

SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

January 12, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom online platform

7:00pm

****** In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically. The Somersworth school district will be utilizing zoom for this electronic meeting. The public is asked to submit any public comments via email to rgadomski@sau56.org. A deadline to receive comments will be set at 24 hours prior to the meeting taking place. The public can access this meeting by telephoning any of the following numbers and then adding webinar ID number 819 0739 4935. (1-312-626-6799), (1-646-558-8656), (1-253-215-8782).

- 1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Hanlon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon call of the roll, the following members were present: Hanlon, Potter, McCallion, Cannon, Donohue, Levasseur, Larson, O'Brien, and Marsh.
- 2. COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** Supt. Gadomski read the following letters. Letter from Lori Poisson of Cinnamon Ridge Road: Good Afternoon, I am hoping with tonight's school board meeting that a decision will be made as to when we can move to the next phase of the school re-opening. I have been waiting for decisions to be made and feel like no-one wants to make this decision or even discuss this. I have attended and watched several of the school board meetings since the beginning of the school year, many times this topic was brought up just to have it pushed aside to another meeting. There was even mention of another survey to go to parents, but I have not seen any such survey. I was trying to give the school board the benefit of the doubt, but feel like nothing is being done. I would love my child to experience the rest of the school year in his classroom with his teacher and classmates. Children need to be with their peers and develop social skills. I have been a big supporter of the returning to the classroom since the beginning and feel that it is now time to get these kids back to where they belong. Letter from Wendy Berkeley & Michael Curran of Ward 1: Since the August decision to begin the '20-21 school year remotely, I've been supportive and impressed by the board and administration's approach to pandemic learning in Somersworth. I hope I can continue to feel this way. But unlike in August when I felt that we, as a district, weren't prepared to send students safely back into a classroom, I now feel that we are. Not fully, not every day, not all together. But to follow the model that K, 3rd, and 6th grade as well as the smaller programs and classes available to students at SHS/CTC will be a compassionate and kind decision. For those wishing to remain remote, the availability of that option shows compassion as well, as some families have health concerns at home. What's changed you wonder, given that 5 months ago I vehemently advocated for a remote learning platform? Because Somersworth has taken the slow-and-steady approach thus far, we've proven capable at pandemic-classroom-management: small groups, enforced mask-wearing & social distancing, and ideally more outdoor education opportunities. "How much Covid do we want in our schools?" was the most significant and honest question asked by Dr. Gadomski at the opening of the August meeting. His addressing reality head-on, that Covid *will* enter our school buildings, is something I continue to appreciate. Somersworth's development of a solid remote-classroom platform provides a workable default when Covid, or a surprise flu-outbreak, or *any* other catastrophic interruption to in-person learning arises. I read news of "surprise" outbreaks in nearby school systems, who in turn may send students home for several days of no instruction, because teaching staff must learn the platform. My niece teaches in one of these districts and I promise you it is a rough transition every time she makes the shift. Schools manage this better than most of us at home. Schools are an expected place of order, clear expectations, and predictable consequences. All of us who have children or have ever been children know that wiggle room at home can be expansive, depending on the level of stress, distraction, or just plain exhaustion. I know where my mother's weak links were and I played them; my kids know where their parents' weak links are too. Our family has towed the pandemic-

safety line almost-textbook these 10 months, but we let our kids see friends outdoors, where they *might* keep their mask on, or they might not. They don't always maintain 6 feet of distance. We've masked up and taken their friends on car rides for hikes, and braved the foggy-glasses-syndrome just for some social salve. I pay attention to the pace and methods at which students have returned to Maple Wood and SMS in particular, since these are my children's schools. I trust that adequate soap and handwashing opportunities are available to them, as well as masks if a student arrives unprepared. I trust that adequate funds are allocated for increased staffing to address reinforcement of social distance measures, and just as importantly, to address student anxieties upon returning to the classroom after nearly a year. Thank you, I appreciate the work required in making these important decisions. Letter from Elizabeth Kenton of 8 Wilson Street: I am writing this email tonight because I need to make sure that the school board's minds are on the right page for the start of this new year. We ended 2020 with most children of Somersworth not entering the school, and the ones that did enter the schools were so minimally that it is not even noteworthy. This year needs to be different; this year there needs to be a change. I know that our number for New Hampshire are high, 729 for yesterday. I know those numbers are scary, but fear should not stop the school district from letting parents choose what is best for their children. High numbers do not stop other states, just take a page out of Texas, Florida, and even Massachusetts. 14,043. 12,313. 5,656. These states have numbers that we will never touch, but they have still tried to do what is best for their students. Remote learning does not work for all students, and it should not be forced on students if that is not what is best for them. Parents should be the ones making the choice what is best for their child, because parents are the ones that know their child best. I am not asking for the school district to force children to go back. I am asking for parents to be given to the right to choose. They should be allowed to choose if they want their child to do remote learning. They should be allowed to choose if they feel comfortable enough to send their child back into the schools. This choice was taken away from parents in August and it is time to return that choice to the parent. Back in November, a survey for parents was mentioned but I have not seen. Where is our survey? Why was this pushed to the back burner? If the end goal of the superintendent was to do what is best for the students, then why has a survey not been done. A survey could have easily shown the school district how many parents would want to send their child back and how many would want to keep with remote learning. I truly hope that the school board does the right thing and chooses to allow parents to decide what is best for their child. Parents should choose, not a superintendent that does not know these students personally. Thank you for reading this email.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

3.1 Removal of items from the Consent Calendar: None

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

3.3 Minutes from the Somersworth School Board Meeting December 8, 2020

3.4 Discussion summary of the Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee meeting December 8, 2020

3.5 Discussion summary of the Somersworth School Board Policy Committee meeting December 14, 2020

3.6 Summary of the Somersworth School Board Ed Prog. & Community Outreach Comm. meeting December 15th, 2020

3.7 Discussion summary of the Joint Building Committee meeting (JBC) for City Bonded School Projects December 17th, 2020

3.8 Enrollment

Levasseur made a motion to remove 3.8 enrollment from the consent calendar, Donohue seconded.

Motion passed, O'Brien abstained from the vote. Hanlon stated 3.8 Enrollment would get moved down to 5.8 on the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4.1 Superintendents Update: Supt. Gadomski stated there are a number of items in the packet that the board requested including a lot of data points on each of the buildings. He stated it was a wise decision to go remote after winter break as has heard from multiple families that have called and had cases or been exposed. Nurses have been busy tracking down close contacts. We are remote until 1/14/2021, staff allowed and encouraged to come into the building. Building is being utilized for sports and activities and we continue to monitor. On 1/19/2021 we will be back into school on Phase 2, very similar to what we were doing prior to winter break with Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and HS classes that will soon shift for semester change as well as a number of students that have had difficulties this year and those that require services. Back based on numbers, kindergarten allows us based on number per classroom. Other grades cannot social distance if over 13-14 kids. 6th grade coming in and using the café and gym and allows us to socially distance and keep the 6 feet. Keep in mind as we move forward into Phase 3, points to think about sooner than later, we will not be able to distance 6ft and will need to explore other opportunities. We will do the best we can but physically impossible. Phase 2 students will continue to be monitored, we are adjusting groups, and continuing to identify additional students to come in. He stated the board has scheduled a session on 1/21/2021 to specifically talk about in-person learning, timeline, hurdles and limitations. He stated in the reopening timeline there are two main points to review. Number one is staffing, do we have enough to bring students into the building and do we have enough to spread out for learning. The other is are we able to socially distance at 6ft. At some point as we get to Phase 3 and beyond, we will need to have a discussion about the MOA as we will not be able to social distance. Phase 3 and beyond planning is continuing in all of our buildings and will be as creative as possible. All of the in-person plans are being developed with contingency plans. As we are seeing if we get a call with a close contact, positive test we are adjusting accordingly. We are watching the numbers of community spread which were around 39, 40-45 range but are now ticking up around 70 as of today. The vaccine is rolling out and teachers are in 2A of the governor's plan which will be March-May timeline. Hearing on the news that may be sped up to February and that would be welcomed. Need to keep in mind, there is a good possibility that the students and community at large will not be vaccinated. At the end of my report I added a few questions to keep in mind for the workshop. He stated one is social distancing, how will we accomplish in Phase 3 and 4. Another is the vaccine, will it be available by March and will it be ok to come back if community and students are not vaccinated. Another is will we be able to return in Phase 4 after April vacation and when will we have an opportunity to have a discussion with union on the MOA. Marsh stated he had a question about something he read in the packet in the social/emotional section about in-school remote learning initiatives indicated for the high school and Idlehurst. Theses sound like a solution but not a total solution. Is this something Maplewood and middle school have and if not, what are the barriers to overcome. Supt. Gadomski stated there are in-school opportunities in all buildings but being run differently, one barrier being staffing but has been doing almost from the beginning. The schools identify students not being successful and offer bringing them in and use a variety of different ways to formally and informally to provide support, some coming in 2-5 days a week. Marsh stated he would like to see this expanded for those children that are identified as those with the greatest need. Supt. Gadomski stated he agreed. Levasseur asked if there is a cost associated with vaccine for the teachers. Supt. Gadomski stated he that he hasn't heard of any cost.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5.1 Standing Committees:

- Budget & Revenue – Not met, next meeting 1/13/2021
- Buildings, Grounds & Transportation – Next meeting 1/27/2021 via Zoom

- Educational Programs and Community Outreach – Meeting 1/15/2021, next meeting 2/19/2021. Larson stated they met on 12/15/2020 and discussed a variety of subjects that focused on mental health and parenting workshops that are happening online. There are many being offered and I attended one with Dr. Allison Roy. I encourage all to look into and attend, some can be more clinical and some can be more on managing stressors. She stated there is additional information in your packet about what each school is doing. Common discussion is what is going on and what can we do to provide support during this stressful time. She stated they talked about the survey and coming back to the board to determine what do we want to know and what we want to ask our school community. She stated they also discussed staff recognition which is still in discussion. The next meeting will be 1/19/2021.
- Legislative Advocacy – Postponed
- Policy Committee – O'Brien stated a number of policies coming up for first reading tonight, the JLC family of policies, going forward a few more from the NH School Board Association and the Fall 2020 update that did not contain a lot of policies for us to review.
- Joint Commission of City Council – Hanlon stated he reached out to Dumont and date TBD.
- Joint Building Committee (JBC) for City Bonded School Projects – McCallion stated it's starting to come to a close and are completing final punch list, furniture for the library and completing middle school elevator project.

5.2 City Council Update: Pepin stated they met 1/4/2021 and nothing to report.

5.3 Re-opening Update: (see 5.5)

5.4 Re-opening tentative timeline: (see 5.5)

5.5 Re-opening next steps: Supt. Gadomski stated that a lot of this was mentioned in the Superintendent's Update (4.1), remote and we will be in Phase 2 when we return. He stated Food Service has continued while remote and really well received and thanked the Bus Company and food service for doing an excellent job. Donohue stated he has appreciated the re-opening updates from the schools. One comment/area of change he would like to see is in the first few sections where it shows the number of staff working remotely/in quarantine, it would be helpful to see a line/trend vs. delete prior week's numbers so they can compare week to week if that can be done moving forward. Hanlon stated he had asked Supt. Gadomski for that information as well because he was having a hard time reviewing week to week and that it was provided to him. He stated it is hard for them to track with people out and families not reporting over the break. He stated he wanted to be able to look at numbers as if we were in Phase 4 and what he got for numbers were 20 positive, 44 quarantine and 8 in isolation. He stated he does not know why this does not hit the papers and people are not hearing about it. He stated that a lot of the public is not aware that we have had cases that would/could influence if we are in and out of building. For example, the boys' basketball team played an away game this week and we found out this morning that one of the away players tested positive. He stated that our team and he assumed all of their family members now need to quarantine. If we were in Phase 4 those kids would all be out. We have coaches that are teachers, parents that are teachers and we can see how that would spread throughout the school. We need to get a broader understanding of what those are and let the community know what those are because most people don't think we have had anything. Supt. Gadomski stated that the nurses have very detailed tracking information and symptom. A lot of those end up not being close contact or test negative after being in quarantine. He stated the basketball players are now in quarantine and it does not need to go any further unless they get symptoms because you don't do a contact of a contact. He stated the nurses have done a fantastic job. Hanlon stated had those kids been in school today and we got the call later in the day we would be doing more contact tracing. Marsh stated we have had some really good discussions on re-opening and will reserve his comments for workshop coming up. He stated workshops have value, focus and devoted time but can come at expense of transparency. He asked if there was anyone opposed to televising workshop for transparency. Donohue stated he had similar thoughts and not opposed and not opposed to

handling/talking about some of those items on the agenda tonight and questions if workshop is needed. Levasseur stated for the sake of transparency, is there an opportunity to release historical data to the public on website so they know the data we are looking at. He stated the reason he asked for 3.8 to be pulled from consent calendar is that he wanted to add some context to this and try and figure out the percentage of in-school learning students, as he was only able to pull from two of the schools. Larson asked for clarification about what are next steps for 5.5 if we were to put out a press release. She asked if this is something that will be discussed more or do we have an outline. Supt. Gadomski stated that next steps are as he stated in supt. update, we are coming back in in Phase 2, with kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and high school with 6 classes. He stated Mr. Tebo has identified another 8-9 additional classes for semester 2. He stated a number of students already identified as needing services will also be coming in and he can get percentage through administration. He stated we have certain grade levels coming in and then additional number of students coming in and numbers will differ as not all coming on a daily basis. He stated coming back in Phase 2 and will continue to monitor outbreak. He stated they have been planning for Phase 3 but the board will need to discuss how and if we can continue with social distancing of 6ft., Larson asked if this would be agenda/discussion item or MOA discussion. Supt. Gadomski stated he assumed it would be discussed at workshop and major topics, along with vaccine. Hanlon stated that's primary the reason for the workshop as there are way too many moving pieces and going to take a few hours to get through. He stated there is a lot to it, from MOA, bussing, food services, what can be offered for in-person vs. remote and in depth conversation about what causes you to go out and what happens when you go out and will need a lot of time. Marsh stated he would like to see going into workshop is a tentative proposed date for Phase 3 and how it would be helpful to have to center conversations around. Hanlon suggested moving to 5.6 as Lori has info on all that in that section.

5.6 Return to in person learning workshop 1/21/21: Lane stated this is why we wanted to have a workshop like this, as there are a lot of moving pieces. She stated the question is what are the decisions you need to make and goal of workshop is for you to establish a timeline and target dates for phases. She stated we have all struggled with time and no end date for any of this stuff and is what everyone is struggling with. She stated the other piece they need to talk about are the mitigating factors and how you move to the next phase. In your original document you had community spread as one of the mitigating factors and you have not used that, you've talked about but not part of your decision making. She stated as Bob has mentioned the vaccine availability, preparation/lead time, food service, IT – all things to think about. She stated social distancing and negotiated agreement with the union and she's sure the board will honor that agreement. The purpose of the workshop is to identify all of that and come up with your timeframe and target dates and factors to move forward. O'Brien stated he had requested the next agenda item, Phase 4 because we are here and I don't see why we can't have a discussion about it as it's our mission as a board to set policy and manage the budget and the school administrations job is to act on and execute that policy. He stated there are probably a lot of questions but does not think the board needs to spend hours to go through those details. He stated if we are honest with ourselves we have not done a great job planning and decision making to this point and he's frustrated with only talking about having meetings and not having discussions and is interested in having the discussions tonight. He stated we know that Phase 3 is a logistical nightmare and I am not taking anything away from the administration and staff that is working on those plans but as a board, we have yet to see that plan and we do not have a set of guiding principles. He stated remote learning, we recognize while it's working for some kids, some are falling farther and farther behind and parents are sharing their concerns. He stated that studies are showing that when mask guidelines are followed, schools are not a contributing factor to the spread and hospitalizations. The fact is schools all around us are safely educating children in person. He stated we are at a point where the current surge has plateaued and hospitalizations and positive tests are declining, vaccine is rolling out to help protect the most vulnerable and he strongly encourages the board to work with him and

fulfill our responsibility and make a decision and lead. He stated he recommends that we establish a clear reentry goal and ratify at next meeting with adequate time for admin to prepare so that we don't drag this out. He stated they ask supt. and his staff to come back with 4-5 decisions you need to make as there is a lot for them to consider. He stated that he is sure there are a lot of logistics to consider including staff, parent communication, staff health risks, safety protocols and plans for remote education for those that don't want to come back. He stated the question should be how will we do this because many other districts have done this successful. He stated he is not trying to minimize the risk and toll and human impact of the pandemic here and keep our guard up, not just in schools but I also know this will not be without disruption. He states by setting a clear date and establishing that policy we can give families and staff certainly that they have not had in a year. For me it's time to move out of crisis mode and into reality as this is not going anywhere for a year. He would like a conversation in next agenda item to be around a date whether March or whatever. Hanlon stated he was with and without you (John) during his statement. He stated where Lori is going with workshop is to go over all this. Lane stated yes, that was the plan but the board needs to decide what your action is going to be. She stated she is not sure they are ready to do what is on the table right now but unsure as a lot of different things out there as talking about four different agenda items at once and need to firm up what you want to do and not sure where you want to go from here. Hanlon stated biggest value when she (Lori) walk us through workshop. He stated he disagrees that numbers have plateaued and if that is true we have plateaued at an all-time high and I don't understand that. He stated we can't just decide that we're going into Phase 4 because of the MOA and many other things. He stated there are so many parts and pieces that go into that, just with staffing issues. More pieces knowing when you are going to in and when you are going to go out and further and further we go in, we can't go back and we can't do the same (education) at both levels. He stated we go into a full yo-yo when we're out/in. He stated he does not think we are prepared for conversation tonight. Marsh stated he agreed with most of what John had to say but also with Hanlon in regards to logistics. He stated if we don't make decision tonight he would like the known intent of the workshop to be a date setting session. This gives the SAU just over a week to gather information and minimize anxiety and for people to know we are moving forward. He stated he would like for administration to come in with a date and asked John if that worked for him. O'Brien stated it was a reasonable compromise but disagrees that we can't come up with a recommend date as a board contingent on the planning and logistics and MOA. He stated we need to come up with a direction and lead as a board. He stated if we use workshop to set a date, he disagrees the prior workshop was productive, with all due respect we did not accomplish anything that was meaningful and is pessimistic we will resolve in a future workshop. He stated we are here and have bi-weekly meetings to have discussions, not sure why we can't use this meeting to discuss and make decisions. Levasseur stated we can continue to have discussion to set parameters a little better and has comments on Phase 4 and other agenda items. He stated he recommends that a portion of the workshop be non-public to discuss the MOA and a public portion with dedicated note taker so we have thorough notes. He stated he agrees we have been managing this as it comes and not doing well at long term planning, an example of that is at Thanksgiving when we're talking about going remote from then to now. He stated he would like to see historical data on this as it seems to him that the spread within our schools wasn't nearly as much as it was or similar to what it was prior to Thanksgiving, again would like to see the data. He stated he fears that nothing beats in -person and coming on a year of remote learning, and in an already digital age – our kids are having a hard time and fear longtime emotional and social issues. He stated if we don't work hard to get as many kids in school we will be dealing with this five years down the road and wants to think about this as a long term planning aspect. He stated he has learned from this community is being resilient and relying on your neighbors. He knows that festival committee has pop ups that can be used for education, great opportunity to use our assets and community to bring kids back into schools. He would like to see date for Phase 3 since we have not done it and would like to see it for after Feb. break, whether we do a quarantine period

like we did after winter break but that would be an additional conversation we can have at the workshop. Donohue stated he echoes O'Brien's statements and we have some time tonight and the workshops we have not gotten through agenda we have set for them and time is limited. He stated we have known that Phase 3 is the next part of our plan since August and feels frustration that we are not in a place where we can make the decision to go to Phase 3. He stated he understood it that we are not even in a place where we can hypothetically pick a date and that if we can't set a goal date in this meeting then he doesn't even know where we are. He stated he knows there are a lot of logistics but would like our goal to be when is that date and back track from there and make decisions. For instance, Ed mentioned after break, ok so what does that look like and make decisions from there. He stated he feels like he is at a point where we are ready to move into the next phase. He stated it never looked like this, not in Phase 2 in January and a workshop to talk and planning for next phase. He stated we know questions and answers, we just need to make decisions. Hanlon stated that is a lot of what the workshop looks like and Bob and Lori have a tentative plan with rough dates and timelines. He stated issues with staffing and things of that nature. Supt. Gadomski stated he has had a plan since August about starting school in a more inclusive manor and that was board decision not to do that. He stated he keeps hearing the community spread and metrics and we are behind but our administrators have done a fantastic job answering all the questions that are being asked, my hat is off to the administrators and we can't help the fact that pandemic is blowing up. He stated the main questions are do I have enough staff and can we maintain 6ft social distance. He stated he hears other schools are doing it well, he hears other schools are not maintaining 6ft social distancing and housing students in cafeterias being supervised by paraprofessionals because of call outs and symptoms. He repeated hears around the state, Somersworth is taking a slow and methodical approach. He stated he agrees that students need social interaction but also believes we need to do this in a safe manor. In his mind going into Phase 2 and making adjustments and then after February break going into Phase 3 if possible and hopefully with vaccine and social distancing, then after April vacation getting in at Phase 4 so our students can finish the year. Will we get there, he does not know. He stated does not know if 70 (number of covid cases) is the peak and beginning to plateau and do down in the next few weeks. If the vaccine comes out for teachers and elderly that would be great but you need to address the 6ft social distancing – that is the most important aspect of this. He stated the choice of coming in, we still need to spread out and if we need to put a classroom in two classrooms, who teaches the second classroom. He stated all of these things are being discussed and no problem picking dates. Phase 3 will look vastly different in every building. In kindergarten the numbers work to bring them in and socially distance everybody, in first grade it becomes a little more difficult and in second grade it becomes very difficult to get everybody in. If you look at staffing at the middle school, we have 6th grade coming in, 7th grade we have some ability, but when you get to 8th grade I don't have the staff because of those working remotely. He stated it would be wonderful if the board come up with a timeline at workshop and he would be happy to bring that to you. He stated he was hoping he could have brought a timeline to you in Sept/Oct but the board made a different decision at that time. We are ready and can do anything but those are some of the hurdles we are up against. Hanlon stated if we had a timeline in Aug/Sept it would have been blown out the door because of where we are and never thought we would be. He stated numbers have risen and things have changed, can't kick the door down tomorrow. He stated we need to be careful and staffing issue is a real issue. Supt. Gadomski stated if we had gone with original plan and metrics we would have gone in in Phase 3 or 4 and probably has in-person learning until Halloween and backed up from there as that was the anticipated level of the pandemic and could have been predicted. He wants to make sure we are praising our administrators as they are doing an amazing job in difficult situation. Hanlon stated when you look at what we agreed to in re-opening plan we are no way near. O'Brien stated we know more than we did back in Sept/October. CDC just published a study across the country/countries and schools are not the place where Covid is running rampant and study he just read – statistically you are no more likely to test Covid positive if you are in

person vs. remote. He stated those are the numbers he is most concerned at this point. He stated he wanted to echo what supt. said and that we have asked a ton of the administration and they have done a great job and we are going to ask more of them. If this board makes a decision to go back in that will be asking more but the concept of Phase 3, that ship has sailed. There is a cost of change, effort, angst, planning time to get to Phase 3 then a few weeks later go to Phase 4 is why I'm advocating to do similar to Dover, in-person learning in February. If we were willing to do it back in Sept we should be willing to do it now. He stated if you read CDC guidelines – 6ft, schools when possible. It's not really even a question. If we can't get 25 kids in a classroom 6ft apart then we put them in the classroom not 6ft apart and tact around pods. He stated we set the direction and he is confident with leadership in place that we can come up with plan and make it happen. Potter stated he agrees with a lot of bits and pieces but first, in good faith we negotiated the MOA and in good faith need to renegotiate the MOA. We cannot stick a date out there or throw 6ft guideline out there as that is not a good way to negotiate with them. He stated Dover School Board – yes, they did make decision based on CDC guidelines based on ages. He stated he wished out governor took a stronger stance and made vaccine available to teachers on 1B vs. 2A, we need to treat educators with dignity and move to front of line. He would be a proponent to leave as-is tonight and meet next week with public and non-public session for transparency. Donohue stated he would really like workshop to be televised and not sure if decision by board or where that power lies. Hanlon stated we can decide but don't normally do it and if we do it's a one-time thing because city does not televise their workshops. He asked Pepin if he has any background on this. Pepin stated he does not, people can sit in and access meeting and haven't had that problem. Hanlon stated if city allows it and if we are all ok with it that's ok but wants it to be a one-off. Supt. Gadomski stated workshops are public sessions but have not broadcasted in the past and you have not yet discussed if it will be in-person or streamed. Levasseur stated with city experience, due to logistics has not been broadcasted but yes, they are public sessions. He stated he wants to make sure we have dedicated note taker to make sure it's as thorough as possible. He stated he wanted option to for people to be able to call in so people can participate in this process. Marsh stated we need to practice maximum transparency, workshops are not the norm – but in this case with the anxiety and interest this workshop needs to be transparent, televised/streamed. Pepin stated city meetings are open to public, and public can submit items to city manager prior to meetings and can listen in on workshop. Donohue made motion to have workshop on 1/21 in-person and televised, Marsh seconded. Hanlon questioned logistics of in-person and televised. Supt. Gadomski stated we could do in black box and televise, believe it will be available. O'Brien stated he supports what Marsh said and don't believe we should be having this meeting unless public can see in real time and observe. He stated we need clear objective, which is still unclear. Understands MOA and supports staff and teachers but end of day we need to make decision, feels like we are in holding pattern. Many discussions that need to happen with staff/union but we need to be able to make a decision that's within our decision rights. Larson stated Covid not spreading in schools and feels level of neglect for our student's not stepping foot in schools and not knowing what the future hold. Objective is to get students into school safely and we have received many resources to do so and know students are not doing well and need to turn focus to that. We are still in crisis mode but need to return to in-person learning, it can be done and done safely. We have data from other schools that have gone back and what has happened. She stated students need social/emotional connection and worried about what we will see in the future – not sure we can mitigate that but know we can mitigate now. She stated we need to come together as a board and decide where we want to be, where do we want to be this month, next month and where do we want to go and really listen to our community. Marsh stated wouldn't it makes sense to have a date in order to bring to the union, to bring to the table. Supt. Gadomski stated you could do either way, you know topics and that social distancing will be an issue for Phase 3 and Phase 4 and suggests setting up a meeting sooner than later. Levasseur stated one objection to meeting in person; he had requested to meet remotely due to be primary caretaker for

family member. He wants to ensure we do screening as done for school is not being done for meetings. Would like to see individual doing screening for meetings, asking for symptoms, temp. check and possibility of taking names. Not sure about legality of that. Want to ensure following screening practices. Supt. Gadomski stated he would have to check with legal team to see if they can turn people away where it's a public meeting. He stated could do same as done tonight, stream live if people are uncomfortable meeting in person. O'Brien stated advocate for zoom meeting that can be streamed for people to watch live and allow all to participate. He asked if they can make motions/decisions as board during workshop or just a discussion. Hanlon stated he believes this is more to make a plan, not necessarily need for motion. Lane stated yes, you can make decisions, same as done at sports workshop. Supt. Gadomski stated we can post as other business so that you can make decisions. Donohue stated he would like to amend his prior motion as prefers in person but understands concerns of other board members situations. Hanlon stated he can withdraw and then make another motion. Potter stated he would prefer zoom. Levasseur stated know that people have used hybrid models with in-person crowd and zoom option. He wants to make sure there is live option for constituents to speak at this workshop. Hanlon stated constituents would not speak at a workshop. Supt. Gadomski stated half and half model would be a logistical nightmare. Lane stated this is a public meeting with callers listening in and people are accessing. She stated she has not seen 10 callers on a meeting before and can get message out so people can call in. Marsh stated fine with zoom for workshop but in favor of in-person for next school board meeting. Donohue withdrew motion, Marsh seconded. Donohue made motion to have a workshop on 1/21/2021 and held live via zoom. Marsh seconded the motion. Larson asked about being able to hear opening/closing comments during this current board meeting. Hanlon stated there is no public participation in workshop. Larson stated for this board meeting. Lane stated current set up does not allow for closing comments from visitors. Levasseur stated if Pepin can explore option for live commenting during live broadcast. Pepin stated you would need to go through your own school board, city council meetings comments need to be sent to city manager prior to the meeting. McCallion stated executive order posted on agenda. Marsh stated he has seen opening comments at workshops, not in zoom. He suspects it could be done, might not be culture but suspects it could be done. Hanlon reads motion on the floor and request roll call vote. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

5.7 Phase 4

6. New Business:

6.1 Policies for First Reading:

- IICA Repeating a Failed Course
- JLCA Physical Examinations of Students
- JLCA-R Physician's Family Report of Physical Examination Form
- JLCB Immunizations of Students
- JLCD Administering Medication to Students
- JLCD-R Procedures for Administering Medication to Students

Potter made motion to read by title only, Donohue seconded. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously. O'Brien read policies by title only.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

7.1 Policies for Second Reading:

- BEDG-R Access to Minutes and Public Records Process (to withdraw)
- EH Public Access to School District Records
- EH-R Administrative Procedures for Public Access to District Records "Right To Know Requests"

O'Brien read by titles. Potter motion to accept as presented, Cannon seconded. Donohue asked where

they got the \$1 per page price as it had to be a difficult discussion about flat rate vs. \$1 per page. O'Brien stated they followed template and did not deviate. Hanlon stated that can be issues when people come in and want many, many pages and things can now be sent electronically. Lane stated the value of staff's time putting this information together as pulling from multiple places, not just coping. Roll call on the motion. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

7.2 2020-2021 Budget Update

Krauss stated Budget is included in packet. Went ahead with HS projector project which was 45k and included in the technology budget. We also encountered an additional 31k in additional PT and OT services but within budget, filled 2 para positions at Maplewood. Revenue – received final report from state for special education. Report that came in under and will get 112k revenue this year but will need to increase for next year. Confident we will receive more than we budgeted for this year. Were able to recoup funds, about 44k and start to see Medicaid reimbursements. Also included in your packet the expenditures for the Supplemental Response Funds, 297k. We received an additional 49k with strict parameters spent and received prior to 12/31 and we were able to spend, thank you to Karl. Larson mentioned being under for substitutes and wants to look towards the future. She mentioned doubling the rate so when we get to in-person we have subs available. Hanlon stated we are not spending because we are remote and no need for subs. Krauss verified, yes. Supt. Gadomski stated this is because if teachers have symptoms and out or home they are still teaching with needs from time to time but trying to cover internally as having sub in remote is not productive. Hanlon stated once we get back into building we have issues with older/retired subs not wanting to be in the building. This year is a complete anomaly and next year we will get back to normal. Larson stated she would like to see the double rate to go forward and be prepared and asked to be put on for future meeting. Lane the sub pay rate is covered under policy with financial impact to that and additional discussion would need to be had under budget committee. Supt. Gadomski stated it would need to go back to policy committee for discussion. Donohue stated there is a lot to consider with that and would want to look at rate vs. para rate, teacher rate and job differences look like. He stated it's a big discussion but see intent and worth discussion. Hanlon stated why don't we kick to policy.

8. ACTION ITEM:

8.1 2021-2022 School Calendar

Supt. Gadomski stated after meeting with Union there have been a couple changes after union feedback and trying to line up with Dover calendar. Start date now 8/30, PD day 11/2 in the event voting gets approved to happen at the schools, PD day 2/11, last day 6/15/2022. Donohue made a motion to accept school calendar, Potter seconded. Roll call on the motion. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATE/SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS:

- January 13, 2021 Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee meeting (Zoom) 5:30 PM
- January 21, 2021 Somersworth School Board Workshop on return to in person learning 5:30 PM
- January 26, 2021 Somersworth School Board meeting 7:00 PM
- January 26, 2021 Somersworth School Board Budget & Revenue Committee meeting 5:30 PM
- February 9, 2021 Somersworth School Board meeting 7:00 PM
- February 15, 2021 Somersworth School Board Budget Presentation, 6:30 PM School Board meeting immediately following 7:00 PM

Krauss stated there is a full board Budget Workshop on 2/6. Supt. Gadomski stated need to add 1/19 SAU Board at 6:30. Donohue question about public comment option. Lane stated she has a couple thoughts, will need to have someone manage backend, management piece as she could not participate and manage meeting/call. She mentioned they tried to do with Rollinsford and was not smooth. She suggested letting people know how to submit public comment vs. having something that does not work and is frustrating for people. Cannon stated House did remote, clerk provided cell number to text with questions. Supt. Gadomski stated we have had good success with the way we have posted so far,

people have gotten used to sending emails prior to the meeting to be read. Levasseur stated feels need for live comments during these sessions and looking into. Pepin stated this was handed down from the governor and will take back to city council. Donohue stated he would not want Lori to not be able to attend. He stated he watched the Wakefield school board meeting and people could type into the chat and it got ugly. He would advocate for audio part, not chat. Marsh stated next meeting on 1/26 will be in-person. Hanlon stated he heard from the Mayor and they discussed option for comments but are not instituting what we are discussing.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS

10.1 Visitors - None

10.2 Board Members

Levasseur confirmed dates for future meetings. Larson asked visitors to email Dr. Gadomski. She also stated that we all understand struggle and need for positives, discussion about mental health, stress, suicide as it weighs heavy on our children. The #2 cause of death of children is death by suicide. Would like needs for children addressed and concerned we have not seen our children. She stated however the stages work, wants critical vital education for mental health. She does not think anyone is coming out of this unscathed. She stated she wants to have that discussion as a board. Reading, writing all important but need to be able to cope in order to make strides. Educators are life savers. Check in on each other. Marsh stated mental health is the foundation for academics. Soul responsibility does not lie on the school district and appreciate Larson keeping it on the radar. He stated he believes we have fantastic administrators and believes that want/need direction from school board and is hopeful that can happen at workshop. He stated it will give some residents some hope and relieve anxiety. He stated he will listen and absorb comments shared with him. He stated the following about MLK, Martin Luther King was about equality, but he was also about Love in the face of Hate, Civility in the face of Violence, sometimes Compromise, without compromising the movement and always about moving forward. We have made great strides in law, but thoughts of acceptance and the ending of habitual ignorance has not always run parallel with those strides. Despite this, we honor Martin Luther King by not only moving forward, but leading forward, as our educators do every day. Donohue stated comments earlier, were not aimed at administrators or even SAU or teachers. It was more about the positions we are in. Apologizes if gave different impression and is truly proud of the remote models we have in Somersworth and knows it has been difficult on teachers and everybody. He appreciates all they have done. Proud of model but want to move forward. Hanlon requested motion to go into non-public. Levasseur made motion to move into 91-A, Potter seconded. Roll call on the motion. VOTE: motion passed, unanimously.

11. NON-PUBLIC 91-A: 3, II e: Board Members in Nonpublic session included Steve, Matt, Tom, Ed, Maggie, Gerri, Coty, Todd, John O'Brien recused himself. Also present were Robert Gadomski, Katie Krauss and Lori Lane. In nonpublic negotiations were discussed. A motion to exit nonpublic was made by Coty and seconded by Gerri. Motion passed 8-0 Exited nonpublic at 9:58pm. A motion was made by Gerri and seconded by Coty to approve the SACA contract as negotiated and send it forward to the City Council. Motion passed 8-0.

12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Coty and seconded by Maggie to adjourn. Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:59pm. (Non-Public meeting notes sent by Robert Gadomski)