

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

February 19th 2013

CTC Conference Room

7:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Austin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm upon call of the roll the following members were present: Rivers, Austin, Riotto, Hanlon, Paradis, Gibson and Bolduc. Absent: Perkins and Cowan.
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 Riotto seconded by Hanlon to accept the consent calendar as presented. Approved were:
 - February 5th 2013- Minutes of the School Board Meeting
 - SHS& CTC Hilltopper News-March 2013
 - Somersworth Middle School Newsletter- January/February Newsletter
 - Letter from DOE-SAU 56 Somersworth/Rollinsford District Technology Plan
 - Tri-Chamber Legislative Reception
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supt. Mosca read a resolution from the NH senate for Diane Sedler's FCS class at the Somersworth Middle school to recognize them for the chemo caps that they made for cancer patients. Austin stated that in the packet is an invitation to the tri chamber legislative reception on February 25th from 6-7:30 at the Frisbee conference center. He stated that if anyone would like to attend please give the chamber a call.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 5.1 **SAU 56 Board Report:** Supt. Mosca stated that Bob and I attended a Legislative Forum on Monday, February 4th in Concord. We were lucky enough to have Senator Nancy Stiles, Chair of Senate Education and Representative Mary Gile, Chair of House Education speak to us regarding the various bills currently in the house and senate. They were both gracious enough to share the current issues facing both bodies and then answered questions we might have regarding the bills. Hot topics include, Tax Credit Scholarships, Retirement, Adequacy Aid, Health Education and the major topic; the State Budget which will be unveiled February 14th. Our next meeting at the end of March is when the bills that survive the house and senate make the cross over will shed more light on possible educational changes and reforms. She stated that our next In-Service Day will be held on March 15th. Building Administrators will continue the work we started in the fall as well as work done monthly during staff meetings. She stated that she will be attending the National Association for Curriculum and Development Conference in Chicago on Friday, March 15th until Monday, March 18th. Hot topics include, Common Core Standards, A conversation with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and Instructional Leadership strategies just to name a few. I will have more information to share once I return. Marquis stated that as our 7th and 8th graders will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Pilot testing - 7th grade: Mathematics 8th grade: English Language Arts. The Middle School has developed a timeline from now through March 22nd for this pilot testing. This timeline includes making sure the computers that the students and staff will be using are ready, creating a testing schedule, training staff and administrators, giving teachers and administrators access to the site, and giving our students the opportunity to take a practice test to become familiar with the testing format. Since the results of the pilot will not be available for us to review and it is our desire to use this pilot to inform instruction as much as possible, the Middle School staff has come together and developed a list of questions (i.e. "look fors") that they have about the test and how it measures or reflects the Common Core State Standards. Our middle school teachers and administrators will then take the practice test attempting to answer the questions posed. We will then come together to share our observations: observations that will inform instruction going forward. We will then share this information with the faculties from other buildings. He stated that within all of

our schools we are continuing to investigate and unpacking the Common Core State Standards. In doing so we are continuing to work on refining our curriculum in the areas of mathematics, reading, social studies and science. This work in mathematics and reading is being done simultaneous to our work within the Readers Workshop model, the Everyday Math Program and the Connected Math 2 Program: work that is focusing on instructional practice and fidelity to programming. He stated that With respect to the Readers Workshop model - administrators, staff members and teachers have participated in two learning walks over the past month. One of these was held at the Maple Wood School while the second one occurred at the Idlehurst School. During the Idlehurst School learning walk we were joined by some of the language arts teachers at the Middle School as well as eight guests (teachers, administrators and specialists) from the schools in Derry. As was the case last during last year's learning walks we found them to be informative, reaffirming and (re)energizing. It was wonderful for teachers to see the growth that their former students were making and it as a tremendous opportunity for teachers to be exposed to different instructional ideas. To be able to see students exposed to the same language and the same programming structure – regardless of the grade level, the teacher, or the school building suggests a high degree of fidelity to the Readers Workshop model. We believe that this fidelity will lend itself to increased student growth. MacDonald stated that she attended the State NH Transition Community of Practice on February 7, 2013. This group brings together several people from different agencies, schools as well as the department of education. Topics of discussion included finding successful methods for involving not only students, but parents also. The group will be working to develop a definition sheet. A sub committee was formed to review the NH community of practice evaluation for definition, user guide, review, as well as what is our intent for using data from the survey. The survey will be administered to local groups where feedback will be gained for the subcommittee. The group also discussed creating a resource list for families. In the future, the group plans to develop workshops for families.

I have been working on summer school 2013. Special Education students who are eligible for summer school have these factors to take into consideration:

- The team is concerned about regression and recoument
- The student has not made adequate progress on IEP goals
- The team takes into consideration the nature and severity of the disability.

Murray stated that The SAU56, Somersworth/Rollinsford Technology plan has been approved by the State DOE. The approval letter is included in your packet and can be found on the website in the **Technology** section by clicking the **About SAU56 tab**. We have been commended for having 100% of our data uploaded to the Smarter Balanced Technology Readiness tool that informs our current status in regard to test preparedness. She stated that We are looking for community input and ask that if you are interested in the future of technology for our school district and would like to join the SAU56 Technology Advisory Committee to please contact San Murray at smurray@sau56.org. She stated that in preparation for the upcoming Smarter Balanced pilot testing at the Middle School in March, Bob Marquis, Ann Brown and I participated in a WebEx training seminar on Thursday, February 7, 2013. Our participation in this informational seminar reinforced our preparedness. Our student data has been successfully uploaded and we are on track with teacher and student preparation for the testing. We will be spending February school break updating all of the computers and devices needed in the pilot testing and will install the secure browser necessary for testing. D'Agostino stated that in the packet are the minutes from the Building, Grounds and transportation meeting. Also, included in the packet is the monthly newsletter from Café Services. She stated that they will be sponsoring a breakfast tomorrow at the middle school and providing them with a barbeque lunch for Friday at their Winter Festival. She stated that Stephanie, Melinda and herself attended a school care workshop on health reform. She stated that there are still legislative changes and there are going to be a lot more reporting requirements and other ramifications if organizations do not offer health coverage to employees. She told the board to stay tuned. She stated that also included in the packet is the current budget

snapshot of where we are at this point. She stated that she has been meeting with administration this week looking at what is encumbered because all encumbrances will be released if they are not already ordered. She stated that they just received the audit report and they will be presenting the audit on March 18th at the City Council meeting.

5.2 BOARD REPORTS:

Building, Grounds & Transportation: Rivers stated that they have been active the last two weeks, they have had four meetings. He stated that two of them have been related to the bid proposals on the HVAC responses. He stated that they will bring a presentation to the next meeting on this because they are not prepared tonight. He stated that they have been meeting with administrators related to the CIP program. He stated that it has been an eye opener because it is more than just bringing the equipment in you has to find out the interconnectivity things because they all have to fit. He stated that it is not as simple as it looks. He stated that there is a meeting on security tomorrow. He stated that it is all coming together. He stated that they are looking at an August time frame to pull it all together and present. He stated that he would like to commend the folks for the snow removal and thank them for their efforts, they did a great job.

Curriculum and Activities: None

Policy Committee: None

5.3 City Council Update: None

5.4 Student Representative Report: Keely Fitzgerald: Fitzgerald stated that NHS continues tutoring at Idlehurst. She stated that they are organizing a blood drive. She stated that youth to youth is doing smile zone poster campaign to get people to be happy with who they are. She stated that student council had their winter semi-formal on Saturday. She stated that the music department's talent show is coming up.

5.5 2013-2014 Somersworth School Board Schedule: Austin stated that they tried to accommodate as many meetings they could at city hall. He stated that they need to check in November because it may be Election Day and we may have to change it. He stated that it will be on the next agenda for a vote. Gibson stated that there is almost two months between meetings in the summer and that seems like a really long time to not have one. He stated that it is easier to cancel a meeting than to schedule one. Supt. Mosca stated that they could add one on July 16th. Austin stated that they will add it to the schedule.

5.6 2013-2014 Somersworth School Board Budget Workshop Schedule: Supt. Mosca stated that we usually start in November but we have shifted the dates back because there is an issue of getting the CPI index number that won't come out until the end of December and we won't get until January. She stated that we tried to shift it to create more meetings in January. Austin stated that this will be an action item on the next agenda.

6. ACTION ITEM:

6.1 Budget: Austin stated that if there is no objection from the board they will take action tonight on the budget. A motion made by Gibson seconded by Hanlon to present the budget to the City Manager as presented with a bottom line of \$25,482,238. VOTE: Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Austin stated that he wanted to thank everyone but it is not over yet. Gibson asked if the city has announced a schedule for presentation yet. Austin stated that he has not heard anything formal. Supt. Mosca stated that she was originally told April 22nd for the public hearing but they are still working on the schedule.

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Vision 20/20 Committee: Paradis stated that they were supposed to have a meeting next Monday but it was postponed.

8.2 Cable Committee: Gibson stated that a tentative agreement was presented to the city council

this evening at their meeting so we will see what happens.

8.3 Budget: None

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- February 21st, 2013- Rollinsford School Board Meeting
- March 5th, 2013- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- March 11th, 2013- SAU Board Meeting
- March 12th, 2013- Rollinsford Town Voting
- March 19th, 2013- Somersworth School Board Meeting
- March 21st, 2013- Rollinsford School Board Meeting

Austin stated that March 4th is the State of the City and is a joint meeting with the city council and the board so he would request that all board members be there. Rivers stated that he would like to see a presentation on what is a true middle school. Supt. Mosca stated that she will have Dana give a presentation. Gibson stated that he had also requested to do something with the nurses. Supt. Mosca stated that they are coming on April 16th. Gibson stated that he would like to get the statistics on how hard we were hit this year. Supt. Mosca stated that we were hit earlier than everyone else for four or five days three weeks before Christmas. She stated that it started at Idlehurst and then carried through the other schools after vacation. She stated that overall the flu was tough throughout a lot of the communities.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: None

10.2 Board Members: None

11. NON-PUBLIC: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Riotto seconded by Hanlon to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval