

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

February 15th, 2016

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, Brennan, Hanlon, Collins, Hiller, Pepin, Gibson and Bolduc.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** None
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:
 - February 4th 2016- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Budget Workshop
 - Maple Wood News-February/March 2016
 - Somersworth Now: It was all fun and games at Idlehurst School
 - Fosters: Somersworth High Touts Accreditation Success
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that on March 2nd they will start the smarter balanced for the 11th graders with the SAT test. She stated that they will have a transition day that day. She stated that the ninth graders will be visiting Southern Maine Community College for a tour and an introduction to all the facets of college life. She stated that lunch will be provided by SMCC in the college dining hall. She stated that permission slips are due back soon and all freshmen are expected to participate. She stated that the 10th graders will be staying at school and will participate in activities such as a two hour lesson on financial literacy hosted by holy rosary and they will learn how to create a budget and financial management. She stated that after a debriefing they will have four 25 minute workshops with the staff at SHS on question and answer with the Superintendent, Mindful Meditation, and The power of social media, Knead Dough and the 2016 election cycle. She stated that lunch will be provided and the day will conclude with a large group presentation on recovering addiction. She stated that the 11th graders will be taking the SAT assessment from 7:30-2:30 and lunch will be available. She stated that the students that complete the test will be dismissed. She stated that transportation will not be provided so anyone that is staying until 2:20 will attend the presentation. She stated that the seniors who are not testing will have an I apply myself day with activities such as career exploration, post-secondary exploration, military exploration and community service. She stated that they must submit a form the next day or they will be marked absent for an unexcused absence. She stated that she would like to express her deepest sympathies to the Blaisdell Family as Mr. Blaisdell passed away over the weekend so my sympathies to his family.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **Middle School Presentation- Dana Hilliard:** Dana Hilliard stated that they are here tonight to talk about middle level education. He stated that there is a difference between junior high and a middle school. He stated that we focus on the whole child, body, mind and soul. He stated that two weeks ago the guidance department held their first annual career day and it was very successful. He stated that they had presentations on various careers and they rotated on a scheduled basis and they had hands on activities and opened the day with community day. He stated that they are going to show a video that gives a flavor of what the middle school community is all about. He stated that it is not often that we get the background of all the teachers and the students don't know their educational background and what were their dreams when they were their age and how they have shifted. He stated that you will see in the video how what the staff wanted to do versus what they are doing now and you will see the vast amount of resources we have in the middle school and how they are collectively coming together. Hilliard stated that in regards to PBIS and reaching our expectations, we are constantly teaching and re-teaching our expectations of being safe, respectful, responsible and

cooperative. He stated that we have a cohesive system that exists at the elementary level and hats off to them for working hard to embed these in the elementary schools so that the 5th graders are prepared and have the common language and know what to expect at the middle school. He stated that we are starting to see a high level of academic success and that shows that the system is working. He stated that they are constantly re-teaching it to reinforce in the morning and afternoon and any time there is a breach. He stated that every year we have a winter carnival and we only hold it if we reach our goals in PBIS and we are well over 90% of students in the green zone so we will be doing the carnival but we showed this video to the students to reinforce how important it is. Devin McNelly gave an overview of the data. (See attached) He stated that we have met with every student who received a D or and F and came up with a plan on what we can do to help them. Hilliard stated that in the past we focused on F's and the students would come in for 25 minutes to an hour mapping out their success plan based on their individual pace and it is something that they develop. He stated that this year we raised the bar and we are meeting with any student who receives a D and hopefully in the future we will raise to a C and we are quite pleased with the progress we are making. McNelly stated that in terms of behavior we have had a 50% reduction in the major office referrals and have a really small number of students in the red zone with three children compared to 3% from last year which amounts to about 12 students. Hilliard stated that he would like to invite Amy Labelle to come up with her students to talk to you about what they have been analyzing. Amy Labelle stated that she has three students with her tonight Olivia Koch, Alan Mandigo and Nina Green. She stated that they have been studying land as a resource and looking at graphs and how to read and interpret them and they looked at major land uses in the United States and the largest was miscellaneous which is recreation and landfills. She stated that they decided to dissect the trash that gets thrown away so they took a bag from the 6th grade lunch, 7th grade lunch and 8th grade lunch. She stated that they spoke to the custodial staff and they said that they empty the trash cans three times per lunch. They gave a presentation on their findings. (See attached). They stated that they are going to Waste Management to take a tour of the facility. Gibson stated that he would like to congratulate the students and there are some great suggestions there. He stated that the recycling bins are easy to do. He stated that you can also take the metal cans and take them to Berwick and they take any metal recycling and pay you for it. Hiller stated that she would also like to congratulate them. She stated that this is just one of our four cafeterias so imagine the other grades and she hopes that they continue this and she will help if they need help. She stated that she is flabbergasted with the waste of milk. Collins stated that he is super impressed and it takes this kind of gumption to do this and it benefits everyone. Rivers stated that it was an excellent presentation. He stated that in his household he recycles and his spouse does not. He stated that when you take the tour ask them about the recycling business and ask if it is a profitable business. Brennan asked if there was any follow up with café services. McNelly stated that USDA does not require the student to take the milk they just have to offer it. He stated that café services director understands that it is just about letting the workers know. He stated that we have a farm to school group and part of the project is for them to come up with solutions. He stated that there are no rules on the wall on what you are supposed to pick up. Brennan stated that you are doing a great job and she likes the idea of a recycling club. Hanlon stated that when he came on the board they were starting to discuss shifting to the common core which would lead to project based learning and this is a perfect example of where we should be going. He stated that we should investigate our other schools and this should be a district issue at this point. Joanne Pepin stated that she commends you especially the teacher because our teachers go above and beyond. She stated that the students are outstanding speakers. She stated that they can call her and tell her how she can help. She stated that maybe they could have a competition between grades on who can recycle the most and you could teach your fellow students what can be recycled so they can do it at home and save their family money.

5.2 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: None

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.3 City Council Update: None

5.4 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard: Isis Orchard stated that on the fourth of February the student council held a conference at the high school and had 500 students from other schools to discuss ideas. She stated that February 6th was the Mr. SHS pageant and it was a big success. She stated that February 13th was parent's night out where they babysit kids while parents go out. She stated that the national honor society is hosting a spaghetti dinner and donations will go to a student who was diagnosed with Leukemia.

6. ACTION ITEM:

6.1 Approval of 2016-2017 Budget: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Brennan to move the proposed 2016-2017 budget on to the city manager. Gibson stated that he finds it tragic that a community like Somersworth is placed in a position that they struggle to provide proper funding for education for our students. He stated that at some point there needs to be a discussion about how we fund education in this country. He stated that he will vote for this because it is our responsibility to pass on to the council. He stated that he wishes we had a better answer but until people start talking about it on a national basis to provide a quality education to our students we will continue to have this debate. Joanne Pepin stated that we don't have any choice because we are legally required to present a budget under the tax cap. She stated that if and when it is approved we need to make sure the city manager realize the only reason it is this small is because of the tax cap and remind them that the high school has been accredited since 1951 and the only negative thing that came out of it was that we had to look at revenue. She stated that she thinks the council even though their hands are tied need to realize if we want to maintain a quality service in the future we have got to find a better way. Hiller stated that she is worried about cutting people but it is more than what has to be cut it is about the opportunities that we can't take because we don't have money. Bolduc stated that he is concerned about keeping the facilities up. He stated that there should be money in that budget for maintenance because we are just getting behind the eight ball and it will get to a point where we have to borrow money to get things done and he would rather do a little now and then do a little next year and do it as we go along. Hanlon stated that this is the scariest budget he has seen. He stated that we still have a \$128,000 cut to the budget and we are on the cusp of having a real problem even though it doesn't look as bad as it really is. He stated that he will push it forward because it is the best we can do. Hiller stated to the public if you are unhappy with things you are hearing we need someone to step up and get rid of the tax cap because it has really held us back. She stated that you also need to contact the state and tell them we need more funding from the state. She stated that something has to change, we are in the age of technology and technology is expensive. Austin stated that he would like to remind everyone that the budget we are putting forward covers all the operating costs the cuts are due to the loss in revenue. He stated that it is a very different picture than last year, not to say that next year will look like this year. He stated that we are operating on a shoe string type of budget and at some point we will reach a critical mass where it costs a certain amount to keep going and he thinks that we are there and that is the danger we are facing and the tax cap will limit us further. He stated that we will do our duty and pass on the budget that meets the tax cap requirement. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Collins stated the next meeting is Wednesday at 5:30pm.

8.2 Budget: Gibson asked what charter school revenue is. D'Agostino stated that she will get back to him on that. Gibson asked if the special education tuition was due to students moving out of the district. D'Agostino stated that we had more students move in. Bolduc stated that there are several

places that state changes in CTC. D'Agostino stated that is next year's budget and we are talking about this year.

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: None

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **February 18 2016- Joint Building Committee**
- **March 7 2016- State of the City**
- **March 21 2016- SAU Board Meeting**
- **March 22 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

Hiller stated that she would like to get an update on the recycling and taking it to the other schools.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to welcome Isis and thank her for volunteering. Brennan stated that she would like to congratulate Jeni on her unified sports season, it is the best hour of the week and the joy is not only in the kids playing but for the fans that are watching. Hiller stated that she would like to welcome Isis because it was her idea to get a new representative so she is glad that you stepped up. Bolduc stated that he would like to congratulate the students who were here tonight they did a great job and congratulations to Mrs. Labelle. He stated that he has concerns with food service and he questions if it is right or not making them take a milk and apple. He asked if they offer anything else besides milk. He stated that he has mentioned it before on if we ever survey the students to see what they think about the food they are getting. He stated that he hasn't seen a replay of the meeting at the CTC and asked if anyone heard any input. Austin stated that he would like to welcome Isis it is nice to have a student voice back. He stated that next week is vacation week and he wished all staff and students a restful week, enjoy and come back refreshed. He stated that it was a great presentation tonight and there is some remarkable work going on at the middle school. He stated that it blows me away that 8400 containers of milk and fruit are thrown away, there has got to be a better way. He stated that they have done the leg work and identified an issue and a solution and he is very impressed with the presentation.

11. NON-PUBLIC: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Collins seconded by Brennan to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval