

## SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2024

City Hall Chambers

7: 00PM

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Katie Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon call of the roll, the following members were present: Todd Marsh, Maggie Larson, Barbara Wentworth, Kari Clark, Krystle De St, Croix and Sarah O'Brien Hart. Absent: Susan Tierney and Marcia Brown

Krauss opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. A motion made by Clark seconded by Wentworth to nominate Maggie Larson as Chairperson. No other nominations were made. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

Larson opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. A motion made by Marsh seconded by Wentworth to nominate Kari Clark as Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were made. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

### 1. COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None

### 2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

#### Removal of items from Consent Calendar

**Approval of Consent Calendar:** A motion made by Wentworth seconded by O'Brien Hart to approve the consent calendar as presented.

**2.1** Somersworth School Board Public Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023

**2.2** Student Enrollment January 2024

### 3. REPORTS (Informational)

**3.1 Student Representatives Report:** None

**3.2 Superintendent Report:** None

**3.3 Business Administrator Report:** None

**3.4 City Council Update:** None

### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Informational)

#### 4.1 Standing Committees

- **Budget and Revenue Committee:** None
- **Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Committee:** None
- **Educational Programs & Community Outreach Committee:** None
- **Policy Committee:** None

### 5 PRESENTATION

**5.1 Maple Wood Presentation "The Cool Things We Do At School:** Devin McNelly and Max Ferguson presented a video about Maple Wood and the cool things we do at school. Clark stated that she loves the peeks into the school and you all did a great job so thank you. Marsh stated as a former student of Maple Wood he has fond memories and he appreciates them bringing us into the Maplewood Community. He stated that he appreciates the efforts put into making the video. Larson thanked everyone who collaborated on the video and thank you to the students for being here.

### 6 POLICY ADOPTION

**6.1 Policies for First Reading:** EHAB Data Governance and Security: A motion made by Clark seconded by O'Brien Hart to read by title only. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

**6.2 Policies for Second Reading:** BEDG, Meeting Minutes; EBCC, False Alarms, Bombs, Active Shooter and Other such Threats; and IJOA, Field Trips and Excursions: A motion made by O'Brien Hart seconded by Wentworth to approve policy BEDG as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by Wentworth seconded by O'Brien Hart to approve policy EBCC as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. A motion made by O'Brien Hart seconded by Wentworth to approve policy IHOA as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

## **7 NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1 School Board Committee Assignments:** Larson stated that she handed out the list of committee assignments and there are three members on each committee and an alternate.

**7.2 Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar: First Reading:** Larson stated that this is the first reading of the calendar. She stated that September 10<sup>th</sup> is the NH primary so we will have to adjust that date. She stated that they will have a second reading on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**7.3 Student Trip to the Dominican Republic 2025:** Celeste Feren and Katie Somers stated that they would like to chaperone a field trip to the Dominican Republic during February vacation. It is an excellent opportunity to travel to a foreign country and speak Spanish and gain multicultural awareness. Clark asked who this was available to. Somers stated that it is open to all high school students. Feren stated that they typically give priority to the students in the various languages and ESOL. Larson asked how many slots were available. Somers stated minimum of 12 and maximum of 24. Larson stated that this is a wonderful opportunity and we are all in support of this to happen so you have our full approval.

## **8 OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

## **9 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- January 18, 2024 Budget and Revenue Committee Meeting
- January 30, 2024 Somersworth School Board Meeting
- February 3, 2024 Budget Workshop

## **10. COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None**

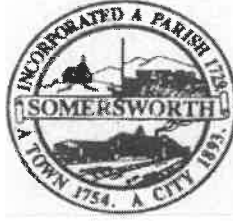
**11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:** De St. Croix thanked everyone for this amazing opportunity to enhance and enrich the community of Somersworth and she is extremely excited to have this opportunity to work with all of you. Clark welcomed the new members and welcomed back the returning board. She stated that it is Martin Luther King Day on Monday and gave a few quotes that she liked. Marsh welcomed the new board members and thanked them for being here and congratulated them on being elected and he appreciated them being here as well as the returning board members. He stated that the easiest decision sometimes is not to return. He stated that there is value in experience and there is also value in thoughts that are not clouded by experience and we have an eclectic board moving forward and he is looking forward to it. He stated that he hopes that the residents of ward 5 consider running. O'Brien Hart stated that she looks forward to serving and she appreciates the community of Somersworth electing her to serve. She stated that she is looking forward to supporting our schools in the good work that they do. Wentworth welcomed the new board members and it was a great presentation tonight. She stated that the MLK quotes are not lost on me and hopefully we can take a moment to see how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

## **12. Non-Public: None**

**13. Adjournment:** A motion made by Wentworth seconded by O'Brien Hart to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Katie Krauss

Pending Board Approval



**Somersworth School Board  
Budget and Revenue Committee Meeting  
January 18, 2024  
5:30 PM**

**SAU Office Conference Room**

School Board Members Present: Todd March, Chairperson, Maggie Larson and Krystle De St. Croix

Administrators and Staff Present: Katie Krauss, Business Administrator, Lou Goscinski, Superintendent.

Chairperson Marsh called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Chairperson Marsh thanked all participants for attending and acknowledged new school board member Krystle De St. Croix's for her first Budget and Revenue Committee meeting.

**Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Review-**

- Katie Krauss shared information regarding the estimated tax cap analysis for the FY 2024-2025 budget received from Robert Belmore, City Manager. Reports a National CPI-U of 4.12%. Reports "net construction value" will not be included for this calculation. Reports increase allowed for school portion of \$750,218.00. Katie Krauss shared an FY 2025 revenue summary total revenue of \$10,386,208.00, which is a \$383,816.00 decrease from FY 2024. An expenditure summary report for FY 25, much of which is agreed contractual obligations, indicates a total proposed increase of \$2,231,893.00. Net budget calculates to an increased tax rate of \$2.31; with a tax cap amount of \$0.74, representing a decrease of \$1,799,662.00 of reductions to meet the city chartered tax cap. Committee members discussed budget process, including with the city council, broad budget goals, innovative solution finding, and legally obligated financial commitments. Committee consensus was to meet with the city council for a tax rate gauging discussion soon after the initial budget proposal reveal to the school board. Future committee meetings were discussed, including the planned full board Saturday budget workshop. Maggie Larson shared her preference the initial proposed budget be electronic versus budget binders, which historically has been provided. Katie Krauss indicated it is possible. No decision was made if the transition will be made for all board members or if electronic will be provided as an option.

Motion by Larson to adjourn, seconded by De St. Croix and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting date: January 30.

Respectfully submitted,

*Todd Marsh*

Committee Chair

## **Policy Committee Meeting**

1/25/24 SAU office

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm by Tierney.

**In attendance:** Kari Clark, Superintendent Lou Goscinski, Maggie Larson (School Board Chair), Susan Tierney (Policy Chair), Katelyn Carrington, Devin McNelly (remote), Jen Spector, Amy Pillsbury, Lorraine Fjeld.

**Absent:** Marcia Brown (excused)

### **Policies Discussed:**

- **JKAA** - *Use of Restraints and Seclusion*
- **DGFA** - *Crowdfunding*
- **KCD** - *Public Gifts/Donations*

Policy **JKAA** was “substantially revised” by the NHSBA after the 2023 passage of SB179 and HB491 and subsequently was brought to the committee at the request of district administration. Proposed changes to this updated version were introduced by Pillsbury and Fjeld based on recommendations from a Technical Advisory committee (TAC) in regards to defining “seclusion.

McNelly informed the committee that in keeping with Best Practices, the District does not utilize “seclusion” as a management technique, however the staff is trained on what it is so they can avoid unknowingly engaging in it.

Any use of restraints (or seclusion) must be reported on by the school to the state. Currently, districts are awaiting an updated form (*JKAA - R*) from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) which will standardize reporting across the state. In the meantime, the District utilizes its own form.

*The recommendation of the committee is to adopt the NHSBA policy and withdraw the current SAU policy. The updated NHSBA policy was recommended to be brought to the board for first reading at the January 30th School Board meeting.*

Policy **DGFA** is a new policy for the District; currently, crowdfunding is not generally allowed. The committee discussed concerns which had been previously raised in regards to crowdfunding, but felt that the policy adequately addressed these concerns and provided appropriate processes for accountability. An approach currently utilized at MMS - which may address one of those concerns - is for funds to be requested at the Team level, as opposed to the individual classroom level. In that way, the potential of one classroom having a disproportionate amount of crowdfunded materials compared to others could be alleviated.

The general consensus of the administration is that crowdfunding is an acceptable activity and would be welcomed by their staff. Upon adoption, building administrators will discuss the implementation of this new policy with their staff.

*This new policy was recommended to be brought to the board for first reading at the January 30th School Board meeting.*

An updated policy KCD was reviewed by the committee subsequent to changes made by the NHSBA after the 2023 passage of HB207. Notable changes in this updated policy include increasing the amount of “unanticipated revenue” that can be accepted by a school board without need for a 7 day notice and public hearing from \$5,000 - \$20,000 and increasing the amount a superintendent can receive from \$500 to \$2,500. The committee made no changes to this policy.

*The recommendation of the committee is to adopt the NHSBA policy and withdraw the current SAU policy. The updated policy was recommended to be brought to the board for first reading at the January 30th School Board meeting.*

**Next Policy committee meeting: February 6th, 5:45pm at the SAU office**

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm - Motion made by Clark, seconded by Larson

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tierney