

## SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2017

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, Hanlon, Joanne Pepin, Austin, Hiller, Brennan, Smith, Yoder and Bolduc.
2. **Comments by Visitors:** Wendy Berkeley stated that she is here tonight to talk about Farm to School. She stated that she was hired in November to build the program. She stated that Chris Asbell started the gardens at the middle school and the plants for growth and it was his suggestion and Maureen Jackman's to have a coordinator to expand it to all of the schools. She stated that they have been doing different things such as food tastings at all the schools to get the kids to try new things. She stated that it is something new every month, for April it is carrots. She stated that yesterday she had a meeting with the elementary group to put together the gardens at the schools. She stated that Maple Wood and Idlehurst have seeds starting in their classes to put into the gardens. She stated that they are looking for community participation in taking care of the gardens and they will donate things to the food pantry and the kids will also reap the rewards from the gardens. She stated that everything has been donated, we have received donations from UNH cooperative extension, and Home Depot is donating the soil, lumber and the labor for the garden beds. She stated that Stacey Purslow wrote a grant to build ADA beds for every school. She stated that they will get the STEAM students involved to build things. She stated that there is also a greenhouse grant for Idlehurst and also chicken coops in the next couple of years. She stated that the middle school SYC is doing composting and we hoping for it to go district wide. She stated that the STEM group at the high school is building rain barrels and the sustainability committee is interested in those. She stated that she knows that community service hours are being implemented at the high school and seacoast eat local, the sustainability committee and the farmers market are places that need volunteers. She stated that she wrote a letter to Bob Belmore to be included in the city newsletter. Tamara Hallee stated that Maple Wood held a banana gram competition and Logan Stoddard will compete nationwide. She stated that jump rope for heart raised \$5,560 for the American heart association. She stated that she, Joel and Mrs. Lemay all kissed a pig as a reward. Thank you all for your generosity in participating with that.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
  - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** None
  - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hanlon to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
    - February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Budget Presentation
    - February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Public Hearing on Budget
    - February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
    - Maple Wood Newsletter- March
    - Idlehurst Newsletter- March
    - Enrollment- March
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that she would like to congratulate Rob Fauci for the boy's basketball team making it to the semifinals and also being named coach of the year for division three. She stated that two years ago they only won one or two games and to turn the team around is amazing. She stated that Shane and the ice hockey team also made the semifinals and played the same night as the basketball team. She stated that the unified basketball team also made it to the semifinals. She stated that the three teams will be recognized at the council meeting next Monday. She stated that we had 19 high school students attend the opioid summit. She stated that the YRBS survey will be given April 19<sup>th</sup>

and 21<sup>st</sup> at the high school and middle school. She stated that this survey is done throughout the state and it helps in getting prevention grant money. She stated that Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Edelblut will be coming to visit our schools and we have a plan for the morning and then the board will have a lunch at 11:45 at Mulligan's Grill. She stated that she invited city council folks as well to show our partnership. She stated that from 12:15-1:00 the board will be able to have a conversation with him. She stated that a memo has gone out but she would remind folks that the April and May In Service days are now regular school days. She stated that we had six snow days and this brings us down to four. She stated that the last day of school will be Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> and the last day for staff will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> to make up the professional development days. She stated that high school graduation is June 7<sup>th</sup> at Lundholm gymnasium at UNH. She stated that we have used the Whitemore center the last few years but it is under renovation so we will share the cost of graduation with Dover and Oyster River at the field house.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**5.1 Drama Club Presentation:** Julie McTague and the drama club cast of Pippin gave a presentation for the board.

**5.2 Program of Studies-High School:** Kyle Lontine stated that we have done a lot of work on the program of studies and gave it a big face lift. She stated that the program of studies describes the courses that we offer at the high school and also Dover and Rochester as part of the tri-city agreement. Lori Lane stated that this is a really important document for people to see how we support students and parents in planning. She stated that the program of studies is dedicated to Jeni Mosca, our Superintendent of Schools who will be retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 after 31 years of dedicated service to students in the seacoast area. During her seven years in SAU 56, Jeni has been an unwavering champion for the children and families of Somersworth. We dedicate this program of studies to Jeni because it reflects the aspirations she has for each student. Lontine stated that there are career clusters that represent a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. She stated that these are broken into 16 different categories. She stated that if there is a field that you like we figure out what cluster it falls into and then it will identify the pathway that you are on. Lane stated that we tried to help kids understand that there are options in the clusters and you don't necessarily need a four year degree but you need something. She stated that there are different opportunities within each cluster. She stated that the goal is to enlighten them that there are many different ways to pursue post-secondary education. Lontine stated that we recommend the pathway to best prepare you to enter into the career. She stated that the bold courses are prerequisites for college success, bold underlined courses are articulated credit and bold underlined all caps are transcripted dual enrollment courses. She stated that this is a guide with suggested courses but everyone is on their own path. Lane stated that she is a very visual learner and to be able to see what the high school career can look like is a very powerful tool for families. She stated that this is a 100 page document so this is helpful to synthesize the information to be more manageable. Lontine stated that our students are very fortunate and lucky any pathway can be met through CTC courses. She stated that there are opportunities to earn college credits. **Project running start** offers SHS/CTC juniors and seniors college credit through the New Hampshire Community College System for a minimal fee of \$150.00 (financial assistance is available). Courses are taught by qualified high school instructors who teach designated college-level courses to students in the HS environment. Credits earned through this program are transferable to other colleges/universities. **SMCC Dual/Concurrent Enrollment** offers SHS juniors and seniors college credit through the Southern Maine Community College for no cost. Courses are taught by qualified high school

instructors who teach designated college-level courses to students in the high school environment. Credits earned through this program are transferable to other colleges/universities. **Articulation Agreements** allow students to take qualifying high school classes that fulfill requirements for entry-level college courses through individual agreements between high schools & colleges. There is no cost associated with this program and credits earned can only be used at the college/university that holds the agreement. Lane stated that the running start program the students generate college transcripts and colleges all over the country accept these credits. Her daughter took these courses and went in a semester ahead in college. Lontine stated that during the 16/17 school year we had 79 students who earned college credits which totaled 298 college credits. She stated that the total cost of those courses on campus is \$59,812 which doesn't include fees and the students only spent \$4,350 which is over a \$56,000 savings for the students. Lane stated that this is about students and families and providing as many opportunities as possible. She stated that this has been rolled out to all students and is on the website and have been reviewed with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents. Hiller asked if these credits are transferred to any college. Lane stated that they would have to accept them but most of them do. Lontine stated that the college receives a transcript from great bay not from Somersworth high school. Bolduc stated that not everyone is ready for a four year college. Thank you for doing this it is fantastic. It isn't all about four years for some of us that scares us and there are many places you can go also. Hanlon stated that this was a lot of work and he appreciates this. He stated that he had a hard time in high school and guidance didn't have a plan and he had to figure it out on his own and this would have gone a long way with a kid like me. Lane stated that this provides an opportunity to help empower them to make decisions and help guide them and support the kids and parents and give them the information in a format that they hope is user friendly. Austin stated that it is a great tool to use when we talk about the high school and what we do, he is very impressed with the work. Supt. Mosca stated that these two spend a lot of time on this and it is pretty powerful so thank you to you both.

**5.3 Building, Grounds & Transportation:** Rivers stated that they met on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the cameras in the middle school parking lot are up and running and operational. He stated that when they met on the 6<sup>th</sup> they talked about the issues on the roof and they had Mark Davis come and he showed us the pooling of water under the rubber sheathing. He stated that Andy and Mark got an estimate to fit. He stated when they met on the 20<sup>th</sup> they had a proposal from the Somersworth Festival Association as they need a shed by the pavilion and would like to build a 12 x 16 foot shed. He stated that they are great to work with and they would like to move forward and allow them to do that.

**Curriculum and Activities:** None

**Policy Committee:** None

**5.4 City Council Update:** Marty Pepin stated that on the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> they had a resolution regarding the cable franchise agreement and they renewed it for another five years and extended the current contract. He stated that they will have a budget workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am for the nonprofits. He stated that they will have a public hearing on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm on the budget and they will work on the budget that evening as well.

**5.5 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard:** Orchard stated that they will be having the mattress sale on Saturday from 10-4 and the proceeds will go to their Pennsylvania trip in May. She stated that NHS is having a triviaton. SAT's are next Wednesday for the juniors, sophomores will be doing PSAT's, the freshman will be doing community service and the seniors are doing college tours or working.

**5.6 2017-2018 Somersworth Board Meeting Dates and Budget Workshop Dates:** Austin stated that the schedules are included in the packet. He stated that he and Jeni decided that there was no reason that we can't do the budget workshop before the regular board meetings and move them from Thursday to

Tuesday before the board meetings. A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Brennan to approve the schedules as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

**6. ACTION ITEM**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee:** Hanlon stated that the next meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

**9. MAYOR FORUM DATES:**

- April 8 2017- At Large Councilors Witham and Paradis and School Board Brennan and Hanlon

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

- **April 11 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

**11. CLOSING COMMENTS**

**11.1 Visitors:** None

**11.2 Board Members:** Hanlon stated that it was great to hear the farm to school update. He thanked the cast of Pippin, it is great to have the kids come in. He stated that the eighth grade had a holocaust presentation where someone came in to speak and it was amazing and he can't thank her enough it was a great opportunity for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He stated that he also attended the winter carnival at the middle school and it was a lot of fun. He stated that he attended the Dr. Seuss literacy night at Idlehurst and it was a great event. He stated that to see the amount of work and effort that is put in by the teachers and paras that are there and they are unpaid and takes time away from their families to do this for our families so thank you. Brennan stated that she would like to thank Lori and Kyle for the work on the program of studies and it hits home for me, it is a map to success and it is huge. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to thank the performers of Pippin, Julie McTague is an outstanding teacher and is brilliant and to have her here in our school is wonderful. She stated that sports are great but sometimes we forget about the arts and the more we can contribute to make people fall in love with the arts again. She stated that the CTC Theater is more than just a drama club. She stated that the program of studies is above and beyond and she wishes it was around when she was there or when her sons were there to help guide them towards a future. Thank you so much. Smith stated that he didn't know that unified basketball existed but he has never been so inspired and he hopes that we can look at expanding it into other sports because it is so phenomenal to watch. Thank you to Jeni for her time with that. Rivers stated thank you for the presentation and congratulations to the sports teams as well. He stated that he looks forward to seeing Pippin. He stated that the program of studies is a tremendous effort and he applauds the contributions. Hiller stated that the unified basketball game was great, congratulations to Jeni and Kate. She stated that she appreciates all the hard work they did with the program of studies, it is easy to understand. She stated that she wishes that she had something like that when she went to school as she didn't know that things could major in in college and she could have seen other options than the one she chose. Thank you to the students in Pippin, it was really enjoyable. Yoder stated that the cast of Pippin was great. She stated that March 17<sup>th</sup> she attended the Somersworth Early Child Coalition meeting and it was fantastic looking into ways to reach out to children ages 0-5 to get them more ready for kindergarten. She stated that she is excited to work with them to reach more of the community. She stated that she worked the book fair at Idlehurst and sold books to kids and it was really fun. She gave a shout out to the PTA they did a phenomenal job. She stated that her eighth grader talked her ear off about the holocaust presentation so it was really cool to hear her perspective. Bolduc stated that the students with Pippin did a wonderful job. He stated that he doesn't usually go to those things but he might go to that one so he can see the black box theater being used. He thanked Wendy Berkeley for her presentation. He thanked Lori and Kyle for their presentation, it did me a lot of good that this stuff is happening. Welcome back to Vic Sokul and he is happy that we will see him

again next year as he is very impressed with him. Hiller stated that she attended the session with Judge Broderick and it was very touching and he hopes to remove the stigma of mental health and that people should be able to talk about it. Austin stated that the program of studies is wonderful. He stated that when he was in high school there was the college prep program and then there was everyone else. He stated that this identifies opportunities and helps make them successful. He stated that we need to share it with the community and help them understand the great things happening in Somersworth. He stated that he attended the national school board association conference in Denver. He stated that the theme was Reach, Elevate and Inspire and it was a tremendous conference. He stated that there were several musical groups from the Denver area and he walked away thinking we do that here. He stated that it is critical to fund the arts programs not just music and theater but a range of opportunities for students to express themselves in these ways. He stated that they are doing are asking public schools to tell their stories by students and they are inviting every local district to submit the success in your school for a nationwide message and it is an opportunity to tell our story nationwide. He stated that given the climate of the world of public education it needs to tell its story more than it ever has before.

**12. NON-PUBLIC:** A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Brennan to exit into nonpublic session in accordance with Chapter 91-A: 3 II (b) Personnel and (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited into nonpublic session at 8:20pm. A motion made by Brennan seconded by Joanne Pepin to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of nonpublic at 9:27pm.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Yoder to accept the resignation of Nikki Partridge. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Hiller to accept the retirement of Joanne Fuller. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion made by Brennan seconded by Bolduc to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval