

## SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

October 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

City Hall Chambers

7:00pm

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, Hanlon, Joanne Pepin, Austin, Collins, Brennan and Bolduc. Absent: Hiller
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:
    - September 27 2016- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
    - Enrollment-October
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that we went through the NEASC process last spring and we needed to submit a six month progress report and she wanted to let the board know that the report has been submitted and the next reporting is due in two years so we are up to date with anything we needed to submit. Austin stated that the NHSBA board of directors met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that they heard from executive directors Jeff Collins from NHIAA, Alan Pardy from the special education directors association and Peggy McCallister from the principals association. He stated that Jeff from NHIAA talked about their work on concussions and sudden cardiac arrest. He stated that they are considering a policy on drones for championship events and will be working on that this year. He stated that the special education association talked about a variety of academies that they have for trainings for special education providers at the schools and outside and they are being well received. He stated that the principals association talked about the effectiveness of the teacher mentoring program and how they have seen a change in the quality of teaching. She also talked about her commitment to training people on active shooters and how we need to be ready and we can't assume that just because it hasn't happened around here that it will never happen. He stated that his focus as presidents is to continue to enhance the partnerships with the other associations in the state because we all have to work together.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - 5.1 **SYC Summer Update Presentation:** Hilliard stated that SYC has been in operation for a decade and has survived two grant cycles. He stated that they have two sites one at the middle school and one at Idlehurst. He stated that there are 50 students at the middle school and 90 students at Idlehurst for a total of 140 students to date that are being serviced with enrichment activities and homework help. He stated that there are adults there to guide them and help them to continue to make them lifelong learners. He stated that there were 125 students this summer which has been our largest program. He stated that we are excited to talk about what they learned and the enrichments that they did. Maureen Jackman stated that As We celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year at SYC we are also coming to the end of 2 grant cycles, our action plan is to reapply through the Department of Ed 21<sup>st</sup> century grant process with your support and the needed support from the entire community so that we can continue investing in our youth as the promise and future leaders of tomorrow, inspiring them to be active citizens in our community and giving them the opportunities to achieve, to dream and reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. We need SYC. I would like to share with you a quote from The National Summer Learning Association. "High quality summer programs keep students engaged in learning, teach them new skills, and encourage them to develop previously unseen talents. They allow children to form relationships with caring adults, help them stay fit and active, and foster creativity and innovation." We have been doing just that successfully at SYC over the years. Included in your packets tonight is the latest research supporting the importance of summer learning opportunities and an invite to our Lights On for learning celebration. This summer was awesome at SYC. The theme over the 5 weeks was embracing & celebrating us as a Somersworth Community and how we are all connected, how we all make an impact and difference, how it is each of our responsibility to not only be kind & take care of each other, our family, friends & neighbors but as well to maintain our natural resources & habitats, green & open urban spaces, the environment, & greater global community entwined with appreciation for our proud past, and a responsibility to preserving and protecting our bright future.

Our summer was made up of an amazing, caring staff; teachers, title I, paras, special Ed, guidance, program staff, community members, our longstanding partnership with UNH and volunteers. Students built connections to Community through engaging & interactive activities in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, math, health and wellness education, character development, teambuilding, active citizenship, community service, and field trips. Our focus: Create opportunities to support and strengthen academic, behavioral & social-emotional success. This summer, SYC and the Title I Program at the Middle School fostered a collective, collaborative partnership, allowing us to further blend and braid program services to foster and promote healthy, positive youth development. Title I added a strong academic component tying in literacy and math in all our activities, each week students were able to choose a free book, many of which tied into stories about community & exploration, nature, habitats, landscape, rivers, seascapes of NH as well as fun reads. How did we fit this all into 5 weeks?? AT SYC we immersed ourselves daily into a full schedule, the primary focus all summer developing an appreciation of our community and its natural resources through SYC and the valuable role SYC holds. Highlights included: Understanding Somersworth's proud past & bright future through community presentations & tours of the museum, walks through the historic streets & areas of our community, meeting with local business owners sharing their stories about living & working in Somersworth, supporting our local businesses like the gathering place & teatottlers. Spending all 5 weeks in the SYC Plant for Growth Community garden, part of our farm to school initiative. Students gained firsthand knowledge and skills in the science & art of farming, gardening, and developing sustainable practices. A day spent with UNH Entomologists in Somersworth looking for & identifying different species of bees & how important they are to the community. A field trip to UNH to see the research done at the Entomology lab with some of the bee species found in Somersworth, and understanding the importance of research and science. We hosted annual events, with the Rec. dept. inviting them to spend the day with us participating with the Blue Ocean Society Coastal beach Clean-up, understanding the importance of our oceans and hosting Wildlife Encounters for an educational presentation of animals and their habitats. Students hosted a garden celebration dinner for families with much of the herbs & produce from the garden, preparing the dinner with support from UNH Cooperative Extension Cooking & 4 H programs. Students celebrated national Summer Learning Day with a trip to Bear Brook taking on leadership roles of planning all of the teambuilding activities with the elementary students. We enjoyed field trips to the State parks, its trails, and lakes...a favorite trips, kayaking...Our kids got to cook, participate in art, mindfulness, Legos robotics, sports, gardening, hiking, swimming, reading, and exploration. There were so many great experiences & opportunities for our students to keep highlighting... but the message is clear... our kids were engaged, active & busy with hands on learning, making positive connections with adults, understanding nutrition & healthy choices, having a lot of fun and were never bored as you will see shortly in our video.

I do want to share that we had over 125 students participate in SYC either through 6<sup>th</sup> grade academy, or Middle School & Elementary programs. SYC continues to partner with CAPSC providing a nutritious breakfast and lunch to our High school, middle school and elementary students attending summer learning programs. We served 2098 breakfasts and 2064 lunches over the summer. I also want to thank the 4 high school students for their dedication, commitment and volunteerism with SYC over the summer. This translated into a total of 476 volunteer hours. Thank-you Ashley Lavery, Dayna Keen, Sydnie Givetz and Bianca Germain. Coty Donohue stated that we did a lot over the summer. He stated that we are more than a summer camp, we are a learning institute. He stated that some days the kids went in and at the end of the day had put in three to four hours of yard work community service but they had a huge smile on their face. He stated that we teach something different every day and build on their academic skills and their social emotional skills. He stated that we have two students here tonight and after the video they will tell you what SYC means to them. Maley Yoder stated that she had a fantastic time in the SYC program, they did a lot of field trips and she made a lot of connections with people who she normally wouldn't connect with from the different grades. She stated that it is important for the kids who would get stuck at home because their parents work all day, SYC gives kids a place to go and give them something fun to do. She stated that they volunteered and did gardening to give back to the community after they have given us so much. She stated that the teachers were great and she enjoyed the experience so much. She stated that it was amazing and it affected her in a big way. She stated that it wasn't like school, we were doing things and going places and meeting new people instead of just sitting at a desk all day. She stated that she enjoyed it so much that she is volunteering this year at the elementary school because she felt she needed to give back to this and it is important that we keep this at our school. Paige McBride stated that over the summer she and her friend went to the program every day and they met a lot of new people and got to hang out with old friends. She

stated that her friend wants to be a vet entomologist because they learned how many things that you can do working with insects and animals. She stated that they did fun things while they were learning and learned a lot about each other and teamwork. She stated that they learned about the history of Somersworth and it was really cool and really fun. She stated that she didn't ever get bored and they provided lunch and breakfast and she didn't have to sit and be bored and she got out of the house and she wouldn't be able to do as much if we didn't have SYC. She stated that she loves that it is free because her mom can't pay that much and they get to learn different things and get to know one another and have a good time. Collins stated that the video was beautiful and what the students said was wonderful. He asked if Paige was going to go next year and what she would say to anyone whose parents are watching this to get them to send their kids to SYC. Paige McBride stated that yes she is going next year and she would tell them that it is a really fun and a learning experience and they have fun at the same time and you can hang out with friends and learn different things. Austin asked what the board can do to help. Hilliard stated that we are in the last year of a five year cycle and although we are recognized as a model for 21<sup>st</sup> century programs and recognized by the state of NH department of education as a model statewide there is no guarantee that we will be reauthorized and without that SYC will not be around. He stated that we need your support with your heart and soul and with dollars. He stated that we are making an impact and we can attest to that when we hear a middle level learner come here and talk about how they are excited to learn. He stated that SYC is not just an after school program, it is embedded in all the daily operations and how we support the students from the first bell to the last bell and we need the support.

**5.2 Building, Grounds & Transportation:** Rivers stated that they have not met since the last meeting but the work is continuing on the problems with the HVAC.

**Curriculum and Activities:** None

**Policy Committee:** Austin stated that they will be meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the SAU office.

**5.3 City Council Update:** Marty Pepin stated that they received a report from the public works director on an update on indigo hill road construction and their concentration will be from Main Street to Green Street and they will get that paved with one coat and do the second coat in the spring. He stated that the plan was to go from Green Street to high street but they will hold off until the spring.

**5.4 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard:** Orchard stated that on the 7<sup>th</sup> NHS held a teacher lunch where they served teachers a pasta bar. She stated that at the pumpkin festival the select chorus performed and the different classes and clubs had booths and sold food for fundraisers. She stated that the girls' volleyball team will be making the playoffs and next week fall PSAT's start.

**5.5 NHSBA- Call for Resolutions:** None

## 6 ACTION ITEM

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

**8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee:** Hanlon stated that this month's meeting was cancelled, they will meet next month.

**8.2 Budget:** Austin stated that there is an update in the packet if anyone has any questions.

**8.3 JBC Update-Ken Bolduc:** Bolduc stated that we haven't met since the last meeting. The next meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at the SAU office.

## 9. MAYOR FORUM DATES:

- October 15 2016- Ward 1
- November 19 2016- Ward 2

## 10. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **October 19 2016- Somersworth City Council/School Board Joint Workshop**
- **October 25 2016- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **November 14 2016- SAU 56 Board Workshop**

## 11. CLOSING COMMENTS

**11.1 Visitors:** None

**11.2 Board Members:** Bolduc stated that he remembers ten years ago that he had questions about how we were going to pay for the SYC program, he wishes Maureen was still here to say great job. Collins stated that SYC is fantastic, one of his children participates and they love it and he can't say enough about that program. He stated that he hopes we can urge council to fund this in this budget season. He stated that the pumpkin fest was fantastic and had a great turnout. Joanne Pepin stated that what SYC does is above and beyond. She stated that she would like to thank them for asking her every year to be a guest speaker about growing up in Somersworth and the enthusiasm of the teachers and kids is amazing. She stated that she always starts her presentation with a poster behind her that says I hate Somersworth to show that just because something happens when you're younger to make you hate something it doesn't mean that you can't grow to love it. She stated that there are no words for what Maureen and her staff do. Austin stated that SYC is a fabulous program and he hopes that we can find funds to keep it going and the grant application will have to show community support.

**12. NON-PUBLIC:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Gibson to exit into non-public session in accordance with Chapter 91-A: 3 II (b) Personnel and (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited into non-public session at 7:43pm. A motion made by Collins seconded by Bolduc to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-public session at 8:23pm.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Brennan to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval