

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

November 24, 2020

Black Box Theater

7:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Hanlon called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Upon call of the roll, the following members were present: Hanlon, Potter, McCallion, Cannon, Donohue, Levasseur, Larson, O'Brien, Marsh
2. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Steve Hodsdon, AD stated that he wanted to give an update on Fall sports as winter sports is on the agenda. He thanked the board for passing fall sports, it allowed over 100 athletes and another 30 band members an opportunity to participate in extra curricular. He stated it had a direct impact on their mental and emotional health. He stated they discussed the lack of activities and having these activities for these student athletes brightened a lot of these kids years so far. He stated 83% of the DIII games scheduled were played from the NHIAA standpoint. He stated a lot of the games that were cancelled were due to the precautionary measures such as contract tracing. He stated it showed that all the schools, AD's, coaches will air on the side of caution. He stated most schools in the area have passed winter sports including our cohort. He stated we have cohorts for basketball and hockey, he stated he is waiting on Dover. He stated we have the protocols in place and had a successful fall and don't see a change for that going into winter. He stated there is a new AAU basketball program that normally runs in the spring that is running in the winter to pilfer some of the kids in the event some boards don't pass sports. He stated that's a big deal here because they could be going to play other places with no protocols in other states and could end up back in in the building. He thanked the board. Nick Watson stated he was stepping out of comfort zone to be here tonight. He stated he was here for a couple reasons, mainly to support all the strong women that have been here advocating for the families in the community and also to be the voice for my family. He stated it is frustrating to watch some of these meetings for a number of reasons. He stated he does not feel like they get answers to the questions being asked. He stated Maggie Larson asked a great question at the last meeting, probably one of my favorite questions and I will summarize: what more can we do for the children? What can we do for their mental health? He stated she received a rude and disrespectful response. He stated that he'd like to say that everyone deserves respect, the coach has been advocating for months and has not received a response like that. He asked that everyone be respectful. He stated from the outside looking in it does not look good and as a man he felt uncomfortable watching it and sitting there and not being able to say anything. He stated we just touched on the mental health, not all kids play sports. He stated his children are at home, just like everyone else and sports is not the only outlet. He stated we need to think about what more we can do for them. He stated this is a stressful environment for us all, the kids and parents. He stated he works full time remotely and manages 10+ people, his wife is pregnant taking care of a one year old. He stated he has a 5th grader that is doing great and adjusting well. She stills asks questions now and then but has it down for the most part. He stated he has a 2nd grader with an IEP and most of their time is trying to keep her focused, on task and mentally ready for the day. He stated the teachers may not see it but the parents are carrying a lot of that load and we are the reason that remote learning is successful. He stated kids need something, not all about sports. He stated he is here as a parent and looking for actions and respect for us all. He thanked the board. Carolyn Caffelle stated remote learning has been a struggle for her family. My husband and I are juggling two businesses while also overseeing remote learning. She stated her work is pretty consistently disrupted for questions, academic help, snacks. She stated it's challenging but they knew when we were raising kids we would face challenges we couldn't dream of. She stated the saving grace is that both of her kids have been places with extraordinary teachers. She stated it has not been blissful for them. She stated her son has lost sparkle, there is no way to express watching your child's enthusiasm die, the only word I can muster is hopeless. She stated she had committed to idea that he had fallen out of love with school but then you guys brought back the 6th graders and with that we got some of that sparkle back. She stated they saw the smile that they had not seen in eight months. She stated it

made a world of difference for her son and entire family. She stated her daughter is emotionally adjusted but is slipping a little bit academically. She stated they have talked about learning styles and she can tell you she is not a remote learner. She stated she wanted to talk about the board, you represent the children, parents and teacher but also the entire city. A city that is kind, hardworking, compassionate. She stated board members should respect each other and listen with the intent to hear. She stated she has been watching the meetings or attended. She stated she knows where this meeting is going tonight when you discuss closing the building down for in person learning, please know that you are severing lifelines for not only me and my son but for the kids that come to school for education, warmth, safety and food. She stated last Thursday the Governor put mask mandate in effect he herald schools as the beacon of covid management. He said the interschool transmission of covid is virtually zero, which means we don't have outbreaks, we have very little transmission between cohorts or clusters and that is a testament to mask wearing. It's working and students are following the rules. They are making sacrifices and there are challenges but it's working and proven to be successful. She stated she believes that the access to in person learning is working and worth sacrifices and challenges. She stated she can't stand there and pretend she knows the complexities with reopening but has faith that admin and teachers are creative and smart enough to make it work. She thanked the board. Supt. Gadomski read email from Roxann Drouin (Deschenes), Long standing Somersworth resident and alumni. The letter read: Dear School Board Members, As a concerned parent of a Somersworth High School senior, I am writing to you with my full support of continuing Winter Sports with whatever safety protocol is needed. I do not come to you with numbers, statistics or health expertise, as I'm sure you have been inundated with that. I simply come to you with the psychological well being of our children that are nearing adulthood. My son is a senior this year and has played hockey since he was 5. High school hockey has always been his dream and he is finally a captain of his Bearcat hockey team. Missing school, friends and day to day activities can be tolling. A protected outlet such as sports is a perfect way to keep spirits up and ensure the health of our kids. I will personally drive my child to every game and practice if it's needed, ensure masks and bubbles are provided. I am the Treasurer of the Hockey board and the board has funds to help with all safety protocol. We have purchased masks for all players and thermometers for the coaches. I have seen extreme measures in the hockey program this fall with quarantines and masks and social distancing and parent only watching.....it's working! I truly believe that allowing the sport to continue will keep the control in the school's hands to ensure rules and safety are followed. I also believe that a hockey program outside of school could happen if the school votes no, which may take the control away. My son continues to respect and follow the rules at work, when he plays hockey and when he gets into class. He will do the same for winter sports. I plead that you not only consider the physical health but the psychological health of our kids and find a way to compromise and let them play.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

3.1 Removal of items from the Consent Calendar: None

3.2 Approval of Consent Calendar: A motion made by Cannon seconded by McCallion to approve the consent calendar. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Approved were:

- Summary of the Somersworth School Board Policy Committee meeting November 9, 2020
- Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting November 10, 2020
- Summary of the Somersworth School Board Building, Grounds & Transportation Committee meeting November 10, 2020
- Summary of the Somersworth Educational programs and Community Outreach Committee, November 16, 2020

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4.1 Superintendents Update: Supt. Gadomski stated most of what he wants to talk about is on your agenda tonight. He stated the union as well as board reps have met and discussed the MOA in place. He stated it was a very nice discussion and a healthy discussion. The union sent out a survey to its members that I will touch on briefly. He stated it was very informative to assist with difficult times we

are going through. He stated that the feedback on the MOA is that it's going well with a few small issues that were addressed. He stated there was an issue with not enough masks and they took care of that. He stated they checked on the filtration systems at the MS and some of the cleaning protocols. He stated the importance of revisiting the MOA as we get ready to move to Phase 3 as there will be additional challenges at that point. He stated the importance of giving notice if moving to Phase 3 or 4. He stated we are planning for Phase 3 but he knows there will need to be notice given. Also discussed the possibility of no notice if need to move backwards, can virtually happen overnight. He stated he looked over the survey briefly and he could summarize it briefly as there was a wealth of knowledge in there. He stated the staff felt mostly supported and mostly safe. He stated mostly because there was a wide variety of where everyone is at due to family and health situations and anxiety with increased numbers, students coming into building, safety protocols. He stated it was nice to see and hear that the majority of the staff felt they were being supported and felt mostly safe. He stated there was more anxiety as more students were added to the building that it taxes the safety protocols. He stated they also expressed anxiety around Thanksgiving due to travel and large gatherings. He stated they expressed a lot of concern over the winter break due to longer amount of time for people to travel and get together. He stated they wanted to express this is a lot of work, and he would agree. Teaching remotely, teaching some kids in person is a lot more work of preparation and challenges our staff but they wanted us to know they are taking the challenge on and working very hard. He stated that everybody wants the kids to return but safely. He stated they were concerned about the increased community spread in Somersworth and throughout the state and that MOA would need to be adjusted as we go into Phase 3 or 4 due to challenges. He stated most of the other things he would like to talk about are on the agenda for tonight.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5.1 Standing Committees:

- Budget & Revenue – Has not met since last meeting
- Buildings, Grounds & Transportation – Will meet after the holiday
- Educational Programs and Community Outreach – Larson stated they met last week. She said they discussed what questions they should be asking and who they should be asking. She stated they discussed a survey but want to understand what we need as a board, who do we need that from and in what forms. She stated it's no easy task and would like to discuss as a board. Hanlon stated they don't usually discuss during these but would like to let others provide feedback. O'Brien asked what the thought was about what we should ask, theme around information the board would want to have. Larson stated we want to know what to ask, asking how are you doing is very broad. Larson stated they could ask how are you doing socially, emotionally, mentally and scale of concern. She stated as things go along we need to cultivate that information. She stated the survey done in the summer was helpful and a lot of information to go through. They wasn't to scale that down and need to hear info to make decisions and this would be for us going forward. Hanlon stated Lori is guiding them through this, would it be helpful for her to step up and ask some questions. Lane stated when we had conversation as a board we talked about doing another survey to gather information. She said they talked about what information are you trying to gather and for what purpose and to make sure you are not giving the public misinformation. She stated they don't want to make questions misleading. She said is this a survey with the finger on the pulse of where folks are at. You have heard comments tonight about concerns and struggles and is that the kind of information you are looking to have because you are getting that. She stated they talked about trying to get more information from the schools. You get a lot of information from your administrative team, they provide you information, do you need to have more than that. She stated maybe you want to have additional information about the challenges of moving between different phases, staffing, symptom management. She stated maybe you want information about what is actually

happening in remote learning. There was some thought about hearing from teachers, best practices because as you know everyone has different expectations about remote learning. She stated maybe it will become more clear as you go through tonight because you want it to come back to you and assist you with info gathering and decisions. Larson stated if there is any thoughts on this to let us know as this is the forum or attend our next meeting. O'Brien stated to get that gage for the students in the building and kids still remote would be good. We head results from the union survey, it was really insightful. He stated there were areas for improvement and we want to bend over backwards to make sure we are doing everything possible to support them. We want to make sure we are applying the same thing to our students. He stated he would like to hear families perspective on how we're doing. We got staff perspective now it's time to get the students perspective as well. He suggested being able to track by email for reliability of the data. Marsh stated he agreed with John, makes sense to survey to get pulse of how we are doing. He stated he thinks they will appreciate it and that we do need to be careful we word it, how the questions are asked and what type of questions are asked and what type of questions. He stated he would ask for questions regarding mental health and where families are at with that. That will help him with his decisions. Larson stated she would let the board know when the next meeting in. Hanlon asked that the board email Maggie and Lori as questions come up.

- Legislative Advocacy – Has not met since last meeting
- Policy Committee – Has not met since last meeting
- Joint Commission of City Council – Next meeting December 2, 2020
- Joint Building Committee (JBC) for City Bonded School Projects – Will meet after the holiday

5.2 City Council Update: Pepin stated there is no update.

5.3 Re-opening Update: Supt. Gadomski stated in the packet there is a number of pieces of information. He stated in the packet you would see the community spread numbers in Somersworth and surrounding districts. He stated it's still substantial and rising in this area. He stated Somersworth was hovering around 12 cases, at 30 as of today. He stated you have some brief updates from each of the schools. He stated the challenges are monitoring covid itself as well as the symptoms. If we have a student that tests positive (small groups/grade levels coming into building), we are isolating rapidly. He stated they are monitoring symptoms from staff, positives cases from family members, relatives that immediate cause us to quarantine staff and students which is an ongoing challenge. He stated not much has changed from the re-opening timeline since last meeting. He stated 6th grades have been coming in since Nov. 17th, and due to community spread we are putting out a lot of information and asking families to limit travel and gathering over the Thanksgiving break. He stated they are having administrative meetings by zoom so we can isolate individuals vs. the whole team. He stated that due to challenges they have stopped bringing additional students in as it's simply too challenging and readjust due to travel/quarantine. He stated on your agenda you have Jan 4-14 as an agenda item, he would like to extend to from Thanksgiving break (now) through Jan. 14 due to challenges of community spread, symptoms, travel and gatherings over break. He stated his recommendation is to go to full remote for students as of now through Jan. 14th. He stated they could use that time to reassess what the community spread is and better plan. Marsh asked if all students included all students currently participating in in-person classes. Supt. Gadomski stated all students to avoid confusion and then administration would reassess. He stated the challenge will be if we don't go in this direction he will get a call at 5am that a staff member as exposed or a situation we will need to quarantine. He stated we have had a small number of students/staff that have been effected by positive cases and we have had many more where we have had to quarantine. He stated we have had situations where staff members have a student in another district and have had to quarantine for 14 days. He stated that fortunately because of the model we are in we have not had an outbreak. O'Brien stated that looking at reports through all the schools, he wanted to talk about the staffing issues. Even with small

numbers, there are impacts. Idlehurst and Maplewood, concern but working, there was a 3rd grade class that we needed to pull back but well managed. MS, one issue a while back, no staffing issues noted, concern around lack of subs, HS nothing there about staffing issues. O'Brien stated should take credit, they reacted well. He stated this is the reality we are in, there are things that will need to be mitigated and he does not see that changing until middle/late or next school year. He stated that the trade off for him comes down to the administration staff vs. impacting students instead. He stated we should try our best to manage the situations and prioritize the kids at this point. Supt. Gadomski stated that we have about 50 staff members working remotely due to childcare situations or that have serious health issues personally or within the family. He stated that in itself is a challenge and if we continue to add students in the building he will not have enough staff to adequately cover. He stated another challenging piece is that when they pulled 6th grade students in a large number of students said they were coming in and then decided to keep them outside the building. He stated if he had a full staff in the building and he had to react to situations he could do it. He stated with it's cumbersome, nearly impossible to do with the number of students in the building now. Hanlon stated he was trying to read faces and was not sure if it was appropriate or not but wanted to know if Chris (Tebo, HS principal) had anything to add. Potter asked to make sense to suspend rules and go to action item 8.1. Hanlon stated they will get there quick enough. Larson asked Supt. Gadomski what his concern was on the other side of this for these students. What do you see as a negative for students after this much time out of school. Supt. Gadomski stated he has a lot of concerns. He stated the social, emotional and educational gaps that we're going to see. He stated from March-Oct we put a great deal of funding, professional development time and money into a more robust model. He stated that same type of effort will need to happen from this March till October to help fill and assess gaps and see where the curriculum starts. Larson asked if it weighed heavy that students that need the assistance will now be out potentially November, December and into January. Supt. Gadomski stated the administration has had lots of meetings to identify the kids that are struggling and need assistance. They have been trying to come up with what can be put in place. He stated he has talked to superintendents throughout the state, supt with students in, fully remote, hybrid and they say it's not working. He stated they said it's disruptive, safety concerns and gaps outside of the building. He stated they talk about the disruption of in than out. Hanlon stated there is no right or wrong with this. He stated they have talked about what they are doing and can they do it differently. There are things I get and don't get. He stated CTC and kindergarteners, can't imagine how they could do that not in the building. He mentioned the 6th grade being in but little under half are out and not getting the same learning remote. He stated that's not good. He stated if you look at the 3rd grade they have 5 kids in the building and the rest are remote getting the same education, what's the benefit/difference. He stated can we target other kids that need it more, extra curriculars, ways to help with social/emotional. He stated maybe we talk about that but you're right nothing (remote, hybrid, in-person) is working and staffing makes it worse. McCallion stated that if we lose staff members, if we lose staff members we don't have remote at all. He stated we don't want to get to that extreme. O'Brien stated he wanted to clarify, he was not advocating bringing more students in but to get through the holidays. He stated the way he is looking at this, there is no great way to do this. So to him, we should be prioritizing students, that CTC, kindergarten, students with an IEP not receiving a good education from now until middle of January is not ok and that he cannot in good conscience support that. He stated we're making good progress, it's working and cannot see reason to pull back. He stated it's a risk we should be willing to take for their education.

5.4 Re-opening tentative timeline: (see above)

5.5 Re-opening next steps: (see above)

6. New Business: None

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Supplemental Public School Response Funds: Supt. Gadomski stated in the boards packets is a

overview of what we're proposing to spend money on. He stated we looked into many options, including academic, items requested by staff members. He stated many of the things on there are things we double checked and are things we can get in place. He reminded everyone that the expenses need to be Covid related, done, spent and operational by the end of December 2020. He stated an update on additional funds for technology, cumbersome at best to get in place. He stated Lori has been working with Back bat and secured 65 laptops that will be operational by end of December. That was an original piece that was accounted for in CARES funding. He stated Katie and Lori are looking into additional funds through the Supplemental Public Schools Response Fund #2. He stated they have applied for \$60k for the laptops and gym floor coverings as we anticipate using our gyms for classrooms. He stated the MS gym is already being used and would allow for use in HS. He stated he is hopeful that will go through as well. Krauss clarified that the 10 million Supplemental Public Schools Response Fund #2 is across the state. She stated it will be competitive and you need to apply for the funds. She stated her and Lori were notified last Friday about opportunity and applications are due by 12/1 and that they should have application in by 11/26. She stated the state will determine the needs and they hope to hear by 12/7. Supt. Gadomski stated he was hopeful the funds will be approved and those are the items they will move forward with.

8. ACTION ITEM:

8.1 Jan 4-14 Remote Learning: Hanlon stated and confirmed the recommendation has been updated to be fully remote for students from Nov. 30th 2020 through January 14th 2021. Donohue asked if he could ask clarifying question and was given permission. He asked if the staff capacity is normal, strained or critical. Supt. Gadomski stated it was strained. Hanlon asked for a motion. Donohue made a motion to accept remote learning from Nov. 30th – Jan. 14th. McCallion seconded the motion. Potter stated he was against this motion for a few reasons. He stated back in the summer they had so little data to go by, nothing is perfect and never mitigate down to zero. He stated that the process is working, even from CTC perspective the ability to be in far outweighs the ability being out. He stated that although we aren't ready to go all-in we need the help from our parents, teachers and admin to determine the golden pocket of students to get into all our schools at all levels. He stated his concern is we are going to run into other things like February vacation and if he fears if we don't find a way to handle we will be in full remote for a very long time. Cannon stated she cannot vote for this motion as the community wants the kids in school. She stated that we have to push back to the community to protect our kids. She stated the responsibility, to bring the kids back in after Thanksgiving, is back on the community supporting the kids so they can come back. She stated it's hard for us to do but we need to put some trust in the community to do the right thing and avoid ground zero. Marsh stated there is no ideal solution and at last meeting he mentioned monitored measured forward. He stated he would support a monitored measure forward of where we are at, earlier he spoke about his concerns about the most vulnerable. He stated all or most of the students are vulnerable but need to prioritize to keep them in school and he would be comfortable with. He stated the motion does not indicate that. Hanlon asked Supt. Gadomski to clarify recommendation. Supt. Gadomski stated the motion is full remote of all students until Jan. 14th. Marsh asked to be reassured that after the Thanksgiving break, those most vulnerable would have services. Potter asked to clarify the motion as full remote, no one in the school until after Jan. 14th. Supt. Gadomski stated the motion is full remote of all students until Jan. 14th with the caveat that we will work to bring students back in as we can based on staff available. Potter asked to rephrase that is the motion to go back to Phase 1, full remote or Phase 2 is bringing students back in. Supt. Gadomski stated this would be Phase 1. Marsh stated we didn't start in that phase, we started in Phase 2. Levasseur stated when we discussed this at the beginning of the year we wanted to give as much consistency as needed for the children and to continue with that mindset would be to not approve this motion as he thinks it will set us back. He stated it's needed to cause increasing students in the building at this time as he saw maybe 5 districts close schools in the last week. He stated he does not support this motion as it stands to go back to full remote. Hanlon stated he supports motion, this is

where are surrounding districts are. He stated he knows this is not something that Supt. takes lightly and wants to be doing. He stated that for him to be recommending it is because it's out of necessity based on talking with admin and staff. He stated he is not making these decisions based on what everyone else is doing, not necessary because of spread in school but because he's worried about staff. He stated as much as it's hard to plan to have kids at home, it's even harder to plan on a random Tuesday or Wednesday morning, and that's the fear and based on where we are going that's where we're headed. Larson stated she has been looking into this a little more and looking into science and math and shared info from CHAD: "Our recommendation is based on our assessment that the "the considerable detriment to the long-term education and mental health of an entire generation," due to school closure (noted in a JAMA Pediatrics editorial on September 25th) outweigh the low rates of infection in children, the generally mild severity of illness when they are infected, and the lower likelihood of transmission from children than adults. Indeed, based on experience so far, schools may be among the safest settings for children and adult staff. Schools remain essential. We must prioritize them by continuing to adopt state and CDC guidance on proven methods for decreasing community transmission (masks, distancing, handwashing) along with adhering to state requirements on gatherings and travel." She stated she agreed with that and would like to use rubric from Dept. Health and Human services and would like us to adopt this rubric. She stated she is afraid we are going to lose parts of students/families that may not be able to recover well. While we are not able to go into fulltime, to take away that little part/hopelessness. She stated what are they going to do if no option to come back and concerned about disengagement. Marsh stated he is more comfortable with the original January dates, he respects where Supt. is coming from but it uncomfortable taking them out that long and appreciates Steve cutting to the chase and now hearing Phase 1 vs. Phase 2 and that will effect his decision. Cannon stated she is in the same boat as Todd, ok with Jan dates but not from November. Hanlon stated they would need a motion for this one to be withdrawn and they would need another motion. Supt. Gadomski stated they could let this motion run it's course and then make another motion. Hanlon stated the current motion is to go fully remote from Nov.30th through Jan. 14th. Roll call on the motion:

Hanlon – Yes

Potter – No

McCallion – Yes

Cannon – No

Donohue – Yes

Levasseur – No

Larson – No

O'Brien – No

Marsh – No

Motion Fails.

Hanlon asked for another motion. Cannon asked that we support original dates of Jan.4th – Jan.14th fully remote. Levasseur seconded it. Marsh asked if the intent was to go to Phase 1 during those two weeks. He asked to clarify that that means no small groups and was told it does not. He stated that the Supt. intent was, to the best of the schools ability to bring in most vulnerable and could support that. Supt. Gadomski stated that they did not need to make a motion if they want to stay in Phase 2. He stated that the board charged him with looking at the numbers and bring forth the best recommendation based on staff/admin team and hearing the parents and seeing the students needs. He stated he is going to continue to bring forward recommendations that are in the best interest of the school that includes all of the services to all of our students. He stated he respects all opinions and that staff is working extremely hard and that remote learning is working. He stated we all know that full open is where staff and students need to be. He stated that the staff will work extremely hard, best of their ability to pull this off no matter where this motion ends. He stated they will adjust as needed and move

forward. O'Brien stated we are doing this preemptively based on numbers increasing and more impacts to staff or students and Gerri said it really well, it's going to take the community. He stated next meeting is 12/8, based on the MOA recommendation of two weeks notice, this would still allow us to be able to plan and have the ability to pull back at a moments notice if staffing becomes a concern or if need to pull back at building or class level. He stated he would not be in support of this motion and would like to wait till next meeting. Hanlon stated he supports the motion and should have gone with last motion as numbers are twice as bad each time we meet. He stated the next time we meet will probably be twice as bad and to wait for staffing issues, that would be bad. He stated hopefully it would be for non-covid issues. He stated this recommendation is based on the admin team, Supt. and staff and we can't ignore that. He stated it would be hard to tell families, at a moments notice, that your kids are coming home and we need to pull back. He stated he does not know how great that is for a solution and PS, your teacher had it and you might want to get tested. He stated there are too many reasons for us to support this motion between numbers, admin and everything I don't know why we're ignoring it and I will support it. O'Brien stated he wanted to clarify that he is not ignoring it. He stated he has the upmost respect for all admin and staff working hard under these circumstances, just like first responders and people working in restaurants and just like everyone working during the pandemic and not taking this lightly. He stated nothing is being ignored but about trade offs and that he ran for this board to advocate for children and he values it all and that he is not ignoring any of it. Marsh stated he wanted to clarify his reservation is going back to Phase 1 and thinks it's important that there is flexibility to work within Phase 2. He stated he would understand if we need to measure back, which could include bringing some back to remote and focusing on those that are most at need. He stated that knowing that, he feels more comfortable in Phase 2. Hanlon stated motion is to go fully remote for students Jan. 4th -Jan 14th. Roll call on the motion:

Hanlon – Yes

Potter – No

McCallion – Yes

Cannon – Yes

Donohue - Yes

Levasseur – Yes

Larson – No

O'Brien – No

Marsh – No

Motion Passed.

- 8.2 Winter Athletics guidelines:** Potter made motion to accept winter sports with winter guidelines as presented by AD and NHIAA. Larson seconded the motion. Potter stated that the work AD, Steve Hodsdon did during the difficult time of fall sports, working with other AD's to limit risk is why it was successful and he would approve winter sports. Marsh stated he agreed, the protocols are tight and reasonable and that risk is not lost on him and we can pull back if needed. He stated he wants to give the students a chance for many reasons, including those associated with mental health. Cannon stated she is challenged with this, part of it is the spectators that come in and potential to pass virus onto others. She stated it's also, what is the message we are sending to our community as the governor just said not to meet in groups of more. She asked if they need to follow the same rules that the governor put down. She stated that we are seeing false sense of immortality in our community and don't really think that it's real. She stated that the CDC has also told us that small groups gathering are a concern. She stated she is ok with intermural sports within our community and she will not support this. Donohue stated he supports what Gerri stated and being asked tonight to go to remote learning for a month plus he doesn't see how he can support this. Potter stated he wanted to expand on something Cannon stated because of his longevity with being a hockey parent. He stated he wants to be transparent as he is also a member of the hockey board. He stated it's while we can't mandate the

morality outside these situations. He stated hockey will be following same guidelines as football with bubble shields in addition to masks. He stated they will be using two rinks with seacoast cohorts and not using private rinks and using the utmost safety precautions as Roxanne mentioned in her letter. Supt. Gadomski stated he is going to be consistent with recommendation. He stated we can't get kids on a bus, using bathrooms at the same time. He stated he cannot, in good conscience support at this point with no social distancing. Larson asked if we have had any students that have contracted covid. Supt. Gadomski stated he not aware of any students that have contracted covid on the field or classroom. Larson stated that she is not aware of any other institution that has received the supplies and funds (CARES act), we don't have these in our homes, stores then it does seem like the logic says if we can't have kids in school how can we have sports. She went on to state that she does not feel like we are doing enough, offering enough, advocating enough for the students in our community. She stated this is the opportunity to offer something and would be behind offering other things as well. Levasseur made a motion to suspend rules so they could ask the AD questions. Potter seconded it, All approved. Levasseur asked Steve to speak to some of the precautions some of the other sports are taking. Hodson stated precautions in the fall were very successful and winter will be based on that. He stated they would temp checked, screening questions, not allowed to practice if have any symptoms and not allowed to come back until they have covid test. He stated they have mandated masks at all times, rest of the state and all schools (most) will be required to wear masks. Only stipulation is gymnastics where it's a safety issue, they will take off to compete and put right back on. He stated fans will be limited to two fans per student only. He stated if they would be willing to do no fans if needed. He stated it's about the kids. He stated that the governors guidelines athletics guidelines have not changed and the social gatherings do not pertain to athletics. He stated they have proven how serious we take this and volleyball proved this. He stated he was told by other officials, other teams that we had the strictest guidelines and those schools are now adopting our guidelines. He stated the AD's meet as a board and we were ahead of the curve. He stated he understands the numbers are going up, but sports will be played this winter in the NHIAA and he would love to provide this for the kids as they need it for social and emotional health. McCallion asked Steve to state his recommendation. Steve stated his recommendation is to move forward with winter sports. Practices start 12/14 and no games until Jan. 15th. He stated we are in seacoast cohorts, all seacoast teams wearing masks. He stated he and Supt. Gadomski worked very hard in the fall to know what was going on with all the other schools and we had games where we didn't know if we would play up until the day of the game because we did not want to take any chances. He stated they will always err on the side of caution. McCallion asked Steve to clarify his recommendation is Yes and Supt. Gadomski's is no. Steve stated he wanted to clarify that packet has guidelines for all the sports. Potter asked Steve is there was any concern with the relationship with Coe-Brown (hockey). Steve stated all teams, players and schools are 100% on board with guidelines. He stated that teams are to follow the school with the most strick guidelines to avoid issues that happened in the fall during playoffs. He stated he already had to tell a school no for games because they would not wear masks. Hanlon stated Potter has tried several times to educate him on hockey and differences with club, school and city/private facilities. He stated his concern with the outside things we can't control but effect the inside things. He stated he knows there have been problems with hockey in general for some reason and gatherings before and after games. He stated CDC and White House task force main issue is small gatherings and asymptomatic. He stated when combined with before and after games, full contact sports indoors it causes him some concern and he will be voting against this. Hanlon confirmed motion was to move forward with Winter sports with AD and NHIAA guidelines.

Roll call on the motion:

Hanlon – No

Potter – Yes

McCallion – No

Cannon – No
Donohue – No
Levasseur – Yes
Larson – Yes
O’Brien – Yes
Marsh – Yes
Motion passed.

9. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items: Hanlon suggested we put something on the agenda as they look at what doing with city hall and possibly going with remote meetings. If they do that we should look to add that to agenda and follow their lead.

- Dec. 7, 2020 SAU 56 Board meeting 6:30pm
- Dec. 8, 2020 Somersworth School Board meeting 7:00pm
- Dec. 8, 2020 Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee meeting 5:30pm
- Dec. 14, 2020 Somersworth School Board Policy Committee meeting 5:30pm
- Dec. 14, 2020 (snow date) 6:30pm SAU 56 Board meeting
- Jan. 12, 2021 Somersworth School Board meeting 7:00pm
- Jan. 12, 2021 Somersworth School Board Legislative Committee meeting 5:30pm
- Jan. 26, 2021 Somersworth School Board meeting 7:00pm
- Jan. 26, 2021 Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee meeting 5:30pm

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors: Matt Caffelle stated Gerri Cannon nailed it tonight with statement about trust. As my wife stated earlier tonight, we have watch every meeting and there was the most discussion tonight about the public and that shows us where we all stand and we all appreciate that. He stated he runs the ROSO soccer program and ran a successful program this fall. They were not allowed to use the school facilities and worked with the city to find another facility to use. He stated the program was a success and ran for 8 weeks with 90 kids. It was a success because the parents trusted us and we trusted the parents to follow protocols. He stated that he understands the work that goes into that, they had 46 kids participate in the travel program which consisted of 68 teams from 16 communities. He stated roughly 1,100 kids played soccer for 9 weeks. He stated people put their heart into it and go above and beyond, parents that want their kids in school are not going away for Thanksgiving. He stated it comes down to the board trusting them, we put you there (on the board) now is the time to trust us.

10.2 Board Members: Potter stated we are learning, ton of reading and thankful for the discussion. He stated/asked Maggie and her board what he would like to understand is from a teachers point of view, administrators point of view and also a parents point of view, get a better understanding the type of education works best. He stated they want everyone back in and that there is a vast difference in remote now vs. in March and he would like to know what are the pitfalls of a hybrid concept from the various minds. Marsh stated he agreed, great discussion and good reminder about how complicated some of these votes are and how diverse our community is. He thanks those watching and that attended the meeting. He congratulated the fall sport teams and the characteristic of the class of 2020 and our future is in good hands. He stated he attended the Veteran’s Day ceremony at the new Veteran’s park and as he listened he thought about students in the past, the oldest Hilltop students to newest Idlehurst students. He stated his son Kyle in in Air Force training, proud of him and all students. He wanted to take a moment to mention discourse on boards. He stated there are times when people walk a line when passions are high but normal. He stated in general they treat each other with respect. He thanked Maggie for her concerns about mental health and recognize challenge across the country and schools cannot be everything to all and these concerns were here before pandemic and he recognizes we need training, time and funding. He stated despite that the challenge still exists. He thanks support teams, teacher, admin, parents for all efforts during this school year. Donohue, O’Brien,

McCallion wished everyone happy, healthy Thanksgiving. Larson stated she was deeply grateful for this community and the incredible network of human beings in the district that care to the core. She stated we need to keep students in the forefront and primary decision making and why we are all here. She stated we can trust our community and students and she would like to hear more from students. Cannon stated that when board started discussing what we were going to do we were going to upset some. She stated the challenge was for them to have dialogue to come up with recommendations, some are good, some are bad, they are in a rock in a hard place. She stated she was grateful for the discussion tonight and that we have a good board, good dialogue and test the waters. She stated is prod of this community. Hanlon stated this year, these issues are the hardest, most devices, most complicated going on right now. He stated every time you create a solution you then create two more problems. He stated parking lot at Covid MD lines are long and people there are hanging out in line together with no masks and that creates trust issues. He stated staffing dictates what model will look like. He stated kids in vs. out are not getting same education. He stated if we have staff worried, stressed that creates issues. There are lots of pieces to this interlocking puzzle and it's tough on staff, admin and parents and will probably going to get worse. He stated he and Maggie have discussed choice to get kids in that's not education, to provide social and emotional support. He stated there are a bunch of things we can look at and thanked everyone for all the work they have put in. He stated someone is always going to get less than someone else and hopefully nobody gets sick. He made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34. Cannon made motion to adjourn meeting, Potter seconded it.

11. NON-PUBLIC: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Cannon seconded by Potter to adjourn. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Melanie Chase-Benoit

Pending Board Approval