

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. The following members were present: Ken Bolduc, Jessica Paradis, Marty Pepin, Supt. Mosca, Marie D'Agostino, Scott Smith, Don Austin, Mayor Dana Hilliard, Dana Rivers, Denis Messier, Karen Hiller, Joanne Pepin, Bob Gibson, John McCallion, Dave Witham, Matt Hanlon, and Bob Belmore.
2. **Discussion:** Mayor Hilliard stated that the purpose of the meeting is to have a joint meeting goal session which has evolved out of the collaboration of the two bodies. He stated that he is proud when talking to his colleagues that this community is a model for government efficiencies and how we should treat and act with each other and to find a common ground to establish goals. He handed out the goals of the city council. He stated that on page 7 under strategic option one C one of our goals is to work more collaboratively with the school board and system and to increase goal setting sessions with the school. He stated that we need to find a common ground, the school has established their goals, the city has established our goals and then we need to come together to show the cooperation between the two bodies and the goal is to establish one to two goals this evening. Austin stated that he appreciates the opportunity to get together. He stated that we spend a lot of time talking about money and it is nice to talk about something other than money. He stated that we are on one team and we are trying to use the same resources to maximize our return for the city as a whole. Bob Belmore stated that on page 6 of the goals under number 2 community centers, when we talked about a goal we recognized that we have five community centers located in the schools with the two elementary schools, middle school, high school and the CTC. He stated that the school recently transferred to Primex and now we both have the same provider. He stated that we have a building use form and we shipped it off to Primex so if you are comfortable to promote the availability of the facilities on the school side we will start touting them as a community center. Supt. Mosca stated that it is about using our resources that we have available and how to best use them. She stated that we have five buildings that have a variety of spaces and we want to accommodate the public. She stated that we are educating during the day but we want the community to feel the buildings belong to them as well. She stated that the board talked and they understand that concept and they embrace people using the facilities for the betterment of our community. Bob Belmore stated that if get your blessing we can promote through the website and word of mouth. Mayor Hilliard stated that when we started thinking about this each of the buildings has a gym, stage and now a performing arts center and after five they are generally empty. He stated that we have spaces to be used and we realized that we have five community centers and that the city didn't need to focus on building a community center because we have invested in the ones we have. Paradis stated that before as part of the using the buildings unless every single person was a Somersworth resident that was the only way to use the building for free. So if I had most people from Somersworth but I had someone from Dover come it would be \$250, is that still the case. Supt. Mosca stated that for the folks that have been using it we have been very generous. Mayor Hilliard stated that if you hold a support group meeting and it is a community based organization we are not going to charge. Supt. Mosca stated that the key

piece is the insurance piece that has to happen for liability. Messier asked if there was a page in here that gives the minimum requirements for that. Supt. Mosca stated on page 4 it states that it is liability insurance in the amount equal to a million which we upped from \$500,000. McCallion stated that this is a great idea and as he looks at this the only caution he sees is if everyone wants the gym at the same time, who gets it. Mayor Hilliard stated that the school's sports teams get them before outside services. Supt. Mosca stated that right now starting in November we have rec basketball and Kristen comes in during the spring to book for fall and winter so we already have that in place. We work closely with the sports teams on when they practice. Mayor Hilliard stated that we also have a collaborative effort with the private schools as well, when they had an emergency we try to accommodate them. McCallion asked who does the schedules. Supt. Mosca stated the athletic director and the SAU. Gibson asked if she wanted to talk about the scheduling software. Supt. Mosca stated that we use a program called School Dude. Gwen at the SAU office plugs in the information and can tell what the availability and we can print the schedule each week and she had the custodians come in and there is a designation person at each building who prints it off so they know what is happening. Marty Pepin asked what about if a group of five or six people wanted to use the gym to play basketball. Supt. Mosca stated that they need to have the liability insurance and that is what will help deter it being a walk in. Gibson stated that there are kids on the street and we could do functions to draw kids in and he would like to see some programs developed. Supt. Mosca stated that the high school has done some of that to open things up and as we get established you will see more of that use which will help with giving kids a different option. Bolduc stated that he is an advocate for using our schools as much as we can. He stated that he worries that the small groups who will have a rental fee and require insurance might be priced right out of the facilities. He stated that he likes to see a lot of activities in our schools. Messier stated that his concern is that the reason for the liability insurance is if they use this room and we lose three computers who is going to pay for that. He stated that we have a lot of expensive equipment that can go out of here pretty quickly. Mayor Hilliard stated that he is sure that certain rooms would be off limits. Gibson asked if there was a secondary insurance program like a pool. Witham stated that for groups that don't have insurance they can buy a one day single liability fairly affordable and there are pooled groups such as boosters using the national boosters. Mayor Hilliard stated that this is in the early phases and he is confident that the Superintendent and the city manager will work out the concerns to move forward and market the activity. He stated that the purpose of the meeting is to establish 1-2 goals to work on and something we can achieve collaboratively. Bolduc stated a goal could be increasing usage of our facilities. Gibson stated a joint effort on grounds and maintenance contracts. McCallion stated more collaboration with recreation. Dumont stated core control of all facilities internal and external. He stated that we will start getting demand that will become overwhelming in the future and we may need to consider going in the direction Portsmouth did and exploring that option which was a budget less than \$200,000 for that coordination. Witham asked how we are doing with the facility manager Andy overseeing the buildings, do we need to take it to another level. Supt. Mosca stated that we are starting the conversation and if we open the doors and be a community center we are going to need help. Mayor Hilliard stated that with each preliminary

goal, there are several components to it and ideas and concerns emerging. He stated that he would like to see a joint school and city commission formed where two people from the school and two people from the city are tasked with discussion things and create a greater collaboration to examine all of these ideas. He stated that the goal and purpose of the commission is to create a joint collaboration, joint communication and joint cooperation between the city council and the school board. He stated that it will be comprised of two councilor's names by the Mayor and two school board members' names by the chair of the board. Gibson stated that it sounds similar to vision 2020. Mayor Hilliard stated that vision 2020 has a goal of making sure that the goals in the master plan are reached. Hiller asked if the mayor would be part of it. Mayor Hilliard stated no, I have full faith in the people on the committee and if they need help they can ask me to attend. Joanne Pepin asked if they need to have the Superintendent and Bob at every meeting. Mayor Hilliard stated no, the committee will appoint a chair and he would encourage them to respect the time of the Superintendent and the city manager and call on them when they need them. Hanlon stated that you can keep them on the agenda distribution lists and they can decide if they need to be there. Mayor Hilliard stated that when he establishes a commission he likes to put a sun set date on it which is usually the end of his term as Mayor so it gives the next Mayor the option to continue it or end it. He stated that this is a great reflection of how well we work together and the joint work we have done together to move forward. He stated that he is excited about what emerged this evening and setting the tone for what Somersworth is all about. Austin stated that this is a perfect model that this can work and it is a unique model that he hasn't seen anywhere else and he is really excited about this and it is a way to move Somersworth forward and put it out as a model to the whole state. Hanlon stated that to see where we were ten years ago when we moved here to now is unbelievable. Joanne Pepin stated that the winners here are the students and the tax payers, it is a win win. Mayor Hilliard stated that he hopes that Somersworth can influence the rest of the state on how it can work and how you are given people with different philosophies but we can respect each other and meet and accomplish something.

3. **Adjournment:** Hilliard closed the joint meeting at 6:25pm.

Katie Krauss

Pending Board Approval

Board Secretary