

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

December 15th, 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, Brennan, Paradis, Yoder, Hiller and Bolduc. Absent: Joanne Pepin
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Eris Hersey stated that last year Heinemann came and did a photo shoot at the school and the kids were featured on the advertisement products. She stated that they also donated \$5,000 worth of product. She stated that she contacted them this year and they would like to come back in February and donated another \$5,000 in product.
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 Hiller to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - December 8th 2015-Minutes of the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - Maple Wood News- January 2016
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that Mayor Hilliard asked her to read the inauguration invitation for January 7th at 6:30 at City Hall. Austin stated that there are two school board members that this will be their last meeting and they would like to recognize their service. He stated that Kyla Yoder stepped up to the board when there was a vacancy and she has represented her ward well and has been very highly involved and contributing member for the time she has been here so thank you. He stated that Jess has been on the board for several years and has had a number of roles on committees and has been a great contributor of the board and we will miss her as well. Paradis stated that on December 9th President Obama signed into law federal funding for sexual abuse prevention education.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **Idlehurst Presentation:** Eris Hersey stated that she would like to recognize the staff, this staff is the most dedicated hardworking group of people you will meet and she could not ask for a more supportive staff. She stated this is the fifth year as a school and what we have learned in the past five years is:
 - Our students struggle in reading and math (According to NWEA data and NECAP data from the past four years)
 - We need to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally
 - Our students need direct instruction with PBIS initiatives
 - We need to support our families and community as much as possible and build relationshipsShe stated that we have taken it to heart and we are thinking outside the box and changed the RTI model to reach kids on the tier 2 and 3 and also push the tier 1 kids to their potential. She stated that the fifth grade has 45 minute blocks for RTI time with enrichments. Austin Dubois and Logan Forest of the community group stated that they have a school store called the rolling wildcats in order to promote school spirit and provide the students with supplies such as wildcat pencils, erasers and pens and teachers can also use them for rewards for students. They stated that they will also have store bucks for kids who can't afford to buy things from the store and they will be given out to kids who had a great week. The grand opening of the store will be tomorrow. Hersey stated that in creative writing they looked at taking their writing to the next level. Meagan Burgess read her creative writing piece to the board. Bridget Jameson stated that they are looking at the STEAM initiative which is science, technology, engineering, arts and math. She stated that in the art group they are giving the kids an opportunity to go above and beyond in Art. In the leveled literacy initiative it is for below grade level and it is a hugely successful program. They created covers of books and redesigned them so people will pick the books up when they go to the library. She stated that they have already seen self-confidence and engagement because they

are given the choice on what to do. Michelle Nash stated that they have three groups of after school STEAM groups in partnership with SYC. She stated that they have a structural group who made the front of Idlehurst out of ABC blocks. She stated that they made a roller coaster with marbles and pipe insulation and a rocket with alka seltzer and water. She stated that they are learning dance move to the song by the C&C music factory everybody dance now. They have also made a parody doing Uptown Funk and they all contributed on creating the words and creating music video and the high school production team is coming to film it. Adrian Alford stated that the student council members were voted on by the students and the kids came up with posters and speeches. He stated that they have two representatives from 4th grade and two representatives from 5th grade and have a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. He stated that they have bi-weekly meetings for 20 minutes and all the initiatives are all generated by the student council. He stated that they came up with the buddy bench and if a student's feels lonely they sit there and someone will come and sit next to you. He stated that they read to the younger students and are doing outreach to the community. He stated that the kids are amazing and he looks forward to what they will do years from now in the community. Hersey stated that in regards to PBIS the staff read the book Zones of Regulation in order how to regulate emotions. She stated that the four zones are blue, green, yellow and red. Green is where we want kids most of the time. She stated that the administration is taking every grade level for a half an hour after special and it gives the teachers an hour of planning and we are teaching kids lessons in the book. Liza Cocco stated that they are doing a mobile classroom to get kids out into the community and start linking community to school. She stated that we are targeting students who struggle academically and behaviorally. The goal is to teach those skills that will make a difference in everyday life situations, such as Functional Life Skills, Social Skills, and Extended Learning Opportunities. She stated that they went on picnics and went to Willand Pond. She stated that some students shared that they never made Christmas cookies so they went to the high school on a tour and used the home Ec room and made cookies. She stated that we have community days every other week that are led by the universal team and they are PBIS driven, school wide initiatives, school pride and community pride. This month was harvesting good behavior and each class had a different vegetable assigned to them and every time they do good behavior they earn a vegetable and they acknowledge one student per class and they get celebrated. She stated that they took first place in the parade for their float. Jodie Corbeil stated that they do a lot of community outreach such as: Turkey Baskets for Thanksgiving, Holiday Gifts for Children, Toiletries for Families, Laundry Cards, Job Fair, After School Family Events, Pay it Forward in May, Community Service Project and laundry card. She stated that we receive winter boots from the Kiwanis club. She stated that Panera bread donates bread every Wednesday, and they work with the lions club to provide glasses to students. She stated that they also receive furniture and clothing donations. Hersey stated that as a staff they are going to use their May professional development day to pay it forward a pick a community project for Somersworth and will donate the day. She presented the NECAP test scores and they have increased in every grade level for reading and in math they are also seeing increases except for first grade that took a bit of a dip. She stated that what we are doing is working. She presented the SWIS data. She also presented a parent survey. Paradis thanked them for the parent survey, it was wonderful to see. She stated that the staff is amazing and she can see a difference as a parent. She stated that it is wonderful to see what they are doing. Yoder stated that as a parent she thanked the staff for their hard work and it is amazing to see what you can accomplish and giving to the kids. She stated that she is really proud and impressed with the kids who spoke tonight. Hiller stated that she is truly amazed on what they are doing and she likes the idea of taking the kids into the community. Bolduc stated that it is nice to see people here today and the staff, students, and parents are doing a wonderful job. Austin stated gone are the days of the kids going to school and picking up their textbook and doing their work and go home. The amazing things you do to support the community is outstanding and the more we educate the community on what is happening in the schools they will understand the critical nature of what we do for our students and staff

so we can see the results as we did here.

5.2 Coordinated School Health Presentation: Liz Clark stated that the Coordinated School Health is funded by the United Way and is being piloted by Somersworth and Farmington. She stated that there are two champions in each school. She stated that there are already great wellness initiatives going on in Somersworth. She stated that the greatest resource Somersworth has is the people and they are willing to roll up their sleeves and make a difference here. She stated that there are eight different components of school health, Health Education, Health Services, Counseling, Psychological and Social Services, Health Promotion for staff, Physical Education, Health School Environment, Family and Community Involvement and Nutrition Services. She stated that the champions have dedicated time this summer and fall to get the CSH effort up and running. She stated that they completed a 100 question initial school assessment, did staff presentations, building a representative district wellness committee, prioritization and researching best practices. She stated that there were 4-5 top priorities selected for each school which were driven by the initial assessment results, champion expertise, middle school youth risk behavior survey results, consensus from the wellness committee, and feedback from some staff surveys. She stated that there are two overarching district level goals to build and sustain a representative district wellness committee and identify and ensure a vertical integration of health curriculum by grade level starting in Kindergarten.

Elementary School Priorities: Jen Landry, Ginger Riffe, Bridget Jameson and Jackie Puk

- Implement school-wide initiatives that encourage a healthy lifestyle (e.g. less screen time and keeping track for a week)
- Define and incorporate a health curriculum by grade level
- Increase physical activity opportunities in order to enhance student learning
- Increase healthy eating in school
- Communicate health and safety policies to students, parents, staff members and visitors

Somersworth Middle School Priorities: Carol McKenney and Emily Hayden

- Increase student access to fresh produce by having venues outside the cafeteria offer fruits and vegetables
- Improve mental health support by having a community mental health counselor available to students
- Increase family and community involvement in recreational activities
- Develop collaboration opportunities between nutrition service staff members and teachers to increase healthy eating during school
- Increase physical activity by establishing structured physical activity during designated classroom times

Somersworth High School Priorities: Eric Johanson and Adam Durkee

- Improve mental health support by having a community health counselor available to students
- Physical activity breaks in classroom during designated classroom times
- Develop collaboration opportunities between nutrition service staff members and teacher to increase healthy eating during school
- Build a representative school health committee or team
- Updating/Upgrading physical activity space and equipment to foster more utilization by students and staff

Questions

Hiller stated that she didn't hear anyone mention anything about sleep. She stated that when she subbed they would take a poll on when students went to bed and some went to bed late and they are the ones who acted out and it fits into the elementary area to include something about sleep.

5.3 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: None

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.4 City Council Update: None

5.5 Student Representative Report-Cassidy Akatyszewski: None

6. ACTION ITEM:

6.1 Sub Pay: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Brennan to approve the rate increase for substitutes from \$75 to \$85 for certified substitutes and \$70 to \$80 for noncertified substitutes. Bolduc stated that the question he had was regarding how much it would add and they had a discussion about how sub pay always goes above what the budget is and if we are already under budget than something else will suffer. He stated that as budget time comes they will have to pay attention to this item. He stated that he has no problem raising the rate but he wants to make sure that when budget time comes that they look at that. Gibson stated that he agrees with Ken on budgeting for subs and there have been complaints over the years that we are not truly reflecting what the expected costs are. He stated that one of his biggest pet peeves is snow removal, the budgets they come up with have no bearing on history and half way through they are out of money and they need to scrounge for more money. He stated that substitutes are somewhat akin to this and past experience should reflect realistic numbers feeding into the budget. He stated that the numbers have not been truly reflected in past budgets. He stated that he doesn't have a problem with the increase being a substitute is the toughest thing you can do because you have no idea what you are walking into. He stated that we need to do it for practical reasons and the subs deserve to be paid a reasonable amount of money. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.2 Calendar Approval 2016-2017: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Brennan to accept the calendar for 2016-2017 as presented. Bolduc stated that we reduced the calendar from 180 days to 175 and then we added two more back and he would like to see it go back to 180 someday. He stated that he will be voting no on this calendar. Paradis stated that she will vote yes but she agrees that she would love to see it go back up to 180 days next year. Gibson stated that he understand the sentiment on extending school time but Jess hit it on the head with negotiations if we are going to ask staff to work more days there is a cost to that. He stated that he would like to have a committee spend time analyzing the practicality of increasing. Supt. Mosca stated that there was a switch at the state level when it went from days to hours and we exceed the number of hours. She stated that all the surrounding schools go with hours not days. She stated that we are not short changing the students we are following the hour requirement shift the state made six years ago. Hiller stated that she would like to see more time either a longer day or longer year but it will not just affect he teachers; it will affect bussing and the other schools with CTC. She stated that she feels that they could use the extra hours to get things done they are doing so much. Bolduc stated that they need more time and he would like to see three days added to the calendar. He stated that there is so much to do and they talk about wanting to do more and they can't do more on the same amount of time. He stated that even though we exceed the state limits there is no reason that we can't go beyond where we are now. Paradis stated that she agrees with Ken but she is happy to hear that we are exceeding the state. She stated that our kids should go as much as possible. She stated that in other countries they go 235 days, globally how can we compete. It is worth exploring. Rivers stated that he agrees with everyone but it gets complicated with extending the teachers work day and it also impacts sports events so he will be voting as is. VOTE: motion passed, Bolduc opposed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated they will be meeting in January.

8.2 Budget: None

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: Bolduc stated that they met last night and they received an update from

the engineers and from Banwell. He stated that they approved the contract for civil engineers. He stated that they received an update from Allied Engineers regarding power distribution and electrical and they will be using as much as they can of the old systems. He stated that they had a discussion about roofing and heating. He stated that the next meeting will be in January and they should have numbers coming to us at that meeting. Rivers asked when it will be starting. Bolduc stated that it will start during February vacation. Gibson stated that the project is what they call a summer slam where 75-80% is done at the end of school to the beginning of the school year. He stated that what will happen during the year will be like musical chairs to keep ahead of what they need to do. They will be doing set up work before they start the major components.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **December 14 2015- Joint Building Committee Meeting**
- **December 15 2015- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **January 11 2015- Joint Meeting with City Council**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Bolduc stated that there were a lot of people in the audience tonight and it was fantastic to see the school staff speaking to us. He stated that Ginger Riffe and Carol McKenney have been with us a long time and it was nice to see them. He stated that Rene Philpott used to be with us and he would like to give a shout out to her and hopefully she is doing well. He stated that channel 95 is fantastic so if anyone has a chance to watch it there is fantastic stuff on there. He stated that the president signed a reform on NCLB and he would like to get a presentation at a meeting regarding this. Gibson stated beware of politicians bearing gifts, money from above always has something attached to it. He stated that it makes him a proud member of the community to see the amazing things accomplished by the staff in the schools. We have given the best we can do to provide the resources and they do a fantastic job with what they have and he hopes that people are watching on TV to see what they are doing. He stated that the wellness program is an important aspect to students succeeding. He stated that he is happy to see a coordinated effort going on there. He wished everyone a happy holiday and may the New Year bring more happiness. Hiller stated that NCLB had a lot of problems and no funding came with it and everything that was required put a burden on schools. She stated that she would like to thank both groups that came tonight they did an excellent job with the presentations and she is amazed at all they do. She said goodbye to Jess and Kyla and stated that Jess is an amazing person and thanked her for all her help. Rivers stated that he would like to thank Eris and Liza for the presentation it is amazing what goes on. He thanked Kyla and Jess for their services. He stated that he has seen people come and go and he would like to thank Kyla for stepping up. Brennan stated that the presentation from Idlehurst points out that the community may not be rich in money but we are rich in community spirit and involvement. She stated that she is proud to be a part of that. She stated that she has been hearing about the wellness committee at home and she is excited to see what comes of that. She stated that we need a public calendar there are two concerts tomorrow that conflict with each other. She thanked Kyla and Jess for their services. She stated that she appreciates them both. Yoder thanked everyone for being so welcoming and she hates to see her time end. Thank you to Idlehurst for your presentation, it was amazing. She stated that she is glad to see the wellness curriculum being updated and she liked seeing mental health being mentioned. She wished Jess good luck on the city council. Paradis stated that she is very grateful for the presentations. She encouraged the board to embrace the community service requirement. She stated that there is wide spread community support and it gives the kids an opportunity to do learning outside of class and it teaches kids the importance of doing the right thing. She stated that she would like to see the pilot program take off. She thanked Kyla for stepping up and she has added so much to the board and she will be voting for her in two years to come back.

She thanked everyone who she has sat up here with, Jim and Jerry. It has truly been an honor to be here and she looks forward to working with you all. Austin stated that he would like to thank Jess and Kyla for their service. This is a form of community service and it is very rewarding to give back. He stated that one take away from this evening is that in order to be successful we have to have staff and if it is a choice between things and staff we have to choose staff. The staff is amazing and we see it over and over again and it blows me away. He stated that it is no longer you drop your kid off and they pull out their text and do math and reading it doesn't work that way anymore. We clearly get it in this community. Congratulations to all of them. He stated that a workshop or presentation on ESSA will be in the future, it is a little early to get details but it will give local government opportunities to have input on changes at the state and federal level but it doesn't come with more money. He stated that he is pleased with what he has seen so far. He stated that a lot of bad features of NCLB are gone and overall we should be pleased with the results of that piece of legislation. He wished everyone a happy holiday and hopes everyone enjoys their family and their time off.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Paradis seconded by Yoder 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 8:44pm. A motion made by Brennan seconded by Gibson to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out nonpublic session at 8:58pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:0pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval