

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

June 27th 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, Yoder, Hanlon, Brennan and Bolduc. Absent: Hiller Austin stated that he would like to recognize that Dr. Connie Brown is here with us this evening. Dr. Brown will be starting on July 1st as Interim Superintendent so we welcome you to the district and we are glad you are here with us this evening.
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 Hanlon seconded by Brennan to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - June 13 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - Emails regarding SACA contract
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca thanked everyone for a wonderful seven years here in the Somersworth Community. She stated that she wishes everyone the best and thank you for the support through the years.
5. **Discussion Items**
 - 5.1 **Presentation:** Supt. Mosca stated that we talk a lot about student achievement and various ways that our students show growth and achievement. Tonight we have for you the results of the smarter balanced testing that is a snapshot in time and this is only one assessment that we do with students. See attached presentation. Lori Lane stated math was the focus this year. When I met with you all in the summer at the retreat we had just come off a four day presentation and they really learned a lot. The growth that the elementary students had was all due to the work we have been doing. We didn't show the scores from last year but all the grades were below the state standard last year and to have all your grade levels at or above average in one year is pretty phenomenal. It is very empowering for the staff that their hard work makes a difference. We met with the consultant we worked with over the summer throughout the year and worked with different grade levels across the district and you see the results of that work translating into a more solid performance on the assessment. She stated for the middle school she didn't work as directly with them. She stated that their focus was on competencies and having them blend content and skills together into an applied fashion so that was their work and they also focused on sequencing and how do we better prepare our students. If we showed you last year's results that gap is closing. She stated that she spent a fair amount of time with the high school math department this year because they teach math through a program called integrative math and they have questions and wondering if this is working the way we want it to. She stated that they are going to make some changes because we are seeing some gaps with that program and they want to address those. We have also created foundations classes at the high school, they are going to get more targeted instruction so we are hoping that small group instruction will help their development. Some of this is test preparation and being familiar with that assessment and we saw that growth where kids went up 100-150 points. So those are some of the strategies and things that we are doing to try and make sure the students are achieving the way that we would expect our students to achieve. Austin stated congratulations on the work that has been done on the mathematics this year, those results show that there is still work that needs to be done but those increases are a true indicator of the work that has been done. My question is on the reading side because we have focused so hard on the reading in this district for several years now particularly at the elementary levels that I am a little concerned when I see grades 3, 4 and 5 doing pretty well and then all of a sudden in sixth grade they drop off, what are we doing differently are they forgetting everything during that transition from 5th to 6th grade, do we teach it differently in sixth grade,

what is the difference there? Supt. Mosca stated that one of the things we discovered is that we don't do a good enough job transitioning kids so I am not sure we are using the data through the transitions best aligned where students are and so it was clear to us when we looked at the data that was an issue and Lori and I had a number of conversations on what we can do better on transitions so I am a believer that might be an issue with the problem. Lori talked about those foundations classes that we added at the high school to help those transitional students who might not be where they need to be leaving grade 8 and moving to the high school so it is like a safety net catch for them and it may be something that we need to look at from the elementary level to the middle school. Bolduc stated that he echoed the same comments that you had about the numbers that he saw and the programs that we have should be flowing from one grade to another even if there is a change in the school, is there a different program going from elementary school to middle school and the books don't jive or something. Supt. Mosca stated that it is not program, it's the standards that we use. It is the teachers having a greater understanding of what those standards mean and how to interpret those standards to then prepare their lessons around the standards. It is a shift and we are just in the middle of that shift from those standards. She stated that we have eight mathematical practices that are our overarching umbrella and it is that work that is happening K-12. A little bit of it I believe is that transition from the elementary to middle school and we need to do a better job as we transition those students. Lane stated that one of the other things we have discovered through this work is that our collaboration across the buildings hasn't been a strength of ours so it is one thing to teach your content but we need to dovetail into what is needed in the next grade. She stated that it is not just about the social and emotional things that happen with transitioning from one building to another there are some academic pieces that we need to do to better align what our standards are. Now that we have the results back we are going to look at where the gaps are and see where we have work to do. We need to do more rich conversations between K-8 or middle and high or even K-12, they are good conversations that may be challenging at times but we come out with good understandings about where we are at and it only benefits students. Supt. Mosca stated that we have spent some time at the elementary level with both schools sitting together so that is only going to strengthen as those kids move forward because now they are talking the same language so that will help us as we transition kids from elementary to middle school. Rivers asked if she could address the shortage of teachers teaching math, he remembered reading an article up in the Conway area and they were trying to hire a math teacher and they couldn't find anybody, is there a statewide shortage of math teachers. Supt. Mosca stated that yes there is. She stated that every year as Superintendent she gets a list of critical shortage areas and math and science continue to be critical shortage areas.

5.2 Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they met on June 22nd this was an emergency meeting, the issue before us was related to HVAC units. We have about 30 rooftop units and over the years with all the help of city council we replaced half of the units that needed to be replaced. He stated that we are down to 15 of them but we now have a critical issue with at least two if not three of these units. These are among the smallest of the units we have and they are at the high school. The main office at the high school is down and one dealing with the nurses is down and then in the guidance office is down. They won't have any air conditioning this summer and these are also heating units so that will affect us this fall. He stated that the result of the meeting was we talked with Jeni and Andy trying to figure out the best approach to this, we don't have any CIP money to replace these units that we need to replace. We are going to request to make this an action item and hope to piggy back on a RFP the city is putting out and put ours on there too. He stated that they are rooftop units so it is going to take a crane which is expensive. He stated that we took a vote and we think we are talking \$45,000 for the job and one other alternative would be to repair the third unit and replace the two. The consensus was to replace all three and we have contingency money for next year that we could use. Later this evening we would like to present that proposal and see what the board feels about that otherwise we are going to come to fall and be in trouble. Supt. Mosca stated that we know the city is going out soon for their RFP

so we thought the crane work is the biggest expense so our hope is to combine to see if we can get the best price. Rivers stated that other than that Andy notified us that the city is now requiring backflow preventers and water meters on the football field so that will be happening as well as other summer projects. Austin stated that so what you're asking is you want to add an action item 6.2 to discuss RFP's for these HVAC units. Rivers stated yes.

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: Hanlon stated that they met yesterday we will be coming forward with a mix of new and updated policies for the first reading at our August 8th meeting.

5.3 City Council Update: Marty Pepin stated that he did report our conversation on the non-capital reserve fund. He stated that he did voice his opinion on that resolution that the thought behind it was that special education was being overspent at that time and the discussions was that regular education was being shortchanged because we had to hold back money due to special education. The thought about it was to take money that was turned back in by the school and set it in a fund to utilize if special education being overspent you knew you had that as a backup and didn't have to deplete other programs. He stated that you utilized it for next year's budget, that isn't what this was designed for and not my intent for the resolution. The reasoning behind it is that somewhere along that line you are going to be \$100,000 short and that money is not going to be there. I would rather go out to the public and say we need to increase those line items. He stated that somewhere down the line the school district has made themselves short by \$100,000 and that was not the intent of the resolution. He stated that he brought it up at the council meeting that if the opportunity came up to put more money into that fund he would have a hard time approving that as something needs to be tightened up on how that money is spent. In all just cause I didn't put it there for a magic number on the tax cap and that is what irritates me the most is that I would rather address a problem that we are having with the budget than to try to utilize a fund that was designed for something else. Bolduc stated he thought that when it was instituted that yearly when we if we had money available we would put it into that fund, have we been putting money into that fund to build it up or do we have a cap on that number. Pepin stated that originally it was up to the city council to appropriate any money into it, the past two or three years nothing has been put into it. He stated that \$50,000 was the max that the council could put into it and the council has not done that the last three to five years and to be perfectly honest with you there is no need to because it has been sitting there a long period of time and nobody has utilized it. He stated that in years past it was said that you had to be in the red but you don't and that is what bothers me is that years where it should have been used it wasn't and maybe I should have written the resolution a little tighter but he didn't get any help with it and he didn't expect it to pass.

5.4 Student Representative Report-Isis Orchard: None

6. ACTION ITEM

6.1 Nomination-Assistant Principal Somersworth Middle School: A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Brennan to nominate Robert Godbout as the Assistant Principal at the Middle School. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

6.2 Approval of RFP for HVAC Units: Rivers stated that they don't have an RFP written but if you take a look at the two pieces of paper in your packet, the meeting notes and under item one on the facilities update. The committee discussed different options to determine the advantages and disadvantages in whether or not to replace all three units. Consideration was the age of the HVAC systems, their efficiency and cost savings by combining the HVAC bid with the City of Somersworth for a total of four units. The estimated school department cost for the three units is \$45,000 which would be expenses to the maintenance equipment repair and the maintenance contingency FY 2017 budget allocations. He stated that was the consensus because they are 22 years old and two of them are down and Ken had an alternate theory on the third one. Bolduc stated that he is the fix it guy, if I can fix it I fix it and get a little more life out of it. He stated that one of them it is the motor that drives the fan. I really have no problem with replacing the three

of them but I want to make sure we have enough money. He stated that these are in areas where people work all summer long so it is rather important that we keep them in a comfortable environment. Austin asked for clarification on what they are asking for tonight if they are asking for a motion to hook up with the city on their RFP as opposed to actually purchasing the units and doing the work at this point. Rivers stated that this is a request to allocate the money to do the job that we need. A motion made by Bolduc seconded by Hanlon to approve the expenditure of up to \$45,000 out of the FY 2018 budget to replace the three HVAC units as presented. Pepin asked if that motion allows us to hook up with the city for a total of 4. Austin stated that it doesn't prohibit us from doing that, it is allowing us to spend the money. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: None

8.2 Budget: D'Agostino stated that this budget looks a little better than what we presented at the last meeting. She stated that this represents the final payments to the staff for this year but there are still some bills that you can see that are encumbered that we anticipate paying through the end of the year. She stated that the utilities is just an estimate based on what we have paid the last few months. She stated that on special education those are the out of district students, some students attend through June 30th so we won't see the bill until after July 1st. She stated that the encumbrances are pretty minor, could there be surprises there could be but we really looked at this budget so that is where we are as far as the expenditure side. She stated that on the revenue side there are still some lines that we haven't gotten all the revenue for but we wanted to show what we have received to date. She stated that we still have revenue for the career technical center for kids that attend here that we wait until the end of the year to bill them so we will probably receive additional revenue there. She stated that the last line Medicaid reimbursement is coming down on what they owe us. She stated that we did an analysis over the last few years and we do receive additional revenue in July for services that happened in June so that number could decrease as well. She stated that we have unanticipated revenue that we didn't know we were going to receive when we budgeted and we have revenue that we haven't received yet. She stated that if you look at the unanticipated revenue it is about \$58,000 and if you add up the money we haven't received yet it is approximately \$115,000 and if you take both of those that is a shortfall of revenue of about \$57,000. She stated that as you can see a lot of that is Medicaid reimbursement and the Medicaid reimbursement is related to special education. She stated that is a wild card. She stated that Mr. Austin asked me last meeting if there is a shortfall and at this time yes because if you look at the expenses there is \$45,000 available and the expenses have to cover any shortfall in revenue which is \$57,000. But again we still could be receiving additional revenue and some of the money on the expense side could be released based on the encumbrances that we have. She stated that we are getting closer to a breakeven point but it is going to be tight this year. Austin stated that he is getting the sense that we can end this year with a little bit of a positive without going to any additional funds. D'Agostino stated that she can't guarantee that at this point. Austin stated that he isn't asking for a guarantee but that is what it looks like at this point, is that a reasonable statement. D'Agostino stated yes. Hanlon stated that this still gives us enough time that if we had to have an emergency meeting in July we could do that. We could get an update at our retreat just to see where we are. D'Agostino stated that before we close the books in August we can bring a report to your meeting in August.

9. MAYOR FORUM DATES:

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- July 18th 2017- Board Retreat
- August 8th 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting

11. CLOSING COMMENTS

11.1 Visitors: None

11.2 Board Members: Brennan stated that she would like to thank Jeni for her commitment to this community, it has been a pleasure. Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to welcome our interim Superintendent Dr. Brown and she hopes that she enjoys Somersworth as much as I do. She stated that she wants to give a special thank you to Jeni and she appreciates all the patience that she has had with me and the fact that you have never made any of my questions feel stupid or ignorant. She stated that she wishes her good health, happiness and an extremely long retirement. Smith stated that Jeni it has been a really nice working with you and he hopes she has a great retirement and you will be greatly missed and welcome to you Ms. Brown. Rivers stated that welcome to Connie and Jeni all the best it has been a heck of a ride. He stated that last Thursday they had the seacoast sports awards and they gave out awards to sports people from York county to southern Rockingham county and they gave an award to Kaitlyn Lavoie for recognizing her for best volleyball player and also we all received an email from Ted Comstock and he is retiring after 31 years and just a terrific guy, totally professional all the time and I enjoyed the meetings that I had with him in Concord and when he would come here to give us advice so best of luck to Ted. Yoder stated that last Tuesday she got to go to 8th grade recognition and we clapped them all out and they are on their way to high school. She stated that Jeni thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for our community, I appreciate it and I wish you the best retirement. Welcome to Dr. Brown we are really happy to have you. Bolduc stated that good luck to you Jeni, we haven't always agreed how did we get through it I have no idea but we got through it. Best of luck to you and my best wishes and best wishes to Dr. Brown. Austin stated thank you to Dana for mentioning Ted Comstock. Ted has worked in the state of New Hampshire for 31 years as the executive director for NHSBA. He and I have been great friends over the last several years and as my role as president of the NHSBA we have had the opportunity to interact quite frequently. Ted has been a great voice for NHSBA in the state of New Hampshire to the point where they don't do anything in the state without looking for an opinion from the school boards association from the department of education, the legislature to the state board of education. He has made an important contribution to the state and we wish him well in his retirement. He thanked Jeni for her service to the community and to the school district, you certainly have made a difference here and your impact will be felt for years to come I am sure.

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 (c) matter, which if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person and (e) Negotiations. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited into nonpublic session at 8:05pm. A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Brennan to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of nonpublic at 8:32pm.

A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hanlon to ratify the SACA contract. VOTE: motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no and Austin Abstained.

A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Brennan to accept the nomination of Meghan Kelly VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Hiller to accept the nomination of Dennis Nadeau. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the nomination of Gregory Balsam. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Joanne Pepin to accept the resignation of James Lampron. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

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

A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Brennan to accept the maternity leave of Sarah Stein. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

A motion made by Brennan seconded by Yoder to accept the nomination of Melissa Gagnon. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Brennan seconded by Yoder to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval