

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2022,

City Hall Chambers

7: 00PM

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon call of the roll, the following members were present: Maggie Larson, Todd Marsh, Mark Richardson, Susan Tierney, Barbara Wentworth, Gerri Cannon, Marcia Brown, Kari Clark and Mandy Demers.
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** None
3. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - Removal of items from the Consent Calendar
 - Approval of Consent Calendar: A motion made by Wentworth seconded by Cannon to approve the consent calendar as presented. VOTE: motion passed unanimously. Approved were:
 - 3.1 Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee Meeting Minutes October 18, 2022
 - 3.2 Somersworth School Board Meeting Minutes October 25, 2022
 - 3.3 Somersworth School Board Building, Grounds and Transportation Minutes October 25, 2022
 - 3.4 Student Enrollment Numbers
 - 3.5 Principal's Reports
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - 4.1 **Superintendent's Update:** Supt. Lane stated that SHS is in the house tonight to celebrate two State Championships, Somersworth High School Football and Volleyball teams. Steve Hodsdon thanked the board for recognizing them. He thanked the community for coming to the games and thanked them for their support. He stated that we have wonderful student athletes, and he thanked the coaching staff for the hundreds of hours that they put in. Chris Tebo thanked Steve as the coach of the volleyball team and as the athletic director. Supt. Lane asked Steve about their conversation about being a runner up. Hodsdon stated that you know the saying always a bridesmaid never a bride, well I have spent 20 years as a coach, and I have six or seven runners up plaques, and he was thinking that it might not happen. He thanked the girls for his first championship. Lila, a player on the volleyball team stated that she is so proud of the team, they all love each other so much. Thank you all for congratulating us, we love this sport, and we love this school. Dante, a player on the football team stated that they appreciate all the support, I love these boys, we made it. Coach Jeremy Lambert stated that this group of seniors are the first kids he coached at the pee wee level. He stated that they started with me, and they ended with me. He stated that they ended it the ways I asked them to play football. He stated that the one thing that we always said to them is when you put on the uniform it represents more than a uniform, you represent the school, your families, the community and everyone who stands beside you, and you conduct yourself in way to keep all of them proud. He stated that we ask that anytime that they put on that uniform, when it said Somersworth on their chest, they were to do whatever they could to put in perfect effort because they as individuals and their teammates deserve nothing but their best. He stated that this year they were perfect, they did more than perfect effort and they finished exactly the way they were asked to start and that speaks volumes to the content of their character and the type of people they are and what you have done as a community and a school to bring them up as fantastic individuals and incredible team. He stated that he loves them immensely and it just shows what you can do when you buy into that mentality that we can make a difference when we are unified and they were, thank you for recognizing them. Larson stated that she has been to many games, and she is so proud, and you should be so proud. You are examples in our community and your sportsmanship was excellent and she saw examples of other schools who didn't have that. She stated that we are so proud of what you have done and volleyball, the next couple of years will be incredible. Supt. Lane stated that as the Superintendent my schedule doesn't allow me to get to a lot of games but what I did see in the championship games is great sportsmanship and that was so evident to me in the way you carried yourselves. She stated that in the volleyball game there was a moment where it wasn't going the way you wanted but you didn't break your stride and you held composure. She thanked the coaching staff for modeling and representing Somersworth with pride. Thank you all for everything you have done and the pride you brought to this city. Clark stated that she is proud of all of you, and she watched them grow up and grow

as a team. She stated that she can't wait for the years to come for the volleyball team, you all did a great job. Richardson thanked coaches Don Innis and Jim Keays, they are grand coaches and dedicated coaches willing to stay with Somersworth as long as they have. He stated that goes for Steve too. Congratulations to you all. Wentworth congratulated them all and stated that she is so proud of them. She stated that they should take this opportunity to let all of the compliments wash over you guys, you earned it and worked hard. Brown thanked them all for being amazing ambassadors for this city.

Supt. Lane stated that she wanted to let the community know that Jersey Mike's fundraiser was about a month ago, and all the proceeds from their opening day went to the schools. She stated that from that fundraiser we will have \$10,000 coming to the district. She stated that she has accepted the funds and she feel that they should go directly to students so it will be split 4 ways for the community days in our schools. She thanked everyone who went, it was a packed house the entire day and thank you to Jersey Mike's. She stated that as a board you are aware that we had sad news over the weekend as one of our para educators at Maple Wood, Skylaire Dame, passed away unexpectedly so we ask that you keep their family in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time. She stated that lastly, she would be remised if she didn't make comments on the active shooter hoax in our neighboring state of Maine. What an absolutely horrific experience the staff, students and community went through today. When I was first notified of this just before 9:00 this morning we did not know this was a hoax. Our office along with support from the Somersworth Police Department had to make some immediate decisions about our own district's response but at the same time our thoughts were with the Sanford community during this difficult time and what they must be going through, this is truly our worst nightmare as educators. When we received information confirming that this was all a joke, I was angry because who on earth has the right to create abject fear for their own pleasure at the expense of students and staff, it's sick and disgusting and she hopes that whoever did this gets persecuted to the fullest extent of the law. These senseless acts affect all of us and it is beyond frustrating to me that our society has come to expect this is just going to happen and it does again and again and again, what a sad place we are as a nation right now. However, those of you who know me know that I always have hope, I truly believe that we have the power to change this violence and fear and as such we will be changing our student behavior matrix to zero tolerance for these threats, these acts are not a joke and will not be tolerated in our schools. We have had some incidents not to this magnitude but the response is that I was just joking, well this is not a joke and I am tired of that excuse and it doesn't fly with me so we are going to be making some changes so information will be coming out to parents in the next few days as to how we are going to respond because your children and our staff deserve to come to school every day to learn and to grow and not be afraid that something could happen to them. As I have reflected on today and with the upcoming thanksgiving holiday, I wish to give thanks for 1. Our first responders in Somersworth regularly provide support to navigate the issues that we are dealing with. 2. For our staff and building administrators for putting their students' safety first and foremost in their minds and actions even when they are fearful themselves. 3. The students and families that support them and trust that our schools and who work with us to create collaborative relationships and be partners in their child's safety and learning. 4. For the school board for trusting for trusting our decision making on behalf of the Somersworth community and 5. For my administrative team at the SAU, Nancy, Bob, Katie and Dana are truly the best team that a Superintendent could ask to work with, they were amazing today as we worked through this issue while managing everything else that a school district has to take care of. With that all in mind, I wish you all and everyone in the community a wonderful and peaceful thanksgiving holiday.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

5.1 Standing Committees:

- **Budget & Revenue Committee:** Marsh stated that they met on November 7th and discussed the SAU budget. He stated that it was a very good discussion and they voted to recommend the full board approve the 23/24 budget which will be presented tonight. He stated that they also discussed options for pay to play. The next meeting is on December 6th.

- **Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Committee:** Richardson stated that they have not met since the last meeting. He stated that work has begun on the middle school and high school which is exciting.
- **Educational Programs & Community Outreach Committee:** Wentworth stated that their next meeting is on December 13th at 5:45 at City Hall.
- **Policy Committee:** Tierney stated that they met on November 9th and discussed two policies, JICK in regard to bullying and JH, attendance, absenteeism and truancy. She stated that the committee recommended that JICK be completely updated, and you will see in the packet the old policy all crossed out and the new policy with all the yellow. She stated that the new policy includes edits from the district lawyer to include references to contractors and we added language to address repeat instances of bullying. For JH, we revisited at the request of the Superintendent in response to the request of families who go to another country for a long time so we just wanted to make it clear that it impacts the school and the student. The updates help to clarify what is acceptable and not acceptable and the teacher can't be held responsible for teaching when they are out of the country. She stated that the next meeting is on November 28th.

5.2 Reports of Ad Hoc Committees:

- **Somersworth Mental Health and Wellness Commission:** Marsh stated they have not met since the last meeting and the next meeting is TBD. He stated that he will be transitioning off the commission and he really appreciates the formation of the commission, and he has full confidence in the remaining members with the way forward and he is looking forward to observing the way forward.

5.3 City Council update: Austin stated that they met last night. He stated that he would like to pass on the congratulations to the sports teams in the championships. He stated that Dave Witham went to the football game, and he was hearing other team's comments about the sportsmanship our teams exhibit. Congratulations to the teams for their efforts. He stated that three students made presentations regarding veteran's day and how they feel we should behave toward our veteran's and how it is important to acknowledge their service but also to make sure that they have the support they need. He stated that it was really heartwarming how they talked to us versus just reading the document and these are the types of leaders that we are building in our schools, our future is in good hands, and some may be guiding us and maybe sitting where we are.

5.4 Student Representative Report: Sophia Day congratulated the volleyball team on their state championship, they worked so hard, and she also congratulated the football team on back-to-back championships. She thanked the combined Somersworth/Marshwood marching band for playing. She stated that the boys' soccer team had their best year. She stated that student council is having a clothing drive on December 9th. NHS is donating thanksgiving baskets. She stated that they had I applied day at the high school where students can complete applications to schools in new Hampshire for free. She stated that students volunteered at both the fall festivals at Idlehurst and Middle School. She stated that Somersworth high school parent teacher conferences are next Tuesday from 6-8.

6. PRESENTATION

6.1 2023-2024 SAU 56 Budget Presentation: Supt. Lane and Katie Krauss, Business Administrator presented the SAU 56 proposed FY 24 budget. See attached.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

7.1 2022-2023 Budget Update: Krauss stated There haven't been any major expenditure changes since the last budget update. However, we have been able to hire for a number of positions since the last budget update. Below is an update on open positions as of November 10, 2022:

Position	October 20th	November 10th
Paraprofessionals	7.5	3
Part Time Custodian	1	0
Full Time Custodian	0	1
Grounds and Maintenance	1	1
SPED Case Manager	1	1
1/2 Year HS Math Teacher	0	1
	10.5	7

We are still meeting with the new staff to sign contracts and complete all necessary paperwork; these positions are not encumbered in this budget update but should be by the December update once all the necessary paperwork is completed. I did adjust the utilities encumbrance and will continue to monitor each month as we receive invoices.

She stated that in terms of revenue, since the last budget update, we have received our second payment from the State of New Hampshire for our Adequacy Aid.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Policies for First Reading: A motion made by Cannon seconded by Clark to read by Title Only. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

- **JH Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy**
- **JICK Bullying**

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Policies for Second Reading: A motion made by Wentworth seconded by Tierney to accept the policies as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

- **ECAF/EEAA Video & Audio Surveillance on School Property & School Buses**

9.2 Superintendent Evaluation Program Proposal by the Bryan Group Resources: A motion made by Wentworth seconded by Clark to approve as presented. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS

- **November 28, 2022 Somersworth School Board Policy Committee Meeting**
- **December 6, 2022 Somersworth School Board Budget Committee Meeting**
- **December 13, 2022, Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **January 10, 2023 Somersworth School Board Meeting**
- **January 24, 2023 Somersworth School Board Meeting**

11. Closing Comments

11.1 Visitors: None

11.2 Board Members: Cannon stated that she has been on the board for five years and the past couple have been a challenge for her with a lot of things on her plate. She stated that in the past year she became the director of facilities for CAP, which has taken a lot of her time, she is also a steward of her church. She stated that she has a lot of things on her plate and a lot going on and because of all of that I need to cut back on my plate. She stated that she has struggled with being on the board and at this point she needs to step down to focus on other areas that I need to. She stated that tonight is my last meeting and she appreciated working with you all. Larson stated Gerri, you are an important member of this community, and we are appreciative of you and will always welcome you to you into our discussions and we wish you the best in your future. Tierney stated

that it has been an honor to work with you and I have learned a lot from you, and she gained perspective that I don't get to see and hear, and she appreciates that. She stated that she wanted to mention a funny story, my son and I had a drone mishap, we thought it landed in the army reserve, but it flew into the neighborhood across the street, and we ran into a couple, Julie a para at Maple Wood was so nice she came around the yard with her and it was so wonderful of her. She congratulated Gerri on the election and acknowledged the service of Barb working at the polls, it is nice to see everyone serving. She stated that her running for the board was her first experience with local politics and she will say that she appreciates the nonpartisan nature of the board, and she knows that we all come from different perspectives, but it is great that we can work together and find common ground. Marsh stated that Gerri and I have served together since I started on the board, throughout covid times in the CTC you have always been insightful and professional and cordial, and I appreciate all of those things. He stated that being on the board, a state rep, working at CAP, steward of your church, all of these things exemplify the type of person you are. He wished everyone a happy thanksgiving. Richardson stated that he remembers when he first met Gerri and we realized we had a lot in common, I wish you well and you know how to get ahold of me. You added a lot to Somersworth and your time on the board you opened a lot of eyes and a lot of doors. Good Luck to you. Clark thanked Gerri for her years of services, it is greatly appreciated. She acknowledged Todd for his work on the mental health commission and thanked him and hoped it keeps going. She wished everyone a happy thanksgiving. Demers thanked Gerri for her service. She stated that it is not easy to serve, and you are stepping down to serve more and that takes dedication. She stated that your role is enlightening for us, and it hasn't come without criticism, but you have always stayed the line and that is an important part of what we do and that we are consistent and truthful. She stated that she appreciates that you brought that to this board. She stated that she listened to the student rep talk about all the stuff that is happening and I just think that some of the stuff that is happening is really cool and really great. This is more of a reminder for myself to put things on the calendar and I just wanted you all to take my own reminder to maybe pick some of the stuff to enjoy and instead of putting it on a to do list put it on a to enjoy list. Not all of it is going to make it there but I think it is good to balance it out a little bit and self-care is important. Wentworth stated that it is important for us to step back and be grateful and present for what we can be. She stated that Gerri, the one thing that was coming to mind for me when I was listening to everyone speak is class, you have definitely handled yourself in a way where you are able to get across what you think, and I think that you have been bipartisan in many ways, and I am incredibly grateful for you serving on this board. It is so much work on this board, so I can't even imagine how much you are doing. Thank you so much for being here. Larson thanked Gerri for her service. She wished everyone a happy thanksgiving. She stated that gratitude in our work, whether it be to keep students safe, keep everyone feeling supported, to recognize good work and sportsmanship and moving forward with that intention.

12. Non-Public: A motion made by Richardson seconded by Cannon to exit into nonpublic in accordance with chapter 91-A:3 II (a) dismissal, promotion, compensation or disciplining of any public employee. VOTE: Motion passed, unanimously. Entered into nonpublic at 8:04pm. A motion made by Brown seconded by Wentworth to exit out of nonpublic session. Exited out of nonpublic at 9:04pm.

13. Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn made by Richardson seconded by Brown. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Katie Krauss

Pending Board Approval