

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

September 10, 2019

City Hall Chambers

7:00pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Richardson, Hanlon, Potter, Cannon, Marsh, McCallion, Larson and O'Brien. Excused: Yoder
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 Cannon to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:
 - Minutes from the JBC Meeting-August 27, 2019
 - Summary of the Building, Grounds and Transportation Committee Meeting-August 27, 2019
 - Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting- August 27, 2019
 - Enrollment
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - 4.1 **Superintendent's Update:** Gadomski stated that everyone is settling into their schedules and school is off to a great start. He stated that he had spoken to the bus company today and they said that the routes are running well. He stated that they are starting the budget discussions next week with the Administrative Team. He stated he and Krauss would meet with each of the Administrative Team to start the process. He stated that last year they had many strides on clarifying the budget and getting items into the appropriate lines. He stated they will continue this process and clean the budget up. He stated that one update to keep on your radar is that we had some questions as to Medicaid Reimbursements. He stated that Health and Human Services put out an emergency rule as to questions state wide as to reimbursements and how those services were to be referred. He stated that the other piece of this is who can actually provide the services and whether the method that all of the schools in New Hampshire have been using for decades is going to be reimbursable. He stated that this has huge implications as to revenue reimbursements for all of the school districts in the State.
 - 4.2 **Idlehurst Summer Reading Presentation:** Eris Hersey, Principal at Idlehurst stated that one of the things that they want to get better at is sharing with the Board the things that go on in their school. She stated that they wanted to share their Summer Reading Program with the Board. She stated that they have been doing it for about ten years due to the two teachers standing here with me, Michelle Koerner and Michelle Sleeper who have been heading this effort. Koerner stated that they had started the Summer Reading Program because they were concerned about the "summer slide". She stated that this is when kids stop reading or being read to over the summer because school is out. She stated that they then see a regression in their literacy skills. She stated that kids were coming to school knowing less that they did when they left first grade. She stated that a study was done by John Hopkins that they are still seeing that gap as late as ninth grade. She stated that they are looking to change that pattern. She stated that due to the "summer slide" we have to do a lot of review in the fall and we waste six weeks re-teaching the skills that they left with before the summer vacation. She stated that they got together in 2009 to discuss what they could do to keep kids excited about reading and make them want to read over the summer. She stated that they tapped into a National Summer Reading Program that the libraries use across the nation and we started to use their themes. She stated that the first year was "Make a Splash into Reading" and we did a kick-off, we got the staff excited and created a reading log that records the minutes the kids read over the summer. She stated they came up with some rewards and that year was to have some water games outside. She stated that over the years they have enlisted the staff to do some crazy things. She stated one time it was a flash mob, we taught them all a dance and a song and we did it in front of the kids. She stated that each year they write a song parody and this year it was to Meghan Trainor's "All

About the Bass". She stated that they try to drum up excitement. She stated that each year they have created a feature film about why reading is important. Sleeper stated that this year's theme was Outer Space - "Reading is Out of this World". She stated that they had a Star Wars themed film. She stated that after getting the kids excited with a movie, a song or flash mob, we talk about the rewards that they can earn. She stated that many businesses like 45 Market Street Bakery, Fiddlehead Farms, Wentworth Greenhouses and Smoke and Cream have provided free rewards for the kids. She stated that as part of the reward for this year we have Mainely Stars, a travelling planetarium coming to the school in November. Koerner stated that they have had 35-40% of the kids participating. She stated that it is a team effort of all the staff that want to be involved and the community businesses that are supporting us, the parents who read with their kids. She stated that it is a huge team effort to keep the motivation going in the summer. Richardson stated that it is nice to know that the kids read in the summertime.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Standing Committees

- **Budget and Revenue:** None
- **Building, Grounds and Transportation:** None
- **Curriculum and Activities:** None
- **Policy Committee:** Hanlon stated that they had met prior to the School Board Meeting.
- **Joint Commission of City Council and School Board:** None
- **Joint Building Committee for Maple Wood Project:** None

5.2 City Council Update: None

5.3 Student Representative Report: None

5.4 Athletics' Facilities Meeting List: Richardson stated that this is part of the Field's Committee. He stated that this list was put together by Hodsdon and Ingoldsby giving the Board some information as to what is done with the fields for maintenance and some suggestions for the future. Gadomski stated we have a lot of outside entities that use our fields and some are very generous in their support of maintenance projects but all of the efforts have been scattered so we are trying to get them so the Facilities Director and Athletic Director can oversee them and eventually we will be getting all of the organizations together to have things more organized in the maintenance of the fields.

6. ACTION ITEM: None

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Business Administrators Update:

- **18-19 Budget Update:** Krauss stated that we ended the year with a positive balance of \$90,414.14 to be returned to the City. She stated that the total budget for 18-19 was \$25,726,590 with expenditures of \$25,636,175.86. She stated that these figures are unaudited but she does not expect there will be any change. She stated that was due to freezing the budget early in the year. On the unaudited revenue side, we ended the revenue with unanticipated revenue of approximately \$167,786.13. She stated this is in large part due to receiving additional special education aid as well as additional Medicaid. She stated that this brings the total being returned to the City for 18-19 to \$258,200.27. She stated upon completion of the audit, which is happening this week, she would notify the Board of any changes. Gadomski stated that \$90,000.00 is one half of less than 1% of the 5.6 million budget. He stated that this was a huge effort of all of the staff at the SAU to the Building Administrators, Facilities Director, Special Education Director and Krauss managing the whole thing. He stated that if they had not frozen the budget in the January-February timeframe, there is no way we would have covered this budget.
- **19-20 Budget Update:** Krauss stated that we are still in the process of encumbering payroll and purchase orders for the year. She stated that next month the Board will see salaries and benefits encumbered as well as purchase orders for special education, transportation and utilities. She stated that we are very early in the year so we have not received much in revenue as of yet. She

stated that they did receive the first installment from the State for both Adequacy and Kindergarten Aid.

Hanlon stated that he wanted to thank everyone for the incredible work. He stated that in comparing the last two years, from where we were to where we are now being amazing. Larson asked why the year to date actuals is more than the adopted budget on Special Projects? Krauss stated that there was one project at the High School for Public Infrastructure Funds, putting in cameras at the high school. She stated that we have to pay for that up front and then request the reimbursement from the State. She stated that the project is not complete yet. Larson asked in moving forward if there was any insight as to raising the budget again? She asked if we have learned anything that might help us proceed? Krauss stated that at this point she does not know if they will have to freeze the budget. She stated that they have to look at Special Education and see if the students they budgeted for eighteen months ago we still have today. Gadomski stated that there are a lot of questions as to revenue right now. He stated that if the Adequacy Funds come back less and if the Medicaid billing becomes an issue the budget could freeze sooner rather than later.

8.2 Second Reading Policy:

- **AC-R-Nondiscrimination: Title IX Grievances**
- **GBEA-Staff Ethics**
- **JLCF-Student Wellness**

Hanlon read the policies by title only. Cannon made a motion seconded by O'Brien to accept the policies as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

9. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items:

- **September 16, 2019- SAU 56 Board Meeting- 6:30 PM, Mulligans Grill CTC**
- **September 18, 2019-Rollinsford Withdrawal Forum-6:30 PM-Rollinsford Grade School**
- **September 24, 2019- Somersworth Budget & Revenue Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM**
- **September 24, 2019- Somersworth School Board Meeting-7:00 PM-City Hall**
- **September 26, 2019-Somersworth Withdrawal Forum-6:00 PM-City Hall Chambers**
- **October 8, 2019-Curriculum and Activities Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM**
- **October 8, 2019- Somersworth School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM-City Hall**
- **October 22, 2019-Budget and Revenue Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM**
- **October 22, 2019-Somersworth School Board Meeting- 7:00 PM- City Hall**

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: Marsh stated that he appreciates the presentation on the Summer Reading Program. He stated that it shows a lot of passion, commitment and effort. Cannon stated that at the State House during next week we will be meeting and there is the potential to be discussing budgets. She stated that the Governor is finally interacting with us to come up with a budget that we can all work with. She stated that the end of the month is looming which will be the end of the current spending limitations. O'Brien stated that he really appreciated the presentation, especially with the little human beings. He stated it was wonderful to see. He stated that he hopes the participation grows and expands. Larson stated that the presentation shows how much our educators care about our students. She stated that today is World Suicide Prevention Day. She stated that it is the second leading cause of death in teenagers in New Hampshire. She stated that it needs to be discussed in the schools and have professional development for the staff. She stated that next month is Mental Awareness Month. Richardson stated that he wanted to thank the administrators for coming.

11. NON-PUBLIC: A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Cannon to exit into non-public session in accordance with Chapter 91-A:3 II (c) matter if which discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Entered non-public at 7:33 PM. A motion made by Hanlon seconded by Cannon to exit out of non-public session. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Exited out of non-

public at 7:51 PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Larson seconded by O'Brien to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval