

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

December 11, 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, McCallion, Brennan, Richardson, Yoder, Cannon, O'Brien. Excused- Larson, Hanlon
Austin introduced the newest Board Member, John O'Brien, who is filling the unexpired term of Karen Hiller from Ward 3. O'Brien thanked the City Council for entrusting him with this responsibility. He stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Eris Hersey, Principal at Idlehurst stated that she had some good news to share. She stated that she has been keeping track of the attendance at the Parent-Teacher Conferences for a few years. She stated that in 15-16 we had 65% of our parents attend. She stated that in 16-17 we had 64%, in 17-18 we had 72% and we just finished our Parent-Teacher Conferences yesterday and we had 91% of parents attend. She thanked all the parents and staff for making it an amazing Parent-Teacher Conference.
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 3.1 **Removal of items from the Consent Calendar:** Richardson stated that he wanted to remove, from the Middle Schools Principal Report, the Patriot's Pen Essay Winners. Austin stated those would be added as Discussion Item 5.6.
 - 3.2 **Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Richardson seconded by Brennan to approve the consent calendar as amended. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - Summary of Building and Grounds Committee Meeting-November 13, 2018
 - Minutes from Somersworth School Board Meeting-November 13, 2018
 - Minutes from Curriculum and Activities Committee Meeting-November 15, 2018
 - Minutes from Policy Committee Meeting-November 28, 2018
 - Summary of the USDA Farm to School Planning Grant
 - Principal Reports
 - Enrollment
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - 4.1 **Superintendent's Update:** Gadomski stated that he wanted to thank the Women's Club of Somersworth who have made some wonderful donations for things that we are doing in our schools. He stated that they donated \$2,500.00 to the High School for School Pride Main Entry Signage. He stated that at Maple Wood they contributed \$2,000.00 for Maker's Spaces that includes some technology and at Idlehurst they donated \$2,500.00 for some Flexible Seating for the classrooms. He stated that he wanted to update the Board on Building Aid. He stated that we are presently sitting third on a list of 5 to be considered for Building Aide for the Maple Wood Project. He stated that he will be going to Concord on Thursday for the State Board of Education Board Meeting where they will be taking the first step in the process. He stated that he wanted to thank all the staff in the schools. He stated that it is a very hectic time of year and our Administrators and Teachers are doing a great job. He stated that we always think of this time as such a joyous, wonderful and fun time of year but it is not that way for everybody. He stated that we have a lot of children and families in district that find it a very difficult and stressful time of year. He stated that he thanks all staff members for recognizing the children and adults in our community that need our help during the holidays.
 - 4.2 **Personnel Report:** Gadomski stated that in the packets the Board will see the retirement letters of Daryl Dunbar, Georgianna Klipa and Herbert Barrett.
 - 4.3 **Vision 20/20 Appointment:** Austin stated that it is his pleasure to appoint Larson to the Vision 20/20 Committee. He stated that he has had a conversation with her as to what it entails and she has agreed to serve on this committee.

4.4 NHSBA Delegate Assembly-January 26, 2019: Austin stated that this will be held on January 26, 2019 in Concord. He stated that all members should have received an email with the resolutions that are being proposed. He stated that he hoped they would all take some time over the next couple of weeks to read through them and come back with recommendations on how the representative from this Board should vote at the Delegate Assembly and we will take a vote on this at our first meeting in January. He stated that typically Hanlon is our representative as the Delegate to the Assembly. He stated that he will also be there as the Past President of the Association but in that role I chose to not serve as the Delegate. He stated that he will ask Hanlon to serve as the Delegate but if he can't, he stated that he'd be looking for someone to take on that responsibility. He stated that it runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He stated that in the morning there are various presentations by school boards from around the state and then in the afternoon is a business meeting and election of officers and voting on the resolutions.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Standing Committees

- Budget and Revenue:** Austin stated that this committee met this evening. He stated that we are continuing to work on a proposal for the 19-20 budget year. He stated that the work is preliminary at this point and we are looking at a number of different options. Gadomski stated that they have met as an Administrative Team and they have submitted their budgets that they would like to have considered as a starting point. He stated that some of the challenges are that we have a \$430,000 loss of money. He stated that some of this is Adequacy Aid money, some is Building Aid and we have some tuition decreases. He stated that this is a challenge as it is revenue that we need to make up on the expense side. He stated that they put \$350,000 in as a tax cap number for now but that will get adjusted. He stated that we should have a final number in a few weeks. He stated that there is presently \$300,000 in the budget for the Middle School elevator that needs to be replaced. He stated that the Administrative Team will be meeting again next Tuesday and we will start whittling down our numbers as we know that we are not at the number that we need to be at. He stated that there are a number of positions that are not in the budget, and we need to be frugal in presenting a budget, so we need to weigh the pros and cons of prioritizing. Austin stated that there are some dates that he wanted all Board Members to put on their calendars. He stated that February 2 from 8:00 AM-12:00 at Mary Lister Place we will have a Budget Workshop and get into the nuts and bolts of the budget. He stated that February 12, a Tuesday, here at City Hall we will meet for another Budget workshop at 5:30 PM. He stated that Monday February 18 is a school board meeting night due to President's Day. He stated that we will meet to discuss the budget at 6:30 PM followed by a Public Hearing at 6:45 PM.
- Building, Grounds and Transportation:** McCallion stated that the next meeting will be December 17th at 1:00PM at the SAU Office.
- Curriculum and Activities:** Richardson stated they met on November 15th with the Superintendent and the High School Principal and we discussed the alternative graduation diploma and the Somersworth CTC Re-envisioning what Somersworth High School and CTC graduates should be learning and what they can contribute to our society when they graduate. He stated that in the packet is a list of valuable tools for lifelong learning and being productive citizens that came from brainstorming with teachers at the High School and CTC.
- Policy Committee:** Austin stated that there are several policies to present this evening. The policy for First Reading is the policy that the Curriculum and Activities Committee discussed regarding high school graduation.
- Joint Commission of City Council and School Board:** Austin stated they met on December 5th. He stated that they discussed the goals that were approved at the joint meeting that we had with the City Council. He stated that Primex who facilitated the meeting has produced a report

included in your packet. He stated that there are two goals that we agreed to. He stated that the first is that the Council Recreation Committee and the School Grounds Committee would begin discussions of shared recreational opportunities between City and School and discuss improvements in restrooms, concessions, fields and facilities. He stated that the second goal was to continue with the process of the SAU Withdrawal. He stated that they discussed a number of other items that could continue to move forward outside of the formal structure. He stated that they had spent a lot of time talking about joint calendars so that people in the community would be aware of all the activities that are going on. He stated that this would be a monumental task so the Commission concluded that the work for now will focus on a calendar that put the City Council Meetings and School Board Meetings on one calendar so that we are not stepping all over each other when we are setting next year's schedules. He stated that they discussed the CTC providing internships to the City and Businesses. He stated that they discussed the status of the SAU Withdrawal. He stated the next meeting will be on January 16th at 5:30 PM.

5.2 City Council Update: Pepin stated that at their last meeting they had chosen John O'Brien to fill the vacancy in Ward 3. He stated that they voted to establish a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility and options of withdrawing from SAU 56.

5.3 Joint Building Committee for Maple Wood Project: McCallion stated that interviews were held with 3 Construction Management Companies. He stated there was a bit of debate but we went with Milestone and will move forward with them.

5.4 Student Representative Report: Dylan Zinkevich: Zinkevich stated that on Friday, December 14th the Student Council will be holding their annual clothes drive at 5:30 PM. He stated that donations are still being accepted through Thursday. He stated that on Thursday, December 13th the Music Department is hosting their Winter Concert at 7:00 PM. He stated that Band, Chorus and Select Chorus will perform. He stated there is no charge but donations will be accepted. He stated that tomorrow night in the High School Cafeteria Maple Wood will be hosting their Winter Concert. He stated that the Interact Club will be hosting a Winter Walk for Children on January 11th at 6:00-8:00 PM at the High School. He stated that the Student council are still selling wreaths for \$15.00 until Winter Break.

5.5 Joint Goal Setting Session Information: Austin stated that this had been covered under Joint Commission of City Council and School Board.

5.6 Patriot's Pen Essay Winners: Richardson stated that this is a program that is offered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and this year the theme for the essay was "Why I Honor the American Flag". He stated that there were three winners at the Middle School. He stated that they were Kayley Young, Gabrielle Lensky and Damien Campbell. He asked Dana Hilliard if these essays were posted on the website? Hilliard stated they were not. Richardson asked that they would be posted. He stated that there are two of the essays in our packet. He stated that this is a tough question. He stated that in this day and age when we have sports figures and whomever protesting and using the American Flag as a symbol of their protest, it's really interesting and heartwarming to him to see that we have Middle School students who understand what the meaning of the American Flag is and every time we put our hand over our heart, those people that we are remembering, those people who are serving now and those people that will be serving in the future to keep our country what it is. He stated that it is a place where we have free speech, a judicial system and justice, we have freedoms that many countries don't have. He stated that it is a terrific thing to know that we have Middle School students already who are on top of this. He stated that when we pledge allegiance to the flag here and every time he hears the National Anthem, I think about the things those students wrote about and I really appreciate what they did.

6. ACTION ITEM: None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 First Reading of Policies:

- **IKF-High School Graduation** Austin stated that this policy currently exists and the committee is

recommending that it be amended. He stated that the committee is looking at two options. He stated that the first would be a regular Somersworth High School diploma with a minimum of 26 credits. He stated that option two would be a minimum standards diploma with a minimum of 20 credits and the content areas are specified in the policy. He stated that this was recommended for approval by the Curriculum and Activities Committee. Richardson stated that the 20 credit diploma as an alternative is the same as an adult education diploma is. He stated that there is part of the policy that talks about an alternative learning plan. He stated that a GED is not a high school diploma. He stated that he wondered if they need the policy to state that a GED is not equivalent to a high school diploma and not an alternative plan. Richardson made a motion seconded by McCallion to suspend the rules so that Principal Shea could speak. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Shea stated that a GED is usually earned in a program called Hi-Set and it is just an exam. He stated that this still exists and we have a small number of students who pursue this. He stated that the 20 credit minimum diploma is established by the State. He stated that many high schools in the State offer it in house. He stated they all have a regular diploma and a 20 credit diploma. He stated that right now students who want to pursue a 20 credit minimum standards diploma have to go to the Dover Adult learning program. He stated that they want to offer it at the high school so that students who are currently pursuing it can do it a bit simpler and also redirect them to the 26 credit diploma if they so choose. He stated that they do not want more students going for this diploma, they want fewer. Richardson stated that he knows they discussed a process that students would go through to develop a plan. He stated that he wants students and parents to know that a GED is not a minimum standards diploma. Shea stated that they are not promoting this option but making sure that students who it makes sense for, know that it is out there. Austin stated that this policy would remain in First Reading until the next meeting.

7.1 Second Reading of Policies: Austin stated that these policies would be read by title only.

- **BCA: School Board Member Ethics**
- **BCA-R: School Board Member Ethics Acknowledgement of School Board Ethics Policy**
- **IHBG: Home Education Instruction**
- **IHBG-R: Home Education/Dual Enrollment**
- **IJ: Instructional Materials Resources and Instructional Resources Plan**
- **IMDA: Patriotic Exercises**
- **JJJ: Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils**
- **JRA: Students Records and Access**

Richardson made a motion seconded by McCallion to accept all of these policies as a block. Richardson stated that with Policies IHBG, IHBG-R and IJ, that involve students who are home schooled or in charter schools, or private schools and may want to participate in Somersworth extra-curricular activities or may want to take a class at Somersworth High School. He asked if perhaps sometime the Board could have a presentation as to how this would work in our system? He stated that he has no objection to this taking place, I am just curious about the process. Austin stated that he thinks something could be put together. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 2018-19 Budget Update: Krauss stated that the budget update is in the Board packets. She stated that she received a revised estimate from the police department for our portion of the cost for the School Resource Officer. She stated that there is an increased cost to the school of \$5,566.19 due to a change in staff in this position. She stated that we share the cost of this position with the city and the school is responsible for 75% of the total cost. She stated that there has not been much change in the revenue side except for receiving additional Medicaid reimbursement money. She stated that she has received notice from the State regarding the CTC Tuition and Transportation reimbursement that we receive. She stated that she is happy to report that we will be receiving an additional \$1,124.83 in reimbursement than what we estimated. She stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Mommsen at Maple Wood School. She stated that every year he brings his class up to

the SAU Office for a tour and talk to us to find out what we do and that day Lane and myself were not in the office. She stated that today they had the chance to go over to Maple Wood and visit with his class and it was such a great experience. She stated that the students asked such thoughtful questions and were really interested in what we did, and where we went to school and college. She stated it was fun to get into the buildings because she does not get to do that too often.

8.2 2019-20 Draft Budget Update: Austin stated that this had been discussed under Budget and Revenue Committee.

9. Mayor Forum Dates: Austin stated that the Mayor has announced a change in the forums for next year. He stated that rather than inviting Councilors and Board Members to meet, the meetings will focus on departments within the City. He stated that the School Department's turn will be in April. He stated that his plan is to remove this item from the standing agenda since it is no longer a monthly meeting pertaining to the Board. He stated that by removing it, it does not mean you cannot attend. He stated that anyone can attend the Mayor's Forums and ask questions and participate in the discussions.

10. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items:

- **December 12, 2018-Somersworth School Board Policy Committee Meeting-5:30 PM**
- **January 8, 2019- Somersworth School Board Policy Committee Meeting-5:30 PM**
- **January 8, 2019- Somersworth School Board Meeting- 7:00- City Hall Chambers**
- **January 15, 2019- Curriculum and Activities Committee-1:00-SAU Office**
- **January 22, 2019- Budget and Revenue Committee Meeting-5:30 PM**
- **January 22, 2019-Somersworth School Board Meeting-7:00 PM-City Hall Chambers**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: McCallion stated that he wished everyone Happy Holidays and a good New Year. He welcomed O'Brien joining them. Yoder stated that she wanted to thank Wendy Berkeley who is the Farm to School Coordinator. She stated that they went to the Middle School today and tried to convince the students to eat winter squash and it did not go well. She stated it did not go over as well as the kale. She welcomed O'Brien to the Board. She wished everyone Happy Holidays and stay warm and safe and we'll see you next year. O'Brien thanked everyone for the warm welcome and he is looking forward to getting to work. Richardson welcomed O'Brien and stated that we had quite a packet tonight with all kinds of interesting things. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and wished them a healthy and safe break. He stated that, as a side note, he does not know when black was introduced into our school colors. He stated that he likes blue and white and he would like to see them return to blue and white. Cannon welcomed O'Brien and stated that he will be a good addition to the Board. She stated that this past fall has been very busy and it is wonderful to see how this Board operates with all of its committees. She wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. Brennan welcomed O'Brien. She stated that Hersey had made mention about the Parent-Teacher Conferences and it is something that she has been thinking about a lot lately. She stated that as a parent of a high school student, this year is the first year in seven years that she attended Parent-Teacher conferences. She stated that it was for no other reason than the date change. She stated that she has always had an issue with it being the Tuesday night before the Thanksgiving break. She stated that the family takes advantage of the Wednesday off and travels to see family out of town. She stated when she called to make an appointment, Mrs. Lucier told me that the numbers had increased since the date change. She stated that it may be something to think about, changing the date, from the Thanksgiving week. She stated that she wanted to thank all the schools for their participation in the Holiday Parade. She stated that a lot of hard work went into the floats and Mother Nature cooperated with some beautiful weather. She wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Austin stated that as we begin work on the next budget cycle, what comes to mind is that we do not have an expense problem, we have a revenue problem. He stated that we now have a State Representative on the

School Board. He stated that the State needs to take a look at the way they fund public education. He stated that if you look at the Adequacy Grants they are nowhere adequate to educate a student for \$3600.00. He stated that for the State to also reduce the Stabilization Grants to the communities that are losing student population, which impacts most of the communities in the State, it's a double whammy. He stated that every time we look at our budget we may have a year that we gained ground but we can't because we have revenue losses that we have to start making up. He stated the budget is driven by State reductions which isn't right. He stated that public schools cannot continue to survive in the State unless the State takes a look at the funding formulas and comes up with a much more adequate way to fund public education. He stated that for those who think we have an expense problem I challenge them to look at the expense reductions that we have made over the past ten years and tell me that we have not done a great job of limiting our expenses and done a great job with limited resources. He stated that the reduction in funding from Concord makes it harder and harder every year to provide an adequate education to our students. He stated that we implore the representatives in Concord, both on the House and Senate side, to recognize this as a revenue shortfall and not an expenses problem and do everything you can to solve this. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. He stated that for some families he realizes it is a difficult time, but hopes that everyone can have a restful holiday and come back rejuvenated for the second half of the year.

12. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Cannon seconded by Richardson to exit into non-public session in accordance with Chapter 91-A:3 II (a) dismissal, promotion, compensation or disciplining of any public employee, unless that employee has a right to an open meeting and requests the meeting be open 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 7:35 PM. A motion made by Brennan seconded by Cannon to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-public at 8:00 PM.

Motion made by Richardson seconded by Yoder to allow the student to finish the school year at SHS. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

Motion made by Brennan seconded by McCallion to accept the retirements presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Richardson seconded by Yoder to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval