

Sunapee School Board Meeting

April 4, 2012

SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll  
Brian Garland  
Kim Denney  
Edward Bailey  
Paul Skarin

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent  
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator  
Kelly Cornish, Financial Services Manager  
Mike Trojano, Business Administrator  
Terra Geer, Special Education Director  
Alan Pullman, SCES Principal  
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal  
Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance:

Shaun Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance and the moment of silence.

Minutes:

Kim Denney moved to approve the school board minutes of March 14, 2012.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Shaun Carroll asked for a five minute recess to speak with Edward Bailey at 7:05 p.m. They came back in at 7:10 p.m.

Public Forum:

None

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The spring play this year is “Bye, Bye Birdie” and will be performed in May, many people are involved and it is going well.
- Spring sports are off to a good start.
- Connor Halpin Fleury is competing at the State level in the Geography Bee.
- Senior projects are a week early.
- 73% of seniors are attending a four year college in the fall. More kids are choosing to put off going to a traditional college because they don’t want to incur the debt. NH has the highest ratio of student debt in the country. Two students are going into the military, one is traveling and the rest are going into the workforce.

Gidget Ducharme, Sunapee resident asked why the 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys were urged not to participate on the middle school baseball team. Sean Moynihan responded that the teams are numbers driven, so depending on how many people tryout for the teams will determine how many spots there are left. Since you are still qualified to play Cal Ripken for the town team, they urge 6<sup>th</sup> graders to play on that team, and the middle school team is left for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This way all the kids will be able to play baseball, either in school or in town.

John Augustine, Sunapee resident, asked if the 73% attending a four year college were those who applied or actually accepted. Sean Moynihan said that is the percentage accepted. Sean stated that he will get the actual percentage of those who applied and those who were accepted, but decided not to attend due to finances.

#### SCES Good News:

Alan Pullman gave the Board the following good news:

- April 10<sup>th</sup> is the SCES talent show.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> is the annual SCES Book Fair as well as Parent Night from 6-7 p.m.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> is the third grade field trip to VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science) in Vermont.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> is kindergarten orientation.
- The Gaga pit (extracurricular activity) has been resurfaced with stone, as it had become more of a mud pit.

#### Superintendent Communications:

Brendan Minnihan gave the following report to the Board:

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> was professional development day. It was technology based in which the staff worked with Google docs and Smartboard’s. Literacy and restraint training were also held.
- He thanked Kelly Cornish, Shaun Carroll and Sharon Parsons for manning the Sunapee School District booth at Imagine Sunapee 2020. He also thanked Ray Palin for the setup of technology at the booth.

### School Board Roles and Responsibilities:

Brendan Minnihan handed out the Roles and Responsibility and the Policy Code of Ethics to all the Board members. Each year the Board members have to sign and send back to the SAU where Kathy Ward keeps them on file. The Board also received their Board orientation packet.

Shaun Carroll stated that there is also a book at the SAU for Board members who run and make the Board. In the back of the book is information on a Board refresher course. They ask that all new Board members sign up; the Board pays for the course, and that prior members get refreshed every three years. Brian Garland said he will attend this year as he didn't the previous year.

### Bartlett Amphitheater:

Brendan Minnihan handed out an article from 1941 in the Argus Champion that discussed the Governor of NH donating the Bartlett "Forum" Amphitheater to the school district. He also gave out some ideas from SMHS and SCES on the different uses for the amphitheater:

- Poetry slams
- Shakespeare in the park
- Public speaking
- Plant gardens
- Hold morning assemblies
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion exercises
- Talent shows

Shaun Carroll stated that it isn't going to take a lot of money to repair the amphitheater; the school district has had it for 70 years without putting any money into it, so it is definitely worth it.

Brendan Minnihan, also stated, that there is an account setup by Governor Bartlett with \$22,000 for maintenance and prize speaking.

### AYP Progress Update:

Brendan Minnihan told the Board that the AYP results for districts and schools had come out. Sunapee made AYP in all, but one area; a subgroup – SCES special education in math and reading.

He explained that if a school doesn't make AYP for two years in a row they are deemed a SINI (School In Need of Improvement) and too many schools with this designation make a district a DINI (District In Need of Improvement). The bar for kids to become proficient in these areas keeps rising, reading is now 91% and math is 88%. Eventually it will keep going up until 100% are deemed proficient, which is virtually impossible; hardly any district can make 100%.

Sunapee is doesn't have any SINI's and is not a DINI. Even though 72% of NH school districts are SINI's, NH is rated as either #1 with Massachusetts or #2 with Minnesota for the highest NAEP scores in the country depending on what you read.

NH Commissioner Virginia Barry came out saying the system is broken after the latest round of results. NH and Maine plan on writing up their version of what accountability should mean.

John Augustine asked if the reason NH schools weren't making AYP was because of subgroups such as special education and ELL programs. Brendan Minnihan said this is sometimes the case, but not always.

#### Auditor's Report Follow-up:

Mike Trojano asked the Board if they had any questions on the report he handed out at the last meeting; the Board had none. He stated that the contract has been signed with the auditor that will last for three years.

#### Calendar:

The Board asked what the dates for graduation and the last day of school are for this year.

Brendan Minnihan stated that June 8<sup>th</sup> is graduation, it will be held outside at 6 p.m. The last day of school will be a half day on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Non-Public Session:

Kim Denney moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 7:58 p.m.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Roll Call - Kim Denney, Shaun Carroll, Brian Garland, Edward Bailey, Paul Skarin

Kim Denney moved to come out of non-public session at 8:19 p.m.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Roll Call – Kim Denney, Shaun Carroll, Brian Garland, Edward Bailey, Paul Skarin

Kim Denney moved to go back into public session at 8:20 p.m.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

#### SCES Educator Renewals:

Paul Skarin recused himself as his wife, Joanne Skarin, is a teacher at SCES.

Kim Denney moved to approve the renewal SCES nominations for the 12-13 school year as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

SMHS Educator Renewals:

Kim Denney moved to approve the renewal SMHS nominations for the 12-13 school year as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Non-educator Raises:

Kim Denney moved to approve the non-educator raises with the addition of the Superintendent salary for the 12-13 school year as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Bartlett Amphitheater Repairs:

Mike Trojano told the Board that it will cost \$11,700 to repair the Bartlett Amphitheater as earlier discussed in the meeting.

Kim Denney moved to approve the repairs to the Bartlett Amphitheater in the amount of \$11,700.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Mosquito Magnet for the Outdoor Classroom:

Brendan Minnihan stated that at the March Board meeting he explained to the Board that the SPTO would like to install a mosquito magnet, with their money, in the Outdoor Classroom to utilize the space more effectively. Wayne Palmer had a chance to check it out and approves. It has not flame and the smell of gas goes away with a fan that is installed as well. It is also considered safe in school zones. It will be one propane unit and it last a couple of years. The district will only have to provide minor maintenance, such as putting it away in winter and cleaning out the bugs.

Kim Denney moved to approve the SPTO buying the mosquito magnet for the Outdoor Classroom.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Bus Contract with W.C. Cressey & Son:

Kim Denney moved to approve the purchase of a school bus through W.C. Cressey & Son as for \$48,961.00.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Brendan Minnihan stated that it is a small wheelchair bus. The district budgeted to buy a larger bus, but the current small bus had problems and so the need had to be changed.

Vote unanimous

12-13 Extra-Curricular Positions:

Kim Denney moved to approve the summer season 12-13 extra-curricular positions as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Resignations:

Brendan Minnihan brought forth the resignations of Terra Geer, Deb Allen and Amy Aldrich. The Board expressed their sadness at seeing Terra Geer, Special Education Director, leave as they feel very fortunate to have her.

Kim Denney moved to approve the resignations.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Manifest:

Kim Denney moved to approve the following A/P manifests:

- #2012-20 = \$122,471.26
- #2012-21 = \$77,981.41

Kim Denney moved to approve the following payroll manifests:

- #2012-19 = \$385,092.48
- #2012-19.1 = \$284.94
- #2012-19.2 = \$214.93
- #2012-20 = \$210,735.71

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda for Next Meeting, April 4, 2012:

- Hiring
- Manifest
- Minutes – 4/4/2012
- Good News
- Superintendent News

Adjournment:

Kim Denney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kate O'Connor  
Sunapee School Board Secretary