

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

May 6, 2015

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Terra Geer, Special Education Director

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Ray Palin, Media Coordinator

Samantha Hagan, Student Representative

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Samantha Hagan and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of April 1, 2015.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda Review:

Russell stated he would like to move #13 (b) – CopSync 911 Presentation after the first public forum. The Board agreed.

Public Forum:

None

CopSync 911 Presentation:

Sunapee Police Chief Cahill gave the following presentation:

- CopSync 911 is a software based program that is installed at local police stations and school districts and municipalities, which alerts the five closest police receivers when there is an incident at a school or town facility. It is faster than regular 911 that goes through dispatch.
- Anyone who has the app on their phone or on a computer can send a quick signal with just a push of a button that there is a problem.
- A grant can be applied for to cover the startup costs of \$1800 per building with a 50% match. The price goes to \$1200 per building every year after.
- There would training included for both school faculty and police.
- Governor Maggie Hassan is in support of the program.

The Board thanked Chief Cahill for his presentation. He will be in contact with Superintendent Holden.

NH SolarGarden.com Proposal:

SolarGarden representative, Barrett Bilada, gave the following presentation:

- A 66kw array ground mounted unit would be placed out by the baseball field behind SMHS to offset usage at SMHS.
- The land lease is \$1200 per year.
- There are two options
 - Option 1
 - 10 cents/kWh electric rate
 - 3% annual escalation rate
 - 606,000 kWh school electric load - \$3,395 savings in year 1
 - \$776,000 in total estimated savings to the school over 25 years
 - Option 2
 - 9.56 cent/kWh electric rate
 - 3.5% annual escalation rate
 - 606,000 kWh school electric load - \$6,063 savings in year 1
 - \$735,000 in total estimated saving to the school over 25 years

- There is no initial cost; there are financiers that use federal tax credits to finance total cost.
- There is a 25 year guarantee on the equipment. The school district has the option to acquire the equipment after six years.
- SolarGarden is responsible for replacement, operation and maintenance of equipment.
- The closest system to look at is in Somersworth, NH on top of a grocery store. There are some municipalities in Massachusetts as well. The Board asked Russell Holden to contact them as references.
- There is no zoning in place in Sunapee for this sort of system.

K-12 Social Studies Curriculum:

Meagan Reed gave the following presentation to the Board:

- The curriculum was fully revised as of April 2015. She is asking the Board to formally adopt the changes.
- The changes are based on the NH State Frameworks. The frameworks are thematic based and give limited guidance on content; the schools must map content.
- There is a five year review cycle, 2009 being the last year reviewed. Eight SCES and SMHS teachers made up the committee.
- They looked at gaps and overlays, analyzed existing curriculum in K-12 and colonial/world view overlap.
- In 2009 the committee created sixteen essential skills. The committee this time found those skills to be aligned with the Common Core Standards and didn't need restructuring.
- The themes of the K-6 content are: community, cooperation, leadership, strengths and triumphs, why America and western traditional roots.
- SMHS curriculum had substantial changes with US History now being taught in 8th and 9th grade and a half credit of civics and a half credit of economics to be taken in 12th.
- Starting next year teachers will plan and map lesson plans, begin implementation, evaluate and procure instructional resources as needed.

John Augustine, Stagecoach Rd., asked if there would be staffing changes. There are no staffing changes that were precipitated by the curriculum changes. SCES will have resources expenses.

April Royce, Sunapee resident, asked when full implementation would begin. Full implementation will begin at SCES next year. Grades 9th-11th will all take US History with 8th grade taking a prerequisite test.

The Board thanked Meagan for her presentation.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Completed the Smarter Balanced testing in grades 3-5 prior to April vacation. Students did very well in persevering through some difficult tasks. The faculty learned a lot from the assessment and adjustments needed in terms of technology instruction.
- Kindergarten Orientation is next Tuesday, May 12th for incoming students; so far 22 students are registered.
- The SCES band and chorus recital is May 19th at 6:30PM in the Media Center.
- The annual Memorial Day program will take place on Friday, May 22nd at 8:30AM.
- The SCES Art Show and Prize Speaking Contest will be held on Wednesday, May 27th.

SMHS Good News:

Meagan Reed gave the Board the following good news:

- Junior College Night was well attended on April 9th.
- NECAP Science tests are complete, AP testing is now taking place and SBAC begins next week.
- The spring play “You Can’t Take it With You” is being held this weekend.
- Middle School Spring Elective Week is May 18th.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the following report to the Board:

- On April 8th, the NH International Dyslexia Association gave a demonstration/presentation on what it is like to be dyslexic. Twenty-five people attended.
- April 1st the State of NH notified Sunapee they would not be selected for monitoring, which is a good thing.
- The District is submitting the Life Skills Program to the State for approval.

Student Representative Report:

Sam Hagan stated that Senior Project Presentations were April 23rd. This is a 40 hour project that each senior has to do to graduate. The entire class passed.

Superintendent Report:

Russell stated based on time and the full agenda most of what would be in his report would be covered on the agenda

Buildings and Grounds:

Russell gave the following report to the Board:

- Sherburne Floor Gym -
 - The Board took an email vote and decided to sand and finish the floor instead of stripping it this year.
- Floor Tiles in Science Room –
 - The tiles in a science room have to be redone due to a pipe freezing and bursting over February vacation. There is asbestos under the tiles which will cost \$5600 to remove. It will cost \$2500-\$2700 just to retile the floor, which insurance will cover, but it won't cover the cost of asbestos removal. The District can tile over the damaged area without taking out the asbestos. The Board decided to take out the asbestos too.
- Handicap Bathrooms –
 - A unisex handicap bathroom is needed on the third floor of SCES.
 - A boy's bathroom and a girl's bathroom outside the band room at SMHS will be converted into one unisex handicap bathroom.
- LED Lights for SMHS Soccer Fields –
 - The LED light company the District is using will outfit lights on the four corners of the soccer field.
- Scoreboard Replacement at Upper Ball Field –
 - Some months ago there was a power surge and when that happened the scoreboard stopped working. The District is purchasing a new one over the summer for somewhere between \$5,400-\$6,400; \$800-\$1,000 comes from insurance money.

Resignation:

Wayne Palmer, Facilities Director, is resigning at the end of the summer.

Paul Skarin moved to accept the resignation of Wayne Palmer with regret.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Policy Review:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the second reading and approval of BEDG-R and K policies as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Paul Skarin moved to adopt policy IF (Social Studies Curriculum) as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Outside Security Cameras at SCES and SMHS:

There are two quotes, Advance Technology and TASC0, in response to the Homeland Security assessment done. TASC0 is what the District already uses and easily connects to what is already on campus. It is also the lesser of the two quotes.

Brian Garland moved to approve the quote from TASC0 for installation of outside security cameras at SCES and SMHS.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve LED Lighting Proposal – American Energy Efficiency Company:

This was already approved by a 5-0 email vote.

Approval Teacher Request for Loyalty/Longevity Payment:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the loyalty/longevity request for payment as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval up to \$50,000 Withdrawal from SCES Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund and SMHS School Facility Capital Reserve Fund:

Russell explained that it is a total of \$50,000 split between both accounts for paving. The SCES account has \$182,000 and the SMHS account has \$131,000.

Brian Garland moved to approve the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the SCES and SMHS Capital Reserve Funds for paving as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Placement of Monies in Reserve Fund Balance Account:

Paul Skarin moved to approve placement of monies in Reserve Fund Balance Account.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Russell explained that the District is allowed to place up to 2.5% of the unreserved fund balance in this account. Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator, doesn't know the exact number yet, but believes it to be about \$51,000.

Paul Skarin moved to amend his motion to allow the Business Administrator to calculate the amount of monies that would be placed in the Reserve Fund Balance Account and approved at a later date.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Accept Resignation of Rebecca Dashner PT, DPT:

Paul Skarin moved to accept the resignation of Rebecca Dashner as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve School Deputy Treasurer:

Paul Skarin moved to approve Billie Barry and Kathy Weinstein as School Deputy Treasurers.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Custodial Salary Schedule and Benefit Package:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the custodial salary schedule and benefit package as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Paving Project at SMHS:

Russell explained that this is the paving in front of SMHS and the sidewalks to the school. Blaktop Paving came in the lowest.

Brian Garland moved to approve Blaktop Paving Company for the SMHS Paving Project as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Emergency Management Drills:

There will be an Emergency Management Drill on June 4th and 5th at the elementary, middle and high schools. A letter will go out to parents the third week of May.

Board Survey Questions:

Russell would like to bring the results of the survey to the next meeting. The questions will go out to the community.

Summer Town Meeting Response:

The School Board and Superintendent will meet with the selectmen on August 4th.

Invitation to Meeting with BOS and BAC June 8th at 6PM:

This will be considered a work session to discuss the Budget Advisory Committee's role with the Town Selectmen and the School Board.

Correspondence:

Russell stated that this is information only.

Manifest:

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2015-22 - \$115,182.34
- 2015-23 - \$81,196.46

- 2015-21 - \$292,521.94
- 2015-22 - \$210,280.79

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Jan Bettencourt, resident, had three questions:

- She wanted to know if the LED proposal voted on tonight was the same as the one in March and if so, what the costs to the District are. Russell stated that it is the same one and there are no upfront costs and the grant is still available.
- She asked if the longevity payment for teachers is common. The Board stated that it has been around for over ten years and that anyone with 15-20 years with the District get a specific amount of money when they retire. There is one teacher this year. The teacher has to ask a year in advance of retiring to receive the money.
- She asked if there was an itemized list of what the \$50,000 being withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Accounts will be spent on. Russell replied that the \$50,000 is specifically for the paving project.

John Augustine asked when two new Board members would be chosen. Shaun Carroll stated interviews had been conducted tonight and they would go into non-public to discuss. The Board will let Russell know who they choose and he will contact the two individuals. They will be appointed at the June meeting, but will need to go to training, so their first meeting will be in August. They will then have to run in the election in March if they want to stay on.

Heidi Currier, resident, asked what the benefit is of the solar proposal especially with buying it after six years. She asked if it is possible to just purchase the equipment and the District to do it themselves. Russell stated he is not entirely happy with the proposal and is still looking at other options.

Heidi also asked why the kindergarten enrollment seems so small. She feels that the District loses students between sixth and twelfth grades. Russell stated that this isn't the case that for every student that leaves on grade another comes in another grade. Enrollment over the State is declining.

Jodi Manson, resident, stated the District should be looking at why enrollment is declining and whether it has to do with the administration.

April Royce, resident, stated she has dealt with solar companies herself and asked whether the District had investigated other businesses in the area that have gone solar. She knows that the quality of the equipment is a factor. Russell stated he will be performing background checks.

Agenda for June 17, 2015:

- Solar Update
- Good News
- Manifest
- New Board Members

The Board went into non-public under RSA 91-a:II (c) at 9:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary