Resources

- Staff/Student Reporting
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey- Impact of drugs and alcohol, age of engagement
- Local Police Department- Rape & not of age consent- Duty to report and Duty to Investigate
- Division of Child and Youth Services-Duty to Report

Questions: Gibson stated that the comment of something has to go when we are doing this and with the proposal that is going forward to the state school board they are planning on a more intensive involvement in this area and how do you go about fitting it in if you already have massive demands. Lampros stated that many of these things aren't in our purview and we need to reach out to the community. Drugs, sexual abuse is not just about the school we need to educate everyone and we all need to work together to create a safe place. She stated that as an educator she is feeling stretched with what we can do we need to make it a community solution versus a school solution. Hilliard stated that society has evolved since the first public schoolhouse and the demand on educating students has evolved as well. It is this board's duty and other boards to adjust and have a community based approach and the school is the hub of the community to continue to impact and instill knowledge and skills in students. He stated that there is a place somewhere that things can fit. All buildings have increased instructional time and still have been able to drive societal skills, we address them in health or FCS class at the middle school and guidance at the elementary level and that happens with discussions with the administration and the superintendent to decide where to fit them. He stated that we need to address the problem as a greater community but the schools see the students the most and then there needs to be a wrap around with the parents and the community at large. Hiller asked if they find that if you stop sexual abuse from happening quickly that students improve behaviorally. Hilliard stated that our job is to give skills so that the student can be an advocate and know where to report and have the skills to protect themselves and come forward so the results should be positive. Supt. Mosca stated that they continue to march to the mantra of a community of caring and the students know they have a safe place to go and it is our job to make sure we follow through and the end result is positive for all. Hilliard stated that all the building are linked together with social improvements with PBIS and each building lets children know that they have adults they can turn to. He stated at the middle school they self-identify each student in the building. Supt. Mosca stated that she can't say enough about the work the buildings are doing collectively so that the system is a K-12 system. Paradis stated that she really appreciates how much everyone has embraced this form of education. It needs to be a community involvement and you did the first step tonight so maybe parents will have the discussion. She stated that SASS and a safe place have merged and combined their services and their new name is Haven. She stated that with the increase in health classes she is happy to see that because that is a way it was leaning to do the social aspect. She asked if it will be easier for grades 10-12 with expanding the health classes. Lampros stated that it is tough because it is being created with futures and futures is 20 minutes and their lessons are 45 minutes so we haven't come up with a solution yet.

5.3 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they will be meeting on November 2nd at 3:00pm. They will be getting a facilities update and they will touch base on the CIP.

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.4 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that on the meeting on October 19th they had one resolution from the Mayor's task force on the heroin crisis and they will have the second reading on November 9th.

5.5 Student Representative Report-Cassidy Akatyszewski: None

5.6 Somersworth NWEA Fall Results: See 5.1

5.7 Art Partnership with Frisbee Memorial Hospital: Supt. Mosca stated that this is a wonderful opportunity Sandy Blanc and Kyle Lontine created this partnership. She stated that there is a

scholarship opportunity with Frisbee where students artwork will be displayed in the month of October and in June the doors will be opened to members of the community and scholarships are awarded based on the number of votes. She stated that this is a wonderful partnership and a wonderful opportunity for us to display what is happening with students.

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 the minutes from the first meeting are included in the packet. He stated that they met on October 19th and all four members were present: Bob Gibson, Denis Messier, Marty Dumont and I. He stated that they selected a chair and a co-chair. He stated that Scott Smith was at the meeting to discuss the need for a BAN until the finances from the state get signed off on. He stated that we have people working for us with no money so we have to think about that. He stated that the representative from Banwell were there as well as North Branch Construction the construction management firm. He stated that Banwell will keep us posted on the final drawings and as it goes along Banwell and North Branch will work together to come up with the final cost for the project and if the costs go out of whack they will make adjustments so we don't go over the 6.5 million. He stated that the next meeting is on November 2nd at 4:00pm at the CTC first floor conference room.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **November 2 2015- Joint Building Committee**
- **November 16 2015- Joint Building Committee**
- **November 16 2015- SAU 56 Board Meeting**
- **November 17 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **November 19 2015- Rollinsford School Board Meeting**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Kyla Yoder stated that she is glad that they did the presentation on sexual abuse because it was really exciting to learn about and she knows that it works because her 7th grader was talking about it. Brennan stated that the presentation that the administration did drives home the reason why I am here and a part of this board because of these people that are here every day fighting the fight. She stated that it proves that it takes a village and I am speechless. Thank you. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to thank the administration for the presentation it was awesome. She stated that they don't just teach the students that they are not victims but also teaching them what to look for in their peers and that they aren't doing anything wrong if they see something and report it. She stated that the community has to realize that it is not just a school problem it is a community problem, but it needs to start somewhere. Paradis stated that she would like to thank everyone for being in support for this type of education and she is impressed with the community of

caring. Rivers stated that the election is next week and some communities are having discussions on transparency and right to know law and they have received good advice from lawyers and the school boards association but there is also a website from the department of justice that has some good resources. He stated that also he has had two friends that have had encounters with deer so be careful driving. Hiller stated that she would like to thank the administration for all the work they do with the students not only with safety education but with everything they do. She stated that she was really impressed tonight but parents are children's first teachers and they should be teaching them good touch bad touch to protect them from sexual bad behavior. It takes a village but the parents are part of that. Gibson stated that he is in agreement with the degree of dedicated individuals within the schools and every time he sees a presentation like this it amazes me. He stated that the problem is that every time we add this to the pile it puts more weight on the total. It is valuable but he is concerned with things that eat away at regular class time and that is our primary responsibility as an educational institution. He stated that at some point down the road it will come up that we need a review of the education system that takes into consideration the demands we have placed on it and decide what we want for a system to constantly adjust to these changes. He stated that with a 1900 base foundation and you keep throwing more stones on top of it and if the foundation is not reinforced the structure is going to crumble. He stated that somewhere down the road there will be a tipping point of too many demands. He stated that he urges everyone to get out and vote it is an important election and there are different people running at large and he would remind everyone that it is not about how long you have lived in town you need to look at what they stand for and what they can do for the community going forward and it is not a popularity contest. Bolduc stated that he was watching channel 95 and the students were doing news and it was fantastic and it would be nice to know when it is on or maybe they can replay it in the evening. Austin stated that he would like to remind the public of the election on Tuesday. He stated that local politics is where your vote matters more than anything else because they vote on the important issues that affect you. Consider your vote carefully and vote for candidates that will move the city forward and think about the candidates who will move our city backwards. He urged everyone to tune into the candidates forum on Tuesday night and see the candidates who are running for the opposed seats answering questions. He stated that an educated voter is the best way to demonstrate your point of view and he would encourage you to do that.

11. NON-PUBLIC: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Brennan seconded by Paradis to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval