

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

January 14th, 2016

Somersworth City Hall

6:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Supt. Mosca called the meeting to order at 6:30pm upon call of the roll the following members were present: Rivers, Gibson, Austin, Brennan, Hanlon, Collins, Hiller, Pepin and Bolduc.

1.1 Election of Officers

- **Chairperson:** A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to nominate Don Austin for Chairperson. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously.
- **Vice Chairperson:** A motion made by Brennan seconded by Hanlon to nominate Sean Collins as Vice Chairperson. She stated that he was exceptional on the council and he has a lot to offer and bring to this board. A motion made by Collins seconded by Joanne Pepin to nominate Karen Hiller as Vice Chairperson. Austin stated that when there is more than one candidate we have both candidates tell us why they think they should be in the position. Hiller stated that she thanks Sean for the nomination. She stated that she knows Roberts Rules of order and how to run a meeting and she could take Don's place when he is not here to run a meeting. Collins stated that he appreciates the vote of confidence and he will do everything he can to maintain those responsibilities and he feels that he could meet them all he would defer to the judgment of everyone more senior than him. VOTE: Upon roll call vote the board voted Sean Collins as Vice Chairperson.
- **Secretary:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Sean Collins to nominate Kelly Brennan for secretary. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

2. COMMENTS BY VISITORS: Tamara Hallee stated that she has some great news to share, Maple Wood made it past the initial cut for the Eddy's award for school's who demonstrate excellence. She stated that the next step is for the team to present in Concord on February 2nd. She stated that the staff is very dedicated at helping students learn and make sure they are heard and able to learn.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

3.1 Removal of items from the consent calendar: None

3.2 Approval of Consent Calendar: A motion made by Collins seconded by Brennan to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:

- December 15th 2015-Minutes of the Somersworth School Board Meeting
- December 14th 2015- Minutes from the JBC-Joint Building Committee
- Idlehurst Elementary Newsletter-January 2016
- Enrollment-January

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supt. Mosca stated she would like to congratulate Maple Wood for making it through the first round and moving forward with the Eddy's and she wishes them the best. She thanked Michelle Munson, Beth Day and Tamara Hallee for the reflection art awards, it was amazing what the students wrote about and the art work was amazing and it was a great night. She stated that the first Unified basketball game is next Wednesday at 3:30. Austin stated that he is making the following committee assignments:

Budget and Revenue: Don, Ken and Bob

Building, Grounds and Transportation: Dana, Ken and Karen

Curriculum and Activities: Kelly, Joanne and Matt

Negotiations: Joanne and Karen

Policy: Matt, Sean and Don

NHSBA Delegate: Sean

Recreation Advisory: Ken and Kelly

Community Relations: Don, Sean and Bob

SYC Advisory: Dana

Vision 20/20: Matt

A motion made by Hiller seconded by Collins to approve the committee assignments as presented. Bolduc stated that the negotiations committee only has two members and he thinks that it needs three people. He stated that we have an outside person but he thinks we should have three people. Austin stated that it is difficult to find more than two who don't have a conflict of interest and these two have been doing negotiations already this year and it is hard to start with someone else. He stated that committee doesn't make any decisions they are negotiating on our behalf so it is not like they are spending money or making commitments. Hanlon stated that when they come back they have to vote yes so by only having two we only have two people that have to vote yes versus three. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5.1 NEASC Presentation: Sharon Lampros stated that the accreditation process happens every ten years and the standards are developed by NEASC based on evidence based practices and processes. They are not about the journey they are about the process of providing a quality education for our students. She stated that there are seven standards which over ten year's schools are updated on and revising the curriculum to constantly meet those standards. Standard one has to do with core values to show that schools have made decisions on what are our core values, what is our mission, what are our 21st century learning expectations and that we have involved the community, the staff, and the board on what drives those decisions that we are making in our school. The second standard is curriculum, do we have a curriculum, do we have a format for it, do we have units of study, do we include instructional strategies, and do we talk about assessment. There are very specific protocols that we have to meet to make sure we meet their guidelines. The third standard is instruction focusing on a few different strategies, differentiating to meet student needs and collaborating with peers. The fourth standard is assessment both formative and summative and that we use the results to make decisions on instruction and practices to make sure our students are successful. The fifth standard is school culture which is a two part standard, the first part talks about creating a safe and respectful environment and that the students have the opportunity to succeed and the other part is the role of the administrator in the building and that they are building positive relationships with students and staff, community relations, the relationship with the school board chair and board members and the Superintendent. The sixth standard is other and it covers how does our library work, do we have technology resources, do we support special education and 504 and health services, it is kind of that broad spectrum. She stated that the seventh standard is community resources in terms of do we have the funding to put the programs in place and take care of maintenance in the building. All of this work is done over a two year study, the teachers get assigned to a standard and gather evidence and write a report and we send it off to the commission and they send fifteen people to look at what we said in writing to see if we are walking the walk and have evidence that we are doing what we are saying. She stated that the accreditation is important it is about the process on the way we do business and we have a validating group that says we are not just putting it on paper we are a living breathing entity that is meeting those standards. She then gave a presentation on the results. (See attached). Lampros thanked all the teachers for all they did and to Daryl and Sandy who were chairs and helped to keep everything on track. Thank you also to the board and the city council for their support and the community. We are a fully accredited high school, we did it. Rivers thanked them for their amazing effort it was a class act. He stated that the son or daughter of no child left behind is coming down the pike and it is all local control and he asked if this will still be here in the future and asked where they get their authority from. Lampros stated that it has been around since 1951 so she doesn't see it going anywhere and it is an agency that goes throughout New England making assessments. She stated that NEASC provides the structure on what works and doesn't work. Hiller asked how long the accreditation is good for. Lampros stated 10 years. Austin asked who

develops the standards. Lampros stated that NEASC develops the standards and does research on effective practices. Austin thanked her and stated that this wraps up the accreditation process. He stated that there are a lot of positive things and good feedback and there is always something to work on. He stated that the feedback is wonderful and there were a lot of commendations and we can't lose sight of that.

5.2 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: None

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.3 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that they met on Monday which was the first meeting with the new council members and the Mayor had committees to fill and he will continue as the representative to the school board and the building trades trust.

5.4 Student Representative Report-Cassidy Akatyszewski: None

5.5 MS YRBS Results from 2014-2015: Supt. Mosca stated that this survey was done last year in the spring and we received the results in the late fall. See attached presentation. She stated that looking at middle school students they go through the most difficult times socially, emotionally, and physically all at the same time and she doesn't think that our results are different from other communities. Brennan stated that she would be interested in seeing a comparison to other districts. Supt. Mosca stated that she can look into that. Hiller stated 95% of the students do not carry a weapon does that mean that 5% do. Supt. Mosca stated that she doesn't know, the questions are vague. She stated that they try to look for trends. She stated that they are seeing areas that are getting better and are showing a decrease in the right direction. Collins asked if they have specific plans to improve the numbers. Supt. Mosca stated that we have the coordinated health services K-12 and they will take a look at the data and Dana and his leadership team looked at it and will work on it. Joanne Pepin asked who makes up the questions. Supt. Mosca stated that it is a statewide bank of questions. Gibson stated that marijuana use and alcohol use for middle school students are the programs for these two items teaching strict abstinence or are they being taught to make valued judgments. Supt. Mosca stated that it is more about decision and choice making and the physical and chemical awareness of what it does to your body. Gibson stated that it is important as we move forward that they learn about making proper value judgments.

6. ACTION ITEM:

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Collins stated they will be setting up a meeting.

8.2 Budget: D'Agostino stated that they went through the budget this evening and on the health line they used the billing rate for the preliminary budget. She stated that at the SAU level you received sheets regarding the billing versus the effective rate and the billing rate is the gross rate before the premium holiday and historically we have used the premium holiday rate. She stated that this year the rates are very similar there is a difference of \$33,000 and she is asking direction from the board on what their preference is. Gibson stated that he made it clear at the sau level and we have been wrong in the past to use the effective rate for the purpose of budgeting as we saw two years ago when we got hammered. He stated that he didn't approve of how the premium holiday was handled by school care when they gave us money only to have them jump our rates the following year when it went away. He stated that most organizations use the billing rate for budgeting and then take the premium holiday into account going forward. He stated that it handicapped the district in the past and he doesn't think it should be continued going forward. Hanlon stated he agrees that \$33,000 is not a big difference and he would rather be careful. D'Agostino stated that the rates are guaranteed rates so they are not going to change. The consensus of the board was to use the billing rate versus the

effective rate.

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: Bolduc stated that they met on Monday and representatives from Banwell and North Branch gave an update on minor changes that were made to reduce costs. He stated that they reviewed the civil plans on the outside of the building where the greenhouse was and they came up with a simpler plan that costs less. He stated that the CTC is going to have their own heating system breaking away from the high school where they are currently tied in together. He stated that the current system is only 60% efficient and the new system will be between 93-94% efficient and it reduces the load on the high school. He stated that they discussed roofing and the remaining life of the existing ballasted roof with rocks on top. He stated that if we put a new roof membrane roof it will be cemented down. He stated that if we put the roof on during the project we will get 75% payback so it makes a lot of sense to do it. He stated that Jeni updated them on the plan to move the programs during renovations. He stated that Joe Campbell from North Branch presented a projected budget and they are working with Banwell to reduce costs. He stated that he also handed out a preliminary timeline for the project and it will begin on February 22nd on the areas where the students have moved so there will be no disruption of classes. Austin stated that you mentioned that they presented a preliminary cost and asked if he had that number. Bolduc stated that right now it is site improvements for \$30,800, building renovations \$5,428,000 and soft costs of \$1,100,000 for a total of \$6,611,000. He stated that it is a bit over budget and they will work on that and it will be in budget by the end. Supt. Mosca stated that they are about \$100,000 over budget but that is pretty good for a six million dollar budget. She stated that they will be presenting to the planning board on the 20th.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **January 26 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **January 28 2016- Somersworth School Board Budget Workshop**
- **February 18 2016- Joint Building Committee**

Hiller asked if they could combine the meetings like tonight for the 26th and 28th. Supt. Mosca stated that they will do the budget workshop at 6:30 on the 26th prior to the board meeting.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Collins stated that he is excited and honored to serve on the board and given the confidence of everyone here. He stated that he will work hard to deliver a quality education for every student and ensure the long term viability of the community. Rivers thanked everyone involved in the inauguration and he appreciates everything that was done. He thanked SYC for the senior tea party on December 18th it was a lot of fun. Hiller stated that she would like to welcome Sean and Matt and she is looking forward to this year and they will be a great addition to the board. She congratulated the high school and CTC for the accreditation and she asked parents to tell one or two friends that we are accredited and always have been since 1951 because we need to get the word out. Gibson stated that he would like to thank everyone involved in the inauguration and the accreditation process. He stated that we are going to see through the budget process the difficulty with providing a quality education for the students of this community. He stated that there are a lot of communities not just Somersworth that suffer from the same financial burdens that we do. He stated that we are constantly hearing the about the value of education in the workforce yet it seems to be an afterthought on how to pay for it. He stated that at some point we need to stop wasting money on a lot of things and put it where it has value to our children and the nation as a whole. Bolduc stated that at the JBC they also talked about hiring a clerk of the works and will be advertising. He stated that he read that there may be additional adequacy aid for third graders who are not testing at the proficient level and stated that seems backwards. He stated that they are also going to have epinephrine injections that are another thing for the teachers to do. Supt. Mosca stated that nurses

already do that. Bolduc stated that it is just another thing that we have to do and it keeps adding to the list of things we have to do with no longer school year or school day and they expect more to do with the same or less. He stated that he saw the Christmas concerts on channel 95 and student news and weather and they are doing a fantastic job. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to welcome Matt and Sean and thank you for running and they are an excellent addition and she values their input. She thanked whoever got the students involved in the inauguration as it is important that they know how important it is to be involved in the community. She stated that we had a proposed savings for the SAU of \$88,000 and she doesn't think that most people realize the cost to the employees for that savings. She stated that we have an excellent group of employees there and they go above and beyond and keep giving and giving with a smile on their face. She stated that she wants to thank them as a school board member and tax payer because they give a lot so thank you all. Brennan stated that she would like thank Sean for taking his nomination in stride and welcome to Matt. She stated that for the third year the budget goes smaller and smaller but she sees things among the teachers just growing and growing and that shows to me that she is not wanting to lose anything and it makes her realize that we have so much when it comes to heart and spirit and for that she is super thankful. She stated that the 52% on the survey at the middle school that they feel value in the community, she hopes that they were just having a bad day because from what I see that is not the case. She stated that we are rich in so many things. Hanlon stated that he is excited to be back and he thanked Maureen and everyone involved in the inauguration. He stated that he remembers when he came on the board they cut six positions and they cut every year after that and they never came back and we are doing more with less. Thank you to the administration and staff for doing so much with so little. Austin welcomed Matt and Sean and they will both hit the ground running and he is glad they are here. He stated that Saturday is the NHSBA delegate assembly and Sean and I will be attending on your behalf. He stated that talking about the budget in any kind of organization there is a critical mass required to operate and that requires a certain amount of money to operate it. He stated that he wants to remind people we are accredited and we have been for 60 plus years but there is a concern on funds and we are working hard to resolve those so that they will see fit to remove that warning. He stated that we can't lose sight of the fact that it is our job to provide an education the best we can with the resources we have available. He stated that Jeni and her staff are looking at ways to address the needs that we need to address and get creative with what we have and provide the services and it is a credit to Jeni and her staff to go through this every year, you do it and you do it well. He stated that we are getting to the point that there is nothing more to consolidate and cut without saying it is something that we can't do anymore and that is unacceptable. He stated that we don't have any direct line of revenue. He stated that we have a great relationship with the city council and we had a great workshop with them and they understand our concern with the budget and we will continue to work with them and will present a budget that meets the tax cap requirements and stress what had to be removed and what that means. He stated that the number is a lot smaller this year but we are still looking for \$390,000 to work through and we will get there and he is very confident with their relationship with the council and our community. He thanked the board for the work they do and they are a great working group and everyone contributes and bring ideas and we end up with the best product possible.

- 11. NON-PUBLIC:** A motion made by Hanlon 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 8:20pm. A motion made by Collins seconded by Hanlon to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out nonpublic session at 8:45pm.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept with deep regret the

retirement of Sharon Lampros. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Collins seconded by Gibson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval