

## SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

May 9<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, Smith, Joanne Pepin, Austin, Hiller, Yoder and Bolduc. Absent: Hanlon and Brennan
2. **Comments by Visitors:** Michelle Nash stated that she sent them an email regarding negotiations for the SACA group. She stated that in September the team met and we were given a maximum amount that could be spent any way we wanted but the number was not adequate and we were told that was all that was available. She stated that the SAU staff is getting a 3% raise and one person is receiving a \$20,000 increase. She stated that if they said we are in a tough fiscal year and nobody was getting more than a 1% then I would have agreed to a minimal increase but nobody else is getting a 1.2% yet you offer the lowest paid employees the lowest raise. We are not asking for a livable raise, many employees have second or third jobs. She stated that we work with the highest needs students that can't be met with only the teacher and we also assist with all students. She stated that we make \$3.29 less per hour than a custodian but we are required to have college credits or pass a para exam. She stated that we were asked to change health insurance plans and that change personally cost me \$2,000 out of pocket. She stated that they are asking them to consider the offer of 2% for two years and she hopes we can agree. Grace Fuller stated thank you for what you do, it is not an easy job and we understand that and appreciate the work that you do. She stated that she has held different jobs over many years and we don't do our jobs for the money. She stated that over the past few years we bring home less and less and we have to make tough choices on food and bills and people who are retiring are told that it is not possible to be making less in your last five years. She stated that we are asking for less than other employees in our city and we are told no. She stated that the city council released money back to the school and they understand the need for a kindergarten teacher but they are asking that they consider us second on the list. Thank you for listening and hope you consider our request. Jenna Tousignant stated that she is here as a parent who has two children who have benefited greatly from the paras and it is not fair that these lovely people don't get compensated for what they do. She stated that she has sent some of these people to urgent care after being bitten, kicked or hit by a student. She stated that they deserve so much more, they are crucial to our school and our children.
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 Rivers to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
    - May 2 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
    - April 11 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
    - Middle School-April Newsletter
    - Title I Onsite Review Final Report from Cynthia Proulx, Title I Consultant
    - Enrollment- May
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca stated that they received the Title I onsite report and she just wanted to highlight some of the strengths that she pointed out:
  - District Leadership Team
  - Communication
  - Positive and energized staff
  - Positive and energized administrators
  - Parents/Guardians very happy with Title I program

- Outreach to families
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program, Excellent program and leader
- All teacher and staff support the whole child
- Flexible Grouping
- Excellent support and opportunities for ESOL students and families

She stated that she wanted to congratulate SYC thanks to Maureen and Caroline we were awarded the next cycle for the 21<sup>st</sup> century grant. She stated that we ranked number 1 in how it was scored. She stated that there was \$949,000 available of which people applied for \$2,197,000 so it was a very competitive grant. She stated that we are very proud of Maureen and kudos to Maureen and Caroline for making this happen. She stated that the middle school was renewed for another three years for the spotlight school for excellence in middle school education. She stated that she also wanted to let the board know about a couple events coming up. On June 1<sup>st</sup> is the district showcase with a variety of activities at Idlehurst from 6-7:30 and on May 18<sup>th</sup> the high school English department will be hosting a literacy mixer from 4-7 at Mulligan's grill and the black box theatre. She stated that students will be showcasing their appreciation of the characters that they read about in their English courses. Austin stated that he wanted to update everyone that we accepted the contract last night for the interim Superintendent Dr. Connie Brown who will be starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that we are very excited to bring her on board and she will be more than capable of leading our district and he hopes the community will welcome her.

## 5. Discussion Items

**5.1 SAU Report:** Austin stated that the report is in the packet if anyone has any questions. Hiller stated thank you for putting everything in a nut shell. Austin stated that we talk about the transient nature of the population and we had 28 move ins and 26 move outs so the students are different all the time but the totals remain consistent. He stated that he was surprised by the number of homeless students and asked for a public definition of homeless. MacDonald stated that they could be couch surfing, living with someone and does not pay rent or own, living in a motel, living in a car, a campground or nowhere. She stated that it could be a family or an unaccompanied youth who doesn't have an adult and could be living with an aunt or uncle or friend moving from place to place. Joanne Pepin stated that Maple Wood and Idlehurst has 25 and asked if that was a big increase. MacDonald stated that has been the norm and we have seen an increase in high school with more unaccompanied youth. Hiller asked how many unaccompanied youth there are versus not having a place to stay. MacDonald stated that she can get that figure for her. Hiller stated that the enrollment is the same with move in and move outs but looking ahead the younger grades seem like they are high. Supt. Mosca stated that the average class size is between 18-22 and we have plenty of room.

**5.2 Building, Grounds & Transportation:** None

**Curriculum and Activities:** None

**Policy Committee:** None

**5.4 City Council Update:** Marty Pepin stated that on April 3<sup>rd</sup> they passed the budget and approved \$70,000 more and even though they only have bottom line authority they are hoping that it will go toward the kindergarten teacher.

**5.5 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard:** May 6<sup>th</sup> was the prom and based on reports they had a good time. He stated that AP tests started today and tomorrow. Tonight is the band and chorus concert. He stated that May 11-14<sup>th</sup> the band and chorus competition is in Philadelphia. May 12<sup>th</sup> NHS is hosting a blood drive all day and their goal is 42 donations. May 20<sup>th</sup> is the jazz concert. He stated that May 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> student council hosted teacher appreciation week and students wrote personal appreciations to teachers so the teachers got to see what the students thought of them.

## 6. ACTION ITEM

**6.1 Approval of 2017-18 Handbooks:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Yoder to remove the handbooks from the table. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Joanne Pepin stated that she gave Jeni some minor grammatical changes to make. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Yoder to approve the handbooks as presented with minor changes. VOTE: motion passed, Hiller abstained.

**6.2 Approval of 2017-18 Meal Prices:** A motion made by Rivers seconded by Joanne Pepin to approve the meal price increase as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

**6.3 Approval of Final Budget 2017-2018:** Joanne Pepin asked where the \$70,000 was located in the budget. D'Agostino stated that on page 11 part of the salaries and benefits that go along with the salary. Also on page 65 under Idlehurst teachers current number is 35.7 and next year is 36.7. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hiller to approve the 2017-2018 budget as presented in the amount of \$26,241,172.00. VOTE: motion passed, Bolduc Abstained.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

**8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee:** None

**8.2 Budget:** Supt. Mosca stated that ken had asked for the number of meals served so they took one month and showed the totals. Note that for high school lunches there are two days a week where students have the option to go to Mulligan's grill and the Topper Shoppe.

## 9. MAYOR FORUM DATES:

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

- **May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **June 13 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting**

Hiller stated that if someone can't come to a meeting how can they get what was handed out at the meeting. She stated that the handbooks were handed out at the last meeting and I didn't know to ask for it. If someone could send an email or if there was some way to get these things. Austin stated that you get an agenda so you know what will be on the agenda so if you are unable to attend a meeting it is incumbent on the person who can't be here to follow up with the Superintendent's office. He stated that he doesn't know that we need a process to notify people, it is part of being a board member. Hiller stated that she would like to have a discussion at the next meeting.

### 11. CLOSING COMMENTS

**11.1 Visitors:** Kaz Randall stated that she fought hard to keep Rollinsford as a part of Somersworth and it was a huge hit to the district financially and we recognize that. She stated that there is an importance to the work that we do and we work really hard. She stated that we don't end our day at 3:10. We have a transient community and so many of us are texting to bring in extra hats and jackets and what can you bring in or kids who don't have lunches and we are the ones bringing in the lunches. She stated that we will continue to do that whether or not we receive the 2% because that is who we are. She stated that she doesn't live in this town but she is very dedicated to this community and I get ugly when people put it down. She stated that we are worth so much more than 2% and we will continue to give 110% every day. She stated that last year food was taken off my table when we changed benefits. You have a tough job and we are a body of 100 people who will constantly give to you.

**11.2 Board Members:** Rivers stated that he attended the Mayor's forum and senator waters gave feedback on the commissioner visit and had very positive reflections of the interaction with teachers and students and that the cleanliness of the buildings was great and he was very impressed. Thank you to everyone who made that happen. Hiller stated that she spoke to senator waters and the kindergarten bill passed the house and he is positive that it will get passed which means a good amount of money for us the year after next. Austin stated that if you watch WMUR on Sunday the close up program aired an interview on the issue of full day kindergarten and senator waters used

Somersworth as a model use throughout the state. He thanked him for acknowledging Somersworth. He stated that we fully support full day kindergarten and if the state provides additional funding we are all for it.

**12. NON-PUBLIC:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hiller 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 7:43pm. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Yoder to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of nonpublic at 8:30pm.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Amy Chaput. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Alison Buschsbaum. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Doug Hearn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Hannah Cook. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Richard Hartford. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Megan Farley. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to accept the resignation of Renee Jerram. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to allow a high school student to finish the school year. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hiller to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval