

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

April 5th, 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 Hiller to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - March 22nd 2016- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - March 21st 2016- Minutes from the JBC Meeting
 - Fosters: Groundbreaking at Career Tech Center Renovation
 - Enrollment: April
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that she wanted to remind everyone that the 9th annual spirit up Somersworth is Saturday May 7th. Registration is from 7:00-7:30 and then everyone will work as a group to clean the city and then there will be a block party at the middle school with refreshments and raffles. She stated that also that day is Bike Safety Day from 1:30-2:30.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **NH Scholar Athletes:** Supt. Mosca stated that she would like to congratulate the students who achieved the NH Scholar Athlete. Students need to participate in two sports all four years and maintain a 3.0 grade point average. She stated that these are high achieving scholars and athletes. Don Austin and Superintendent Mosca handed out certificates to the following athletes: Emily Francoeur, Justin Gatcomb, Michael Godzick, Hunter Michaud, Dakota Paine, Brooke Paris, Matthew Pincince and Rhaven Spinelli.
 - 5.2 **Middle School Trash Report/Café Services:** Supt. Mosca stated that Amy Labelle and her students are here and she also asked Café Services to be here and they will come up after the presentation. Amy Labelle and her students Alan Mandigo, Sheryl Hutapea, and Leah Pelequin gave a presentation. See attached presentation. Hiller stated that this is a very good analysis and now she is wondering what it costs the district per year. She stated that we should see about switching to plastic that is more biodegradable. Labelle stated that they did plastics research and there are seven different types of plastic and on average any piece takes 100 years to start to decompose. Joanne Pepin stated that being an older person they had real silverware that they washed when I went to school and asked if they recommended going back to that. Mandigo stated that he does feel that we should do that because it would be less plastic. Collins stated that you have done a fantastic job and the statistics are fantastic. He stated that he would like to know why you are doing this and what you learned. Peloquin stated that she wasn't concerned about recycling until this project and it made her realize how important it is. She stated that in regards to the real silverware she did talk to the lunch lady and they already have to do a lot and it would also waste a lot of water and they would have to wash a lot of dishes. Hutapea stated that washing dishes would also use a lot of soap to clean and you would have to keep everyone safe and make sure that it is stored properly. Gibson stated that this is excellent work and it is good to see the students looking into these subjects. He asked how many days they spent at each school. Hutapea stated 1-2 days. Gibson stated that a cost benefit analysis of some of the suggestions such as switching over to reusable silverware would be interesting to see. He stated that the reason some went away from that is because students were throwing them away. Bolduc thanked everyone, you did a fantastic job. He stated that waste is one thing that concerns me and hopefully we can get an explanation on how things are done in the

cafeteria. He stated that there are 128 pounds of food scraps thrown away per day and asked if the kids are given food that they don't want and it gets thrown away. He stated that 96 milks thrown away makes no sense to me. If they don't want milk why are they taking it, the fruits are the same thing. He stated that we recycle at home and asked why we don't do more of that. He stated that he hates to see the waste and to see food not even touched. Labelle stated that after the last presentation the 6th graders met with Café Services and answered some of those questions and we became informed on the US government guidelines. Hanlon asked why there is such a vast difference between milk and fruit at the middle school versus the other schools. Mandigo stated that he feels that it is because they are bigger and we eat a lot more. He stated that the elementary kids eat less because they are picky and we are in middle school and take food and then say we are not really that hungry and then we throw it away. Brennan stated that as a parent of a middle schooler she would 100% agree with his theory. Collins stated that he loved his theory and it is right on the money. He stated that Scott Orzwechowski heads up the sustainability committee and you should link up with him. Gibson asked how long they have for lunch. Labelle stated 25 minutes. Gibson asked if the waste would be cut down if they had more time to eat. Labelle stated that they will be testing that when some of the students are staying back from Nature's Classroom. Hiller stated that you are on to something really big and you may be able to save us a lot of money. She stated that maybe pig farmers could take the scraps rather than putting them into the ground. I applaud you for a job well done. Supt. Mosca stated that we have Chris Faro, Frank Gillespie and Beth Bickford from café services here to explain the federal guidelines. Chris Faro stated that he would like to thank Jeni for inviting us and thank you to the trash team for a fabulous project. He stated that he started ten years ago as the Food Service Director at SAU 56. He stated that when he got here he was introduced to Phil the Pig Guy who has been working with SAU 56 for well over a decade collecting food from the kitchens to use on his pig farm. He stated that he was also introduced to a student group at the high school who had concerns about recycling and with that group they got 100 reusable plates and real silverware and implemented it for two days until they were all thrown away by students. He stated that they also worked with them to expand on recycling in the cafeteria. He stated that they discussed it with Andy and there were some challenges with that but they are working on it with waste management. He stated that when we came in they were working with offer versus serve where the USDA guideline was that in order for a meal to be considered a reimbursable meal we had to offer five components meat, grain, vegetable, fruit and milk. He stated that you would have to take three of the five components to qualify for free or reduced meals. He stated that it doesn't force you to take five components and does reduce waste. He stated that we are constantly educating staff and students and it is not always well understood. He stated that four years ago the USDA updated offer versus serve and now it requires you to take a fruit or vegetable. He stated that if you don't have that we are required to charge for the individual items on that tray. He stated that the students who get free or reduced lunch if you don't have a fruit or vegetable we have to charge it at the full rate. He stated that to make sure not to identify free or reduced students we encourage all students to take a fruit or vegetable. Frank Gillespie stated that he fully supports your stewardship and it is a great opportunity to work together. He stated that recycling awareness and everyone participating will drive success and with student awareness and giving them bins at all the facilities and having the custodians and staff buying in can make a difference. He stated that when he was in Dover they had real silverware and they instituted awareness and they trained students to dispose of their tray and not just flip and walk away. He stated real silverware is a good starting point from an impact standpoint. He stated that they provide soaking bins and food handling safety is paramount to us. He stated that they recycle the food scraps for farm to school and that is a great opportunity. He stated that for the vegetable offering they like to introduce students to different foods. He stated that middle schoolers like French fries and they do qualify as a

vegetable by the USDA. He stated that the middle school seemed to have a vast increase in waste and the cartons of milk he was befuddled by because they are not required to take a milk. Why would you take a milk to throw it away and that is quite perplexing and it might just be an education component. He stated that they would love to partner with you and there is an opportunity for improvement. He stated that having the data is exciting and you can see a difference when you implement changes. He stated that everyone needs to be on board and become part of the culture for the commitment. Chris Faro stated that Beth met with the trash team and talked about partnerships and it is really successful when students buy into that. Hiller asked if they looked into recyclable silverware. Faro stated that any takeout containers, paper plates, plastic cups and napkins are all biodegradable. He stated that for silverware they looked into biodegradable plastic ware and they are made with potato starch waste and they can melt in hot food so he would advocate changing over to real silverware. Hanlon stated that if you are on free and you take the proper components it stays and if you don't have them you pay a la carte. Faro stated that all students are treated the same way. In offer versus serve you need three of the components and one of the three has to be a fruit or vegetable and that qualifies for the meal price. If they don't take a full meal they are paying for each individual item on the tray. He stated that it is all based on federal guidelines for every meal you serve you receive federal money from the federal government and a credit for commodity food. Collins stated that he appreciates all the information and after you consider everything what are the next steps. Faro stated that they work with student groups building partnerships to build initiatives. He stated that there is a lot of stuff we do on our end to reduce waste and as we get into broader things such as tray waste and real silverware that is where the partnerships will make it successful. Bolduc stated the fact is that we need to take it even if we don't need it because the USDA tells us we have to so they will give us money. He stated that we are in this for the money not for what kids want to eat and he stated that he thinks we can do better locally on deciding what kids eat. He stated that we are getting money to waste food and they are paying us to waste food. The USDA needs to change the rules; it makes no sense to me. He stated that when a student goes through the line they have things to pick out and they should be able to pick out what they want. He stated that everyone should have meal cards so people can't see if they are free or reduced. Faro stated that there are very little cash transactions; there is none at the elementary, limited amount at the middle school and some at the high school. He stated that the meal status is not apparent to anyone and you can't tell if they qualify. He stated that we have the technology to do the student ID's and we have talked about it. He stated that right now the students come up and give their name or pin number and that is the only identification and most students are using a prepaid account. Bolduc stated that the one big problem he has is that we are making kids take food and he is not sure if you can have a discussion with the USDA. Faro stated that we have to enforce it whether or not we agree or not. He stated that he has had conversations with the USDA on ways to improve it. Gibson stated that he appreciates everything and you have done a great job. He stated that he doesn't agree with Ken, he understands the rationale behind the USDA standard; they are trying to guarantee a nutritionally balanced meal for the kids. He stated that we need to educate the students to pocket it for a snack later or give it away rather than throw it away. Faro stated that there is a share table but because of the food code once it is served we can't have anything to do with it. He stated that we encourage those tables but we can't have anything to do with it. Gibson stated that you have a diverse menu available. Faro stated that the middle and high school has 10-13 different entrees and a variety of fruits and vegetables. He stated that the elementary schools have three or four options. Gibson stated that it should be easy for a student to find an assortment to meet the guidelines. Hiller stated that she has no problem with telling them to take a fruit or vegetable, it is healthy and gives them the opportunity to try things and some kids are so hungry they will eat whatever is put in front of them and if there is a picky kid they may see them and they might try it. Austin stated that

he believes that this year the congress is reconsidering reauthorizing the child nutrition act and that is the root cause of the whole process. Faro stated that the dietary guidelines are published every five years which are the nutritional guidelines we are all supposed to follow. He stated that is based on those guidelines and the reauthorization is in process. He stated that there are some slight changes such as whole grain is from 100% to 80% which allows us to bring flavored wraps back in which is a plus. He stated that the fruit and vegetable requirement is still there. Austin stated that the NHSBA has policies and authorization from the members to work with them on the reauthorization so if there is any information you can give us to lobby for what makes sense. Faro stated that the biggest thing that hasn't been added are resources and funding for nutrition education. He stated that it is hard to do societally only from one source. We need more resources to make it broader and get more education and a more global solution to make kids healthier. Hanlon asked if anyone has done research on what is being thrown out the most. Hilliard stated that he can't speak more highly of café services and could not ask for a more professional outfit and a more compassionate and caring association and they are considered a full part of the team and they care about every student. He stated that there are bins for the fruit that the teachers on duty encourage students to put their milk and fruits in there if they are not used. He stated that educational banners have been ordered and they will be doing a presentation during community day. He stated that it is also a cultural problem and they are educating them that it is more than just a middle and high school problem but that it is a societal problem. He stated that we are incredibly blessed in this country and a lot of us take advantage of that and other cultures don't have the means we do and instead of appreciate them we neglect some of them. He stated that they did a great job coming up with suggestions and it is one of these balancing acts that all started with middle level students taking this on and bringing the issue to light. Supt. Mosca stated that she would like to thank Mrs. Labelle and the students as well as Café Services. Mandigo stated that the most thrown away fruit is apples.

5.3 Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they are meeting on April 14th at 9am.

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: Austin stated that they will be meeting in the next few weeks.

5.4 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that last night the Mayor gave a report on a discussion with citizens that don't think we have a community center and he mentioned that the city manager and superintendent utilize the schools as a community center and share the cost. He stated that they would also like to have a joint workshop with the city council to get together and share ideas. He stated that the resolution for the roof was approved for the CTC so there will be \$371,000 going for the roof. He stated that they started talking budget and it is going to be interesting this year.

5.5 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard: None

5.6 2016-17 Board Meeting Schedule: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to accept the schedule as presented with adding a second meeting in June. Gibson stated that his preference is that for any schedules he needs three weeks out to make a change and he would rather have a scheduled meeting then to have to scramble. He stated that he would propose a second June meeting added to the schedule. Supt. Mosca stated that she tried to stick to the second and fourth Tuesday's. She stated that the problem with the fourth Tuesday in June is that is when the Superintendent's conference is and she is not here that fourth Tuesday. She stated that she tried to space them out with the schedule we currently follow. Gibson stated that the problem is that historically there has been action taken in the past that could have been avoided had there been a second meeting. Hanlon stated that he agrees with Bob there is a lag time between the last meeting in June and July and it would be nice to have a meeting after school ends even if it is back to back and we can always cancel if we don't need it. A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hanlon to add June 20th to the schedule. VOTE: motion passed. Bolduc stated that some of our meetings there is a three week gap. He asked if this could be tabled until the next meeting to look over it more. A motion

made by Bolduc seconded by Collins to table the 2016-2017 School Board Schedule. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

5.7 2016-2017 School Board Budget Meeting Schedule: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the School Board Budget Meeting Schedule with the correction of the year on February 7th. Gibson stated that he is looking to the Superintendent for guidance here because he struggles with the budget wondering if this is something we need to build in more time for because some decisions will be really tough next year. Supt. Mosca stated that the last three years we have followed the same schedule and with the tax cap budgeting has become easier because we know what the amount is. Gibson stated that his big concern is that we are talking personnel again and there will be some hard calls there. He stated that in years past we had more meetings scheduled and he would agree in some ways that it is easier but when you start talking people it gets a little harder and he is concerned about having time to deliberate. Austin stated that the difference is that we won't have local elections so we can start in December having discussions and we already have three meetings in January. Bolduc stated that he feels that we don't have enough time to discuss budget, we have a \$26 million dollar budget and it is hard to discuss that in five meetings. He stated that he had serious questions and there was not enough time to talk about them and it is important to have time to talk about the budget. He stated that he heard that it is good to have a tax cap because we know where we have to cut but he doesn't like thinking of a budget that way he wants to budget what we need to get things done. Hiller stated that she heard from people that there is a tax cap rebellion. Austin stated that we have to operate as if we do. Gibson stated that he would propose that we schedule a meeting on February 20th after the public hearing. Austin stated that does anyone suggest that we table this as well. Hanlon stated that when we had the discussion about the budget it looked so easy we didn't have public involvement but that is not going to be the case this year so we should make sure we at least have more than a month for the public to digest and receive information to know where it is going. Joanne Pepin stated that she is against tabling this; we need to get it done. She stated that she agrees that we don't have enough time and stated we should add one the first week in January and schedule four in January and then if we don't need the last budget workshop we can cancel it. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hiller to accept the 2016-2017 school board budget workshop schedule with the amendment of adding another meeting on January 5th with the option of having January 26th as tentative if needed. Supt. Mosca stated that a lot of time and effort goes into Marie preparing the budget. She stated that the SAU budget is due in November and the Rollinsford budget in December and you are asking us during a time with vacation week to go full force with the budget and that puts us in a crunch. She stated that they will do the best they can if that is what you want but we can talk about budget at every meeting. She stated that budget is on every agenda. She stated that we have to get the state numbers and we don't get those until November and we are waiting on health numbers and adequacy so there are a lot of pieces that will be very blank early so you won't be getting the full picture. She stated that they try to give you the big picture when they created the schedule but any Tuesday meeting you can meet earlier and during the board meeting you can spend time talking about it. Joanne Pepin rescinded her motion. Gibson stated that is what he was looking for because he has legitimate concerns and a reasonable compromise is for a later meeting to give the administration more time. He stated that he is happy to approve this schedule now and then we can adjust as we go. A motion made by Bolduc to table the schedule. The motion failed due to no second to the motion. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

5.8 Transportation Contract: Austin stated that in the packet there is a memo from Marie to approve a one year extension of the transportation contract. He stated that this will be an action item at the next meeting. Gibson asked that they include the change factor in the contract so it is on public record. Hiller asked how next year's contract will be affected due to extended day kindergarten. Supt. Mosca stated that it will not affect it we will not use the run and they took the money out of the

budget. D'Agostino stated that the contract states that the board has the right to add or reduce as needed. Bolduc stated that he would suggest that this gets passed by the building, grounds and transportation committee to go over as changes take place.

5.9 2016-2017 Meal Prices/Food Contract: Austin stated that there is a memo with price increase request. He stated that the change is in the elementary lunch which will go from \$2.20 to \$2.30 based on the required change in the equity calculation not because we want to but due to a requirement. D'Agostino stated that the minimum amount to increase is at least ten cents so the goal is to make the full pay price equivalent to the free reimbursement and currently we are getting \$2.78 so we are still not meeting that. She stated that is why we increase in good faith. Bolduc stated that again this is something that we must do to get reimbursement. We are chasing money when we set the food prices and that bothers me. Gibson stated that he would beg to differ with Ken we are not chasing money. The USDA has a reason for the guidelines to ensure all people being served lunches by the school are meeting the minimum nutritional standards which is crucial on free and reduced lunches because a lot of kids what they can eat is all the food that they will have for the day. He stated that \$2.60 for a full meal is not an outrageous price. He stated that he doesn't think that the USDA is being unreasonable but he thinks that there needs to be a discussion on how we go about it. Rivers stated that this is a no brainer, Bob is correct the USDA guidelines is national control versus local control and we don't need to argue this for days.

6. ACTION ITEM

6.1 A motion made by Brennan seconded by Collins to move that the minutes from the non-public hearing held on March 1st through April 5th 2016 be sealed for a period that ends two years after the last participant/employee in the hearing is no longer employed by the Somersworth School District with the exception of those records be made available to attorneys for the purpose of an appeal to superior court, if any such appeal occurs. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Hanlon stated that they will be meeting on Monday the 11th at 5:30.

8.2 Budget: None

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: Bolduc stated that they met last night and discussed flooring at the culinary area as there are a couple of views on the material to be used and they will get back to us at the next meeting on April 11th. He stated that they discussed the greenhouse pad and what to do with that. He stated that there has been very little disruption and North Branch is doing a fantastic job and they couldn't ask for anything better. He stated that there was a concern with moisture under the floor and the tiles not sticking but they did testing and there is no moisture and it was the adhesive that was the problem.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **April 19 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **May 9 2016- SAU 56 Board Meeting**
- **May 10th 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

Gibson stated that he would like to see something on the lunch times on the agenda. He stated that he didn't realize the times had shrunk that much and he wonders how that contributes to the waste at the middle school with kids rushing through lunch. He stated that he would like to see what other districts are doing and if they have experiences with different time frames. Hanlon stated that he would like to see the time transition between the first kid and the last kid. Gibson stated that this is at the convenience of the administration not asking for it right now.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Bolduc asked if there was any way to adjust the March 1st date to get the budget

in to April 1st because that is what crunches us. Austin stated that is in the city charter. Gibson stated that a lot of compliments need to be handed out to the middle school staff. He is glad to see the work the instructors are doing with the different approaches they use to educate students in classes and the enthusiasm that it brings out in the students seeing a real life approach on what they are learning. He stated that they are using the same tools but more interesting. He thanked Café Services, they did a heck of a job coming in and they have yet to fail on living up to that and he appreciates them coming in to talk to us and it shows how involved they are in the community. Rivers stated that he was concerned with the roof on the CTC and it was a really significant effort on the JBC, council and Administration to pull that off and he thanked everyone for working on that. Gibson stated that he would also like to thank the council for stepping up to the plate because it is an important part of the project. Collins stated that he is very pleased and we are lucky to have the relationship with the mayor and council. He stated that this budget is going to be tough to go through and he would encourage people to make their voices heard and everyone to work together to make it better. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to congratulate the NH scholar athletes and the trash team and the wonderful teachers and the outstanding district community we have and we wouldn't have that unless we had a good educational system. She thanked café services, she has enjoyed the times she has gone there to eat. She thanked the council for the roof and working together and remembering that we are looking to find a way to keep the tax rate reasonable and still have the services. She thanked the board because she doesn't think that people realize what we do and the people here are second to none and she likes the diversity each brings. Brennan stated that she wanted to remind everyone to clear their calendar on May 7th and come to the cleanup day because hands are needed. Hanlon stated that he would like to thank the middle school staff and students, administration and café services for the work they are doing. He stated that when he sees this he thinks about all the people bashing common core and this is exactly what he was hoping for project based, real life applications and this is where the community should be going. Austin stated that the CTC groundbreaking was a wonderful event and all partners were represented and he is impressed by all the work that has been done. He stated that it is amazing how much work is being done all while classes are going on. He thanked the JBC and the crew handling it. He stated that the commitment of the members of this board and the service for a small stipend. He stated that they don't work for the money or the fame and glory; we are all here for the common purpose that the students have the best opportunity to succeed pre-k to 12. He stated that we all have lives outside this board and we all have families and lives outside and we can't be everywhere all the time and he thanked everyone for the level of commitment on this board and we do very well presenting ourselves as a unified team working with the community as a whole and he is encouraged by that and it keeps him going.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Brennan to exit into non-public session in accordance with Chapter 91-A: 3 II (a) Student Issue (b) Personnel and (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited into non-public session at 9:11pm. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Brennan to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-public session at 10:04pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval