

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

August 8th 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, Hiller and Bolduc. Absent: Brennan Austin welcomed everyone and hopes that everyone has had a good summer. He welcomed Connie Brown as Interim Superintendent.
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 Joanne Pepin seconded by Hiller to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - July 18 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Retreat Non Public Meeting
 - July 18 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Retreat Meeting
 - June 27 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Non Public Meeting
 - June 27 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting
 - June 26 2017- Minutes from the Somersworth/Rollinsford Policy Committee Meeting
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Austin stated that NHSBA sent out an email that it is time to consider resolutions for the delegate assembly so keep that in mind if you have a resolution to consider now is the time to write it up so we can discuss it.
5. **Discussion Items**
 - 5.1 **Building, Grounds & Transportation:** Rivers stated that we have a meeting scheduled next Tuesday at 10:30am to discuss CIP and a facilities update.
 - Curriculum and Activities:** None
 - Policy Committee:** None
 - 5.2 **City Council Update:** None
 - 5.3 **Student Representative Report-TBD:** None
 - 5.4 **1st Reading BCB-Board Member Conflict of Interest, BDE- Committees and Delegates, BEDC-Quorum, ECAF- Audio & Video Surveillance on School Buses, EFAA-Food Service Meal Payment Charging Policy and Procedure, IHAMA- Teaching about Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, IHAMB-Teaching about Self-Protection:** A motion made by Joanne Pepin seconded by Yoder to do the first reading by title only. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Austin stated that the second reading and action will be taken at the next meeting.
6. **ACTION ITEM**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 8.1 **Vision 20/20 Committee:** Hanlon stated that we will be meeting on the 17th. He stated that Jess gave a presentation to the city council in June and has had several booths at different events. He stated that they are gathering data and hopefully move forward with some stuff.
 - 8.2 **Continue Discussion of 2017-18 Goals:** Supt. Brown stated that we had a spirited discussion about what went well and areas you would like to grown in and a summary is in your packet. Hiller stated that as far as the marketing committee we could come up with a slogan about how great Somersworth is and work with the chamber of commerce and realtors to get it out there and say that the old Somersworth has moved on and great things are happening. Bolduc stated that he thought the marketing committee was to market ourselves to other districts to get tuition students not to market the city of Somersworth. He just wanted to make sure that was clear. Hanlon stated that when we were going through the process with Barrington Sharon and the high school brought information forward at that time and some of us had a conversation about getting that PowerPoint to

market us to other districts so we could look at what we used to add to this process. Austin stated that there was a discussion on how it could be used after. He stated that there are a limited number of districts that need to tuition students in our geographical area. He stated that the information could be updated to be a promotional piece so there is some groundwork that has been done and we can do an update. He stated that we were charged with coming up with smart goals. He stated that the next step is that it is important to bring it down from 30,000 foot level to something that becomes actionable and measurable. He stated that we are looking at a five year strategic plan and how we can get close to that process. He stated that it is one thing at the high level but we will never get there if we don't set actionable objectives and try to put some meat on these bones here. He stated that if someone wanted to take each high level statement and come up with some goals to go with those. It is important for us to take this process seriously. Joanne Pepin stated that we had said we are sorry that we can't get people to run for the board or stay on the board and we have an opportunity now as myself and others won't be running again and we have an election in November. She stated that we need to get information out to people on what it entails and what a valuable resource they can be. She stated that we need people who can put in some time. She stated that we could come up with an advertisement so people know what it entails and that it does take some time. She stated that this is the time to do it. Hanlon stated that he has been pushing for a strategic plan since his first stint on the board and we are in a good place to do this now. He stated that we have joint committees, the mayor's forum and we have joint budget meetings so we need to see how much buy in we can get and work between ourselves, the city and the community at large on how we can get there. Hiller stated that in terms of finding other people to be on the board if we know we have at least a couple of openings we need to get the word out there that there are openings and put it out there what it takes. Bolduc stated that if there are openings people should know where those are because we have wards and at large. He stated that just to say there are two openings isn't enough they need to know which job is open. Smith asked if they can put it on the billboard at the SAU. Joanne Pepin stated that the board we have and the boards we have had have worked so well with the administration and city council. She stated that we need to educate people to know if they want to run even if their ward is full they can run at large. Rivers stated that he will not be running again as he is finishing up his 10th year. He stated that just because someone is an incumbent it doesn't mean that you can't run against an incumbent. He stated that a lot of people in the community have no idea about the functions of the SAU board either which is an add on. He stated that there is a tremendous amount of stuff to learn and if you can donate the time it is a worthwhile process. Hanlon stated that it is hard to fill seats. He stated that he intends to run in ward 2 in order to fill the ward seat. He stated that we frequently get data from the middle school and I would like to see that standardized for all our schools. He stated that we don't get information on how the students and staff feels about the schools and that is such valuable information. Hiller stated that long range planning has to come from the people in the schools. It should come through the Superintendent working with the administration and teachers. She stated that over the five years it should be a consistent plan from K-12 especially in the transition years so that students are ready for the next level. She stated that we saw a big drop from elementary to 6th grade at the middle school in math test scores. Bolduc stated that we need to make sure that everything is aligned. He stated that we need to look at in house testing to see if there is differences between the grades and make sure the math program should be the same across levels. Hanlon stated that we always have a hard time during budget season and we have lost a lot of community input and part of that is the simplified version of what we see. He stated that we used to get administration coming up and talking about what they were losing and impacts. He stated that we used to have a review of athletics and that isn't brought to us. He stated that he has heard that sports have dropped off and we need that information so a little more in depth would be good. Austin stated that he had a preliminary

discussion with Dr. Brown on the budget process and we need to get more detail on the budget so we can get a better understanding of it. He stated that it is important for us to know that information so we have a budget that we can truly get behind. He stated that he regretfully disagrees with Karen on where the vision should come from, he stated that is the board's job. He stated that we can't do it in a vacuum but it is our job to get direction and then have Connie and her team implement it so we all go in the same direction. He stated that some of things that we wanted to do was encourage people to run for the board, promote ourselves in the community and make the community more aware of the value of the Somersworth School District to the community of Somersworth. He stated that we have made some progress but it is at a snail's pace. He stated that we need to make specific goals to make that happen. He stated that the board has some homework to do and he would like to see us have a draft of the plan before we get into budget season. Hiller stated that you should assign a topic to a person to delve into so that we aren't doing the same thing. Austin stated that if people want to step up and do the ones they are interested in. Bolduc stated that you can gather information from everyone and from that information you can put it together. Austin stated that he will assign them so look for an email from me. Joanne Pepin stated that she will take on educating people on the board and what you need to do to run and what the duties are. Hanlon stated that he will take long term planning. Yoder stated that she would be interested in community involvement and marketing. She stated that there are already things in place that we can work with such as farm to school and the wellness committee so we could take advantage of that. Bolduc stated that he has concerns about the teachers at the CTC that come from the trades to teach students that they don't have the same education and piece of paper regular teachers have. He stated that there should be a change for those people who teach trades. Lane stated that all teachers regardless of what subject they teach have to be certified by the Department of Education. She stated that she works with folks on alternative certification process. She stated that we see a number of CTC teachers come from the trades that go through that process. She stated that they have employment history and some college of some kind and they go through the vetting process with the DOE and have to pass competency tests for academics and we have had some people who haven't passed these tests to move on in the process. She stated that we design a plan for them and they have three years to go through it and in the plan is coursework on teaching skills and they work with a mentor to help them with that work. Bolduc asked if we have trouble filling the building trades and auto. He stated that building trades to me has turned into woodworking and he wants to make sure that the two programs are on track. Lane stated that we have two certified teachers in both of those programs so you can have confidence that we have qualified folks to deliver services for your students. She stated that content is a separate conversation. She stated that we have a new auto teacher with new equipment so it is an exciting time. If you want to meet with Katelyn on the curriculum and what they are doing. She stated that there is building trades but there are also electives as well. Hiller stated that she will work on the technology plan, if someone can help her with it. She will investigate what else is out there. Austin stated that there is a technology plan at the SAU so we don't need to take that on it is already being done. Hanlon stated that we don't have a technology integrator anymore and we didn't get what we wanted out of that position, we got some equipment but they never went into the classroom. He stated that the plan is very open. He stated that we had a conversation about going paperless and those are the types of things we need to look at. If we take big moves like that we need big buy ins. Marty Pepin stated that he sat on the committee before the CTC got renovated and they looked at technology so we have a lot of information already in house. Austin stated that when we start digging there is probably information out there that we just don't know about. We can take that information and integrate it into the long term plan. Hiller stated that books were brought up and asked if kids still use textbooks or are they using technology, if we could get a report back on the year of the texts and the process for updating texts. Supt. Brown stated that as you are thinking about the

goals it is important to think about where you want to go and where do you want your kids in the community to end up when they graduate.

8.3 Budget: Austin stated that the latest update is in the packet for 16/17. Bolduc asked if this is the final numbers. He stated that we are looking good. D'Agostino stated that at the last meeting there were concerns that we would have to ask for money from the special education fund and we are happy to report we won't have to do that. She stated that these are the closest numbers until the audit as we will have the audit in two weeks and then we will be doing the report to the state but there may be some minor changes. Hanlon stated that he wanted to thank Marie, Jeni and the SAU staff and administration to being able to run a ship this tight so thank you for the hard work.

9. MAYOR FORUM DATES:

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- **August 22 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **September 12 2017- Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **September 18 2017- SAU 56 Board Meeting**

Joanne Pepin stated that she would like to see something as an agenda item. She stated that when she was growing up they had places to go and duck and cover and parents explained to you what to do if something happened. North Korea is now saying that they will get us by surprise and it might be dirty bombs or small items so we need to educate kids in school and teachers on what should be done. She stated that they are trying to scare us but education prevents fear if you understand and know what to do. She stated that the community needs to be educated and the kids need to be educated. Hanlon stated that Jeni used to have regular meetings with homeland security and asked if Dr. Brown would be doing that as well. Supt. Brown stated that she will once she is up to speed this fall.

11. CLOSING COMMENTS

11.1 Visitors: None

11.2 Board Members: Hanlon stated that he would like to thank the teachers and administration and staff who attended the summer summit and recognize all the hard work that has already started for teachers and staff. Joanne Pepin stated that she never announced that she will not be running again as her health is deteriorating. Hiller stated that she would like to welcome Connie to the district and she is looking forward to working with her. She stated that SYC did a mural to show the diverse community and it is very cute. Yoder wished all families a great last few weeks of vacation and she is looking forward to school starting again.

12. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Hiller 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 Yoder to exit out of nonpublic session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of nonpublic at 8:35pm.

A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Bolduc to accept the nomination of Kristin Lockhart. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Hiller seconded by Yoder to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval