

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

September 25, 2018

City Hall Chambers

7:00pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Austin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Austin, Hanlon, Hiller, Yoder, Larson, McCallion, Brennan, Richardson and Cannon.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Ken Bolduc stated that on the consent calendar was a letter from Phil Yoder. He stated that he hoped that someone would remove that from the consent calendar and read it into the minutes of this meeting. He stated that the timing of the RFP for the outsourcing of the custodians concerns him. He stated that custodial negotiations are going on. He stated that his concern is that with the RFP hanging out there during custodial negotiations it could be used as leverage during negotiations by the Board. He stated that there are things that you cannot put a price on and the dedication of the custodians is one of those things. He stated that Hanlon had said he had fought tooth and nails against this once when it had come before the board, and I remember that, and it was not a good idea last time and it is not a good idea this time. He stated that the term "fiscally responsible" is always used but there are some things that you cannot put a price on.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the consent calendar:** None
 - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Richardson seconded by Hiller to approve the consent calendar as presented. Richardson stated that the letter, as it is on the consent calendar, is part of the minutes and this is generally the way that it is done. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - September 11, 2018- Somersworth School Board Meeting Minutes
 - September 11, 2018-School Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Principal Reports
 - Philip Yoder Letter
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - 4.1 **Superintendent's Update:** Gadomski stated that the City Council had voted favorably for the project of the construction of a new entrance to Maple wood School. He stated that this project came in at 1.9 million dollars. He stated that the Council was also in favor of adding \$440,000.00 to have the roof done at the same time. He stated that in addition to that they approved a 15-year bond instead of a 10-year bond so that will be helping the district when they are developing their budget over the next couple of years. He stated that there is \$120,000.00 in infrastructure funds coming back from this project. He stated that there have been a lot of questions on the school reorganization. He stated that as far as the cost of the reorganization, in the budget there was \$10,600.00 that was budgeted specifically for the reorganization. He stated that this was to cover staff hours and salary for teachers to come in and set their rooms up, moving expenses and moving boxes. He stated that there was also an expense for a classroom projector relocation which needed an electrician to come in and that came in at \$2,200.00. He stated that we came in slightly over what was budgeted at \$11,230.00, which is \$630.00 over which was budgeted. He stated that the \$2,200.00 for the projector relocation was in the technology line. He stated that in addition to that, there was a bus savings of \$67,000.00. He stated that it is not only the savings but we have been able to reduce the number of students on each bus from 80 to around 40-50 students and the bus routes are approximately 25-30 minutes long. He stated that he would be bringing the School Board goals back for discussion and review in October so that we can keep track on how we are doing on proceeding with these goals. He stated that the Administrators at each school have been working hard on getting the framework for the budget down and we have started those discussions and are moving forward on that. He stated that the Board would be seeing those figures in October or early November. He stated that at their meeting earlier today they had a nice discussion on teacher observations to gain a

bit of consistency between the buildings and finding the best way to support our staff members. He stated that he wanted to invite all of the parents from all of the schools and community members that are interested to a Community Forum at the CTC on Thursday at 6:30 PM and the topic is Re-envisioning our High School. He stated that we would like some input, some feedback or some ideas and be part of the process and discussion. Austin stated that he wanted to make a clarification on the action by the city Council that Gadomski had mentioned. He stated that the Council has not taken a final vote on the bond request yet. He stated that there will be a Public Hearing at the next Council Meeting because of the request to extend the bond to 15 years.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5.1 Standing Committees

- **Budget and Revenue:** Austin stated there had been a meeting prior to this meeting. He stated that they discussed the early observations of the 18-19 budget. He stated that they are beginning to see some expenses. He stated that there were conversations as to how to proceed in encumbering vs. leaving things unencumbered. He stated that this was a big issue in last year's budget. He stated they talked about the budget development timeline for the next budget for 19-20 and we should see some of the figures in late October or early November. He stated that the Administrators and the Superintendent have been working hard on redefining what it means to build a budget and building it based on what your needs are.
- **Building, Grounds and Transportation:** None
- **Curriculum and Activities:** Richardson stated that they have a meeting scheduled for October 9th.
- **Policy Committee:** Hanlon stated that they met the prior evening to continue reviewing policies but are not ready to bring any before the Board at this time. He stated their next meeting is scheduled for October 3rd.
- **Joint Commission of City Council and School Board:** Austin stated the meeting is scheduled for October 2nd.

5.2 City Council Update: Pepin stated that Gadomski had covered the actions taken by the City Council. He stated that the only other thing was that they ratified the tentative Agreement of the Clerical and Aides.

5.3 Student Representative Report: Dylan Zinkevich: Zinkevich stated that the Senior Class will be voting on their Spring Class Trip and it is between New York and Six Flags. He stated that the Senior Class is also going to be selling cotton candy at Pumpkinfest. He stated that the Junior Class would be selling Mac and Cheese, the Sophomores would be selling Chili and the Freshmen would be selling baked goods. He stated that the Junior Class is in the process of planning a Powder Puff Football Game with the cheerleaders at the end of football season. He stated they were hoping to have it the same night as Parent-Teacher Conferences. He stated that the Junior Class is also planning prom at River Mill in Dover. He stated that the Sophomore Class is doing an I-Pad raffle at Pumpkinfest. He stated that the Freshmen Class voted on their officers. He stated that Youth to Youth would be hosting Homecoming. He stated that the National Honor Society will be donating apples to the food pantry. He stated that the Student Council is planning Spirit Week and will have a Penny Sale with all proceeds going to the victims of Hurricane Florence. Richardson stated that it is nice to hear the report and know how involved in the community the students at the High School are. Hiller stated that she likes that the money is going to charities that really need the help even though they are not in New Hampshire.

5.4 (Ad Hoc) SYC Update: Larson stated that she wanted to give kudos to Maureen Jackman, Coty Donohue and Jessica Cox as being integral to our community and during the summer when over 400 students were enrolled in the SYC Programs. She stated that funding is difficult and these three people keep it going and it is needed so much in the community. She stated that she will be going to the Advisory Board Meetings. She stated that they also provide over 200 meals a day through Community Partners and the SYC.

5.5 School Funding Informational Opportunities: Austin stated that there are at least two opportunities for the public to attend sessions to talk about school funding in New Hampshire and where we are today and

what this really means to us in the future. He stated that you would not be able to attend both opportunities as they are the same night. He stated that Wednesday, October 10th the New Hampshire School Board Association is sponsoring a discussion by retired Judge John Lewis. This will be held at 25 Triangle Park Drive in Concord. He stated that Andrew Volinsky is also presenting. Gadomski stated that this would be at Spaulding at 6 PM on October 10th. He stated that there is another presentation in Concord on October 18th at the Concord High School Auditorium. He stated that this was one of the Board's goals at the beginning of the year to get more information about school funding so these are a few opportunities for you. Richardson stated that he wanted to encourage the public to attend the one in Rochester. He stated that it is important to know what is happening to school funding and understand why we are in the budget situation that we have. He stated that the Superintendent has said that it is not a budgeting issue it is a funding issue. He stated that he does not understand how the State can say they will guarantee a district 95% of the cost to educate a child. He stated that the intent of the Claremont Lawsuit was to find a formula that funded not 95% of it but 100% of it. He stated that the public needs to be aware of why we are in the funding situation that we are in. Cannon stated that she encourages all to attend the Andrew Volinsky session. She stated that she has seen his presentation two times and he is a lawyer who was part of the Claremont Lawsuit and has some inside facts as to what that was about as well as what we, as low income towns and cities, ought to be given for funding because we are not even close to the cost to educate a child in our city. Richardson stated that he believed the session in Concord on the 10th by the School Board Association was only open to Administrators and School Board Members due to limited space. Austin stated that was correct. Richardson stated that this makes the one in Rochester even more accessible for people in the public to attend.

6. ACTION ITEM: None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Joint Building Committee Discussion: Austin stated that as they get closer to the City Council approval of the Bond for the Maple Wood project the state statute requires that that a Joint Building Committee be formed consisting of members of the City Council and School Board. He stated that they will be forming this committee very shortly. He stated that he is anticipating three members from the City Council and three members from the School Board. He stated that he still needs to talk with City Council as to whether it will be two or three members from each governing body.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9. Mayor Forum Dates:

- **October 13, 2018-At Large School Board Member: Mark Richardson**
- **November 3, 2018- Ward 1 City Councilor and School Board Member**
- **December 2, 2018- Ward 2 City Councilor and School Board Member**

10. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items: Brennan asked if Austin could announce when the next School Board Meetings would be as they are usually listed here for the public. Hiller stated that they would be held October 9th and October 23rd. Austin stated that both those meetings are at City Hall and in November there is only one meeting on November 13th.

11. CLOSING COMMENTS

11.1 Visitors: None

11.2 Board Members: Larson stated that Richardson had given her permission to say that they are both in "Talking Tombstones" that will be this Saturday, September 28th from 10-3 at Forest Glade Cemetery. She stated that it is a fundraiser for the Somersworth Historical Museum and will be very informative. She stated that she wanted to encourage more community members to be a part of the Somersworth School Board Meetings. Hiller stated that she wanted to request that when the Joint Building Committee is being considered that it not be all male members. Yoder stated that there has been a lot in the news lately about teenage sexual assault and she wanted to remind parents and kids that if they need any support for sexual assault, or if you know someone who does, contact HAVEN. She stated that they are a 24-hour confidential hotline at 603-994-7233. McCallion stated he wanted everyone to get out and support the fall sports. Cannon stated that she

wanted to reiterate what Larson had talked about. She stated that it would be fun to do the "Talking Tombstones" Tour. She stated that she also wanted to encourage the families, from an educational standpoint, that there are many events that go on and it makes us all part of the City and together we are Somersworth. Richardson stated that going through the Forest Glade Cemetery is an experience. He stated that you come across a lot of names. He stated that there is nothing on the gravestones that gives you any background information on those buried there and their lives in Somersworth and what happened to them. He stated that there has been a lot of research to find out what happened to them and their lives as members of the public. He stated that this type of tour had only been done once before and he had participated in it then. He stated that new characters have been added. He stated that it is worth your while to come out. Austin stated that one of the comments by a member of the public this evening started off by saying "you do not want to know about this". He stated that this could not be further from the truth. He stated that the Board's role is to listen to the public's comments and to take them into consideration, no matter what issue we are talking about. He stated that the Board always wants to hear from members of the public. He stated that it does not always mean they will agree with members of the public or please everybody. He stated that they should not think that they do not want to hear from the public. He stated that sometimes, when no one speaks up, they are making decisions on what they think are the right things. He stated that if they have guidance from the public we would certainly consider it in our decisions. He stated that he would like all members of the public make their feelings known because we do listen and it is valuable information

12. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Hiller to exit into non-public session in accordance with Chapter 91-A:3 II (b) hiring of a public employee and (c) matter if which discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Entered non-public at 7:34 PM. A motion made by Yoder seconded by Cannon to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-public at 8:45 PM.

13. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Yoder seconded by Cannon to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval