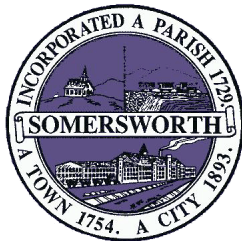


Working together is success.
— Henry Ford



JOINT GOAL SETTING SESSION



City of Somersworth
Joint Goal Setting Session
of the City Council and School Board

November 7, 2018



Promoting Excellence in the Public Sector

Purpose and Intent of the Session

The City of Somersworth and School Department invited Primex³ to facilitate a Joint Goal setting session between the Mayor, City Council, and the School Board. The objective was to come to a consensus on 2-3 Goals that both the City Council and School Board will collaborate together on in 2019. This will start with the Council Recreation Committee and School Board Building and Grounds Committee formulating a plan to move forward.

Who is Primex³

Founded in 1979, the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex³) is a public entity risk pool organized and operating as a trust on behalf of member municipalities, schools, counties and other governmental entities. Primex³ is your premier risk management partner by delivering superior coverage programs, trainings and services that create extraordinary value for our members.

Attendees

Members of the City Council and School Board met on Wednesday, November 7 from 5:00 -8:00 pm. Rick Alpers complimented the group for coming together in a joint venture to establish goals as a united team to move the community forward.

Dana Hilliard, Mayor

Marty Pepin, Ward 1 City Councilor

Kenneth Vincent, Ward 2 City Councilor

Marty Dumont Sr., Ward 3 City Councilor

Jonathan McCallion, Ward 4 City Councilor

Richard Michaud, Ward 5 City Councilor

David Witham, At-Large City Councilor

Edward Levasseur, At-Large City Councilor

Dale Sprague, At-Large City Councilor - Absent

Nancie Cameron, At-Large City Councilor

Bob Belmore, City Manager

Scott Smith, Deputy City Manager/Director of Finance and Administration

Robert Gadomski, Superintendent of Schools

Lori Lane, Asst. Superintendent of Schools

Don Austin, At-Large School Board, Chair

Kelly Brennan, At-Large School Board, Chair - Absent

Mark Richardson, At-Large School Board, Chair

Gerri Cannon, At-Large School Board, Chair
Maggie Larson, Ward 1 School Board - Absent
Matthew Hanlon, Ward 2 School Board
Kyla Yoder, Ward 4 School Board - Absent
Thomas McCallion, Ward 5 School Board - Absent
Katie Krauss, SAU/School Business Administrator
Pamela MacDonald, Special Education Director
John Doyle, Foster's Daily Reporter

The session was facilitated by:

Rick Alpers, Risk Management Consultant, Primex³
Shelley Walts, Member Services Consultant, Primex³

Setting the Stage

The session began with Rick asking a series of questions to the group.

Question 1: *What is the most exciting trend happening on the City Side?*

- Belief in self: sense of identity
- High Energy within elected officials, staff, and the community
- Infrastructure improvements
- Collaborative approach between the City Council and School Board
- Multiple projects moving forward
- Model Government
- Generous Community
- Trust
- Ability to learn from mistakes
- Re-investment into City services
- Positive Vision
- "Be Somersworth" not some other community

Question 2: *What is the most exciting trend happening on the School side?*

- Trust
- Collaboration of Boards
- 21st Century successful government
- Restructure of Elementary School
- Possible Maplewood renovation
- Collaboration with City going well
- New Principal - Leadership
- Curriculum alignment
- Gaining full autonomy over its Schools
- Restructure of communication within School
- Generous Community for student fund raising

Question 3: *What needs attention on the City Side?*

- Perception from region
- Marketing - Brand
- Government being user friendly
- Perception of "affordable community"
- Increased recreational opportunities
- Population retention
- Employee retention
- Attitudes are positive
- No personal agenda
- "Move Somersworth Forward"

Question 4: *What needs attention on the School side?*

- Common Goal - How to make Somersworth better – no agendas
- Perception – unsafe/negative school image
- Rumor of loss of accreditation
- Lack of understanding what positive programs are at the schools
- Struggle between education and funding
- State of NH funding of education
- Recreational facility upgrades

- How do we deliver education in the 21st Century
- Long-term planning from School Board

Question 5: *What are some thoughts for tonight's session? What do you want to get out of this session?*

- Further strengthen relationships between City and School Staff and elected officials
- Two or three achievable goals
- Advancing the Joint Commission
- Teams understand each other

Setting Goals

Each participant was asked to provide 1-2 Goals that could be achieved in 2019. Below is a list created by the group:

- SAU withdrawal
- Memorial Field upgrades: Restrooms + concessions
- Shared plan for Recreational development- Joint Recreation Dept and Facilities management – share costs
- Develop a "Who We Are" brochure
- Periodic Community meeting forums with City and School
- Complete phase 1 of Mapewood School - success
- Move forward with Fire station discussion: Design/Location
- Funding strategy of CIP
- Identify volunteer possibilities with City and School – internal talent
- Determine the "real" cost of education
- Illustrate to the State the cost of providing education to students in Somersworth
- School Board/City Council plan for a revenue stream
- CTC to launch internship with City and businesses
- Marketing City/School through Master Plan Goals - Vision 20/20
- Joint Master Plan on where education is going
- Perception improvement plan: Celebrate successes, Marketing, Hire Marketing firm
- Combine calendars for entire Community

Participants were then asked to identify 1 or 2 goals from the list that would move forward under the oversight of the Joint Commission.

Goals*

Goal 1: Council Recreation Committee and School Building and Grounds Committee

- ✓ Begin discussions of shared recreational opportunities between City and Schools
- ✓ Restrooms and Concessions
- ✓ Fields and Facilities

This will start with the Council Recreation Committee and School Building and Grounds Committee formulating a plan to move forward.

Goal 2: SAU Withdrawal

- ✓ Process is regulated by the State of NH

Currently on the City Council agenda for approval to move forward with process

** Both Goals are to remain as standing items on the Joint Commission Agenda until completed*

Ongoing Goal: Continue to jointly define the necessary funding needs in providing quality educational services for our students and effective city services to our community; and to share this information with our State Legislative Delegation and the Public.

Concluding Thoughts

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important process. Primex³ appreciates the opportunity to provide assistance to members with goal setting, and to help governing bodies develop paths to achieve their visions. A forward-looking community that is deliberate, disciplined, and strategic in developing and accomplishing its goals illustrates how *"good management is good risk management."*

Center for
Public Sector
.....
A d v a n c e m e n t



Bow Brook PLace
46 Donovan Street
Concord, NH 03301

603-225-2841
800-698-2364

www.nhprimex.org

Trust. Excellence. Service.