

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

City Hall

May 24th, 2016

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, Brennan, Collins, Hanlon, Hiller, Gibson, Austin, Joanne Pepin 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:
 - May 16th 2016-Minutes of the JBC Committee Meeting
 - May 10th 2016- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - Maple Wood News-June
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Austin thanked Kelly and Sean for filling in for him while he was out at the last meeting. He stated that he had an acute illness and is on the med and is happy to be back but thanked them for taking care of business at the last meeting.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - 5.1 **Retiree Ceremony:** Austin stated that it has been a custom to honor our retirees at one of the last school board meetings of the year and tonight they are pleased to recognize the retirees for their many years of service. He stated that first we will have Julie McTague and her students perform a few songs for us. Austin thanked them for a wonderful performance. He stated that the Superintendent sends her best well wishes, she could not be here tonight but she is here in spirit and she wishes you all well. Eris Hersey stated that every morning they greet the students with our Idlehurst family and that is truly what we are and the retirees will always be a part of our family and will be missed and you are always welcome. She stated that Karen Burrill is amazing, hard-working and has put 31 years into this district and she is a resident here and she is humbled for all that she has given and thanked her from the bottom of her heart. She stated that Annette Clough is a special education case manager and is soft spoken, humble and has the amazing ability to reach the struggling students and put a smile on their faces and does whatever she needs to making sure they have what they need and she wished her the best in her retirement. She stated that they also had three paraprofessionals retiring Kathy Purdy who worked 17 years in the district, Hilary Ruel who has worked 19 years in the district and Gail Masse who has worked 18 years in the district and they will also be dearly missed. Tamara Hallee stated that Ginger Riffe has 41.5 years of service and she is very sad to see her retire. She stated that she is a caring, thoughtful educator who is always there until the sun goes down and is on many committees. She stated that she is the go to girl and has been a team leader for many years and to show you how dedicated she is she continued the position even though her stipend was cut. She stated that she is a dedicated member of our maple wood family and will be missed, thank you Ginger. She stated that Chuck Favolise has been here for 36 years and has been a staple in our Maple Wood community, he is a character with great wit and a huge heart. She stated that he would give the shirt off his back. He makes us smile and is an inspiration to decades of students and athletes and always does his best for students. To celebrate Chuck and his accomplishments we will be dedicating field day beginning this year to Chuck. We will hold our first annual coach Fav field day on June 13th. If you would like to send a card or inspirational message to Chuck please send it to Maple Wood. We will miss you Chuck. Dana Hilliard stated that the Middle School prides itself on the value of community. We have two individuals who are retiring from our middle school community but also live in our community so what they do carries on to the greater

community and they take pride in everything that they do. He stated that Steve Lampson has 8.5 years in the district. He stated that since his tenure as principal the middle school has held 78 dance in five years and Steve has chaperoned 76 of those dances so in honor of that we have placed a plaque on the wall where he sat and we have named that the Steve Lampson corner. Steve thank you for your service. He stated that Ginger Spendley has been at the middle school for 16 years in a variety of capacities always inspiring every child of which her hand has touched upon. He stated that he considers Ginger a very motherly figure within the school and she reminds me of my own mother which means I am constantly thinking before I open my mouth. Often times she is the only one in the building that makes me a little nervous and I feel like I have to be on my best behavior. Thank you for not only inspiring all the students but every single adult. Ginger was our recipient of the Ace Faculty Award this year which is voted on by the faculty. Thank you Ginger for your caring hand and for inspiring everyone who got to know you. Katelyn Carrington stated that first she would like to recognize Evelyn Salois who was a paraprofessional at the high school for 25 years and retired in the fall. She stated that Sharon Lampros has been in the district for 40 years, 30 years as a math teacher and 10 years as an administrator. She stated that her legacy will be the community of caring that she worked so hard to build. She stated that she worked hard to reengage parents at the high school level and she is hopeful that will continue. Thank you Sharon. Austin congratulated all the retirees and thanked them for their years of dedicated service, we could not have done it without you.

5.2 YRBS Results- Alissa Cannon Drug Coalition: Cannon stated that she is the coalition coordinator for the Somersworth Prevention Coalition and with her tonight are members of the Somersworth High School Youth to Youth empowerment team. Team Members: Mason Cashman, Emily Spinney, Libby Sweeney and Ashley Casey. They stated that they provide education and awareness about drugs, alcohol and tobacco to students and the community. They do presentations such as eight things, sticker shock campaign, Sam the skunk, and radio PSA's. They stated that last year Somersworth High School took the YRBS survey and we found out that in the 30 days prior to taking the survey 90% of the 9th grade had not smoked cigarettes and 87% have not smoked Marijuana. We also found out that over 60% of 9th graders feel that their friends think that it is wrong to smoke marijuana and we found that 73% of 9th graders feel that their friends will think that it is wrong to smoke tobacco. We also found out that over 95% of 9th graders feel that their parents believe it is very wrong to use tobacco and over 90% of 9th graders believe that their parents feel it is wrong to smoke marijuana. They also found that 92% of 9th graders feel that smoking one or more packs of cigarettes poses a great risk of personal harm and over ½ of the 9th graders feel that smoking marijuana one or two times a week poses a great risk to their health. The freshman class or class of 2018 will be in the school learning from our programming. This class is one that we can help and impact and this group of kids represents our school and our future and that is why we chose them today. Cannon stated that you all have the YRBS in front of you and if you have any questions afterwards she would love to stay and chat with you. She stated that as you heard a lot of students at Somersworth are making healthy decisions instead of those unsafe and unhealthy decisions. We still know that students are still misusing substances and they aren't seeing harm or risks for their actions. She stated that we need to address the risks of using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. We need to address the all-encompassing health of the student body and address the factors that play into the dangerous risk taking, they why students are doing this. She stated that the resources we need in our schools is investment from parents and concerned adults, from active and engaged youth, guidance counselors, educators and administrators, from law enforcement, medical personnel and city leaders. We need partnerships, Somersworth Prevention Coalition, we have sector representation and we also have the funding stream. We need partners from our youth to youth teams and Somersworth Youth Connection, the empowerment aspect. We need partnerships from our regional public health network which we have now with the coordinated school health curriculum. She stated that we have all of the above and it is my job to bring them to the table. She stated that in 2015 we were awarded the federal

drug free communities grant from SAMSA, \$125,000 per year to focus on drug and alcohol prevention. She stated that this year is a capacity building year for the coalition bringing me aboard and building these partnerships. She stated that the 2016-17 grant year we will look at increasing prevention efforts, expanding youth to youth programs, expanding partnerships and expanding school involvement and programs. She stated that 2017 and beyond we will look at continuing our funding and we have the opportunity to continue another five years after our initial five year but we will also be looking at sustainability and how do we make it after the ten years of funding is done. She stated that our youth are our number one priority, they are worth our time and energy, they deserve a safe happy life and they want to know that we care about them. They need guidance and education to make the best decisions, they are our future and they soon will be the adults guiding our children. How are we going to change where we are, define expectations, talk to your kids and let them know where you stand, get involved, initiate change in your world, support the efforts of the coalition, the schools and the community and encourage our youth. We are going to see change if we can all work together.

5.3 Coordinated School Health Presentation- Bridget Jameson and Emily Hayden: Bridget Jameson stated that they are handing out a document of the draft outline for the K-12 health standards that we have developed over the last few months. These were from both elementary schools, middle and high coming up with the standards. She stated that it is vertically designed so by the time they get to high school they know what they need to know. She stated that it covers three main content areas: Social and Emotional Health, Substance Misuse prevention and Nutrition and physical activity. She stated that one area of need that has been identified is sexual and reproductive health so that is the goal for the summer to look at that. Emily Hayden stated that they looked at the YRBS, the NH Health curriculum standards and the champion's expertise on our team which consists of school counselors, health teachers and classroom teachers. She stated that the last piece was the health curriculum assessment and this was rolled out to elementary, middle and high school and it was completed to determine which health topics need strengthening in each grade and subject area in addition to gathering baseline data. She stated that this document is a work in progress and focuses on the needs of our Somersworth students and creating an individualized program for our kids. She stated that they are currently getting feedback from the staff members and they welcome any board suggestions as well. Hiller stated that they voted this year to add education on good touch bad touch to stave off sexual abuse and she doesn't see that in here. Hayden stated that they will be touching on that this summer, this is just a draft of what they are doing now.

5.4 SYC Farm to School-Maureen Jackman: Jackman stated that included in your packets tonight is the latest data on 21st century learning centers from after school alliance as well as after school data in New Hampshire. She stated that she would also like to invite you all personally to attend the district showcase on Thursday 6-7:30 at Idlehurst. She stated that she is here tonight to share a snapshot of another incredible year to show how deeply entwined and embedded our program is in our community. As we enter the tenth and final year of the grant cycle I am deeply grateful for all your support, insight and guidance as we together have created a program rich in learning, rich in opportunities, rich in partnerships and rich in creating a culture of caring of young citizens with dreams and aspirations. We together have shown what a program and learning should look like connecting throughout the school day and thereafter and well into the summer. She stated that she is thankful for our strong school and city partnerships as well as those within our community such as CAP for getting our snack/dinner program running this year, UNH for our valued interns, Somersworth Housing Authority as we have been able to reach even more of our families, UNH Cooperative Extension and their extensive resources and contribution. We are thriving and successfully providing 360 students a year because consistently and collaboratively sharing our resources that meet the needs of our families in Somersworth. Together we can accomplish anything. Tonight she would like to share with you two videos capturing SYC full circle. At this time I would like to introduce two of my colleagues Amy Michaels and Chris Asbell. Amy Michaels stated be the person you

needed when you were younger. She stated that when Maureen asked her to think about what SYC meant to me and my family that is what I started to think about. When I was younger I was anything and everything but an academic girl, I couldn't focus on numbers and didn't see the purpose of using my time and energy on something I knew I would never use. I never really found my thing so to speak and ever so easily began to slip through the cracks until I met a teacher who believed in me. Suddenly I had a sense of worth, purpose and drive. Suddenly the girl who felt she was shifting through school had a voice. All it takes is that one person to believe in you. Be the person for the displaced lost kid or the kid who appears to have everything. Look inside of him or her, see something that everyone else overlooks. Everyone, even the ones who are lost has something. We just don't often take the chance to listen, watch or take notice. Imagine how much more survivable life would seem if you just had the one person to remind you that there is life behind the walls of your school, your small city or possibly you're unsafe home. This is has been how I have guided my decisions in my professional career for almost twenty years. Through my work with SYC I have been able to carry this philosophy into my daily teaching. When I work with my 8th grade advocacy class and remind them of cleanup day I hope to promote respect and pride in our city. This pride is what will move our city forward and keep us on the move. Girl's empowerment group was able to arrange for the entire middle school to see the only screening of He Named me Malala in NH for school aged children. As a parent, teacher and SYC counselor I have seen the program from all sides, I have witnessed children find their voice and passion, I watch a student who finds it difficult to sit in class make a blanket for a newborn while talking about how all newborns deserve a new blanket. I truly believe that SYC programs give all children the opportunity to have that one person in their life that believes in, accepts and truly misses them when they're not in school. That person is someone I desperately needed as a child. Chris Asbell stated that he is here to talk about some of the opportunities that the middle school has had this year supported by SYC. He stated that last spring they applied for a grant through Shelburne Farms and that allowed us to have a yearlong coach from cooperative extension for a farm to school initiative that was started by a group of champion teachers at our school from each grade level. He stated that he is a firm believer that students learn best with experiential learning where they get their hands on and do and farm to school is providing lots of those opportunities. He showed a video of the activities.

5.5 Building, Grounds & Transportation: None

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: Next meeting will be next Tuesday at 5:30 at the SAU.

5.6 City Council Update: None

5.7 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard: None

6. ACTION ITEM

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Hanlon stated that the next meeting is on the 11th.

8.2 Budget: Austin stated that the report is included in your packet.

8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc: Bolduc stated that he wanted to remind everyone that the walkthrough is on Thursday at 3pm. He stated that they had a meeting yesterday and they took care of general business. He stated that Marie brought us up to date on what has been spent to date. He stated that as of today we have spent a total of \$1,363,714.00 and of that the state had paid \$1,022,786. He stated that they approved a change proposal for air conditioning in the marketing and medical assisting rooms due to the equipment they have in there. He stated that the total cost was \$56,250 of which \$50,000 will come from North Branch contingency and \$6,250 from ours. He stated that everything is going fine and hopefully everyone can come and take a look. He stated that the next meeting is on June 6th.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **June 7 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **June 21 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

Austin stated that he hopes the board members recognize that they have tried to display what is going on in our schools by bringing in different activities to recognize the students and we will continue to do that next year because it is important for us and the community to understand the positive things that are happening. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to see the YRBS results as a future agenda item. She stated that looking at some of the results they are shocking such as the ones on bullying and attempted suicide. She stated that there is a large number of students who said that they felt unsafe and didn't go to school and we need to look into this. She stated that 29% reported that they have been bullied in the last three months and 11.6% have attempted suicide and that is an awful lot. She stated that they need to look into this and let's not wait until someone is successful. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Collins to suspend rules to allow Alissa to speak. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Hiller stated that she had a question about the increase of students using cocaine the number is going up so that is not a good thing. Cannon stated that they are showing the percentage change. She stated that this is based on the number of students who answered that questions so it may not be all students who answered. Austin stated that this is worthy of further discussion, we are just getting the information tonight so he will make sure it gets on a future agenda.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Hanlon stated that he would like to thank all the retirees for their years of service and the people who came and presented once again was great. He stated that vision 20/20 is on the 13th not the 11th. Brennan stated that she would also like to thank the retirees and everyone who was here tonight. She stated that she would like to thank the staff at Idlehurst who used their in service day to clean up parts of the city, there was a great article in Fosters so thank you to everyone. She stated that she would like to thank everyone who took part in the fatal reality at the high school. She stated that prom is Saturday night and with graduation coming up it is an important message that was delivered and it was a very harsh reality as her step daughter was one of the students involved. She stated that she is thankful that it was a mock scene and she thanked everyone who was involved in the city because it is really important. Joanne Pepin thanked all the retirees and she wonders how many years total they have given us. Thank you to Julie McTague and the music students they were outstanding. She stated that there aren't enough positive things to say about the fatal reality, if we can save one life it is good. She stated that she would like to thank everyone who takes part in our community. She mentioned her neighbor at the last meeting but she failed to say his name Paul Capalbo who cleans the sides of Rocky Hill Road and someone mentioned to her that they would do it but it costs so much to garbage bags but you can put things in the recycling bins. Thank you everyone for the things that they do. Rivers stated that he would like to thank the retirees and he appreciates all that they do as well as the presenters tonight. He stated that tomorrow is a presentation called putting the pieces together at the middle school related to substance abuse that he will be attending. He stated that on Thursday at 6pm at Idlehurst will be a celebration of student accomplishments k-12. Hiller stated that she would like to thank the retirees. She stated that the SYC presentation blew me away and she can't say enough about them. She stated that the three students that sang also blew me away, we have great talent in our schools. Bolduc stated that he can't say enough about the retirees. He stated that tonight he learned a lot and he can't say enough about Maureen. He stated that years ago when they presented he was skeptical but they have done a fantastic job. Austin stated that he appreciates everyone who is retiring here and also those unable to attend and the dedication of staff is beyond words. He stated that the incredible work that they do and the education they give our students and not just the formal one but raising them to be good citizens and

give back to the community our staff is second to none when it comes to that.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Hanlon 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 8:30pm. A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hiller to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-public session at 8:47pm.

A motion made by Collins seconded by Brennan to accept the retirement of Annette Clough. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Collins seconded by Hanlon to accept the retirement of Charles Favolise. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Hiller to accept the resignation of Melissa Perry. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Hiller to accept the resignation of Adam Braley. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the nomination of Renee Jerram as medical assisting teacher. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Collins to accept the nomination of Elizabeth Williams. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Gibson seconded by Collins to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval