

Sunapee School Board Meeting
June 6, 2012
SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll
Brian Garland
Kim Denney
Paul Skarin
Edward Bailey - Absent

Others Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes:

Brian Garland moved to approve the school board minutes of May 2, 2012.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Public Forum:

Shaun Carroll reminded all those who wished to speak that this is an informal forum and that specific incidents or names should not be brought forth. If you would like to speak to the Board about specific incidents or people, then you will have to ask for it to be brought up under non-public session.

Katie Ortiz, Sunapee resident and parent with three children attending Sunapee schools; one with special needs, said that she had come with other parents, with special needs children, to voice concerns with the Sunapee Special Education department. Each parent, including herself, had brought statements to read to the Board as well as copies for the Board to keep.

Katie Ortiz had the following concerns:

1. Parent involvement is vague. Why do some parents get chosen for hiring committee's and others do not? Parents were not notified that the Special Education Director, Terra Geer, had resigned and a new one hired. Most parents found out through the grapevine as they were not made a part of the interview process. She would like the parent and community involvement policy revised and updated to include more parent input.
2. She would like a Special Education Advisory Committee be formed with the new Special Education Director. She recommends for it to meet quarterly, and if concerns arise, they would be brought forth to the Board.

Ms. D'Angelo had the following concerns:

1. Ms. D'Angelo's daughter is a special needs student who attends SCES. She believes her daughter has been robbed of FAPE (Free and Adequate Public Education) during the 11-12 school year. Mom feels she was secluded and away from her peers most of the year. The "Negative Intervention Program" was being used in which she was placed in numerous timeouts in the hallway where other students walk by and see her on display. She is unable to properly be involved in school activities because of this program. The stress of the program hinders her from making progress. She would like a policy enacted for staff on how to give interventions to a student with an IEP.

Dan Vinal had the following concerns:

1. Dan Vinal feels that there is a lack of clear and defined guidelines in regards to students and bullying. He is concerned that the Sunapee School Board policies aren't enough to restrict bullying. Both of his daughters have been bullied, especially his younger daughter. He handed out a letter he wrote to the School Board in regards to his younger daughter.

Brigid Altman had the following concerns:

1. Brigid Altman currently has a child with special needs in the district. She handed out copies of signed statements from parents who could not attend to Shaun Carroll. She also asked the Board to sign off saying they received the copies.
2. She would like to see the reporting requirements and parent notification revised and updated in regards to restraint as this happened with her daughter this past school year. She should have been notified with in 24hrs per the policy; she was never notified. She would like the policy amended that parents will be notified by the end of the school day the restraint happens.
3. She is also asking that instead of just a teacher or principal being notified of a parent's disagreement with the use of restraint, that the policy be changed to state that the parent/student can contact the Superintendent or School Board Chair.
4. This year the padded room has been converted to an office. The replacement for the padded room is now a basement hallway and she does not deem this safe. The hallway is not IDEA regulation and she asks that the Board reviews.

Shaun Carroll told all the parents that the Board will discuss their concerns and what actions can or should be taken.

Superintendent's Report:

Brendan Minnihan gave the following report to the Board:

1. The boys Varsity Baseball team won the semifinals 4-2. They will be attending the finals on Saturday, June 9th at Delta Dental Stadium at 1 p.m.
2. The middle school band and chorus went to the Great East Festival in Springfield, MA a couple weeks ago and brought back two gold medals; one for band and one for chorus. (Sean Moynihan noted that work needs to be done scheduling wise at the high school level as enrollment for both drops off due to conflicts).
3. The 5th grade class held their annual concert and it was well attended.
4. SMHS was ranked #3 in the State by Newsweek for high schools.
5. The Physical Education, Music, Art and Health teachers all worked on curriculum this year and it is now complete and aligned with State standards.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the following report to the Board:

1. Seniors had a good week. They went to Hampton Beach, it rained, but everyone still had a good time. Graduation is looking good and everyone is prepared.
2. Krista Hargbol is the first Sunapee student to make it to the New England Championships in Saco, ME for track. She is 6th in her events and is 3rd in the 300 meter.
3. The play "Bye, Bye Birdie" went really well. There was a considerable amount of participation. (John Augustine, Sunapee resident and parent, spoke of his displeasure with the choice of play. The second act had a smoking, marijuana and orgy reference. There were also racial slurs. The play in itself is about a teen girl kissing an adult male).

SCES Good News:

Alan Pullman gave the following report to the Board:

1. A Read-a-thon was held today in which a storyteller came and read to the students. Thanks to the PTO, hundreds of free books were given out.
2. Immigration Night is June 7th from 5-7 p.m. for the 5th grade.
3. June 8th is Field Day.
4. June 11th and 12th is Shadow Day.
5. June 12th is also Famous NH People Day for grade 4.
6. Kindergarten's Celebration of Learning is June 13th from 6-7 p.m.
7. June 14th is the 5th grade's Beach Day.
8. June 15th the kindergarten will tour the town.
9. June 18th is the 5th grade Promotion exercises.

Building and Grounds:

Kelly Cornish gave the following report to the Board:

- The SAU has chosen Bailey Electric to repair the SMHS electrical panel, but it is depending on the Board's vote. She would like to give it to him tomorrow.
- She has been in contact with Dave Laurien on the SMHS roofing project. He is negotiating with Weathercheck for the removal of the shingles. Once that is done, a contract can be set up for him.
- Ads have been placed in the paper for bids on the culvert replacement.
- Mike Ball has almost completed removing the trees and brush at the middle high school.

Brendan Minnihan stated that as soon as the school year ends they will begin work on the amphitheatre, rostrum and backstairs to SCES. The work will be completed by the end of summer.

Kindergarten:

Brendan Minnihan told the Board he inquired with other school districts about their entrance age for incoming kindergartners. Currently Sunapee requires all students turn 5 by September 30th. He found that Sunapee was in the middle with some districts requiring children turn 5 in the summer and others by November. He recommends keeping the current policy.

The Board agreed.

Food Services:

Brendan Minnihan explained that up until last school year, students could charge at will for lunches, snacks, etc. Last year the Board passed a procedure that said you could only charge up to \$10 and then when you hit the \$20 mark, the cafeteria would give you an alternative lunch.

The issue is that the computer system doesn't let the food service staff know when a student has reached their limit. He is recommending to the Board that they not allow charging at all, but students will still be able to go to the office and get a note to get a lunch from the cafeteria. The office will then call home. Val is currently trying to chase down thousands of dollars from families.

The Board agreed with the procedure change.

French Trip:

Student, Connor Denney, thanked the Board for approving the French trip this past school year. During the summer of her junior year an exchange student from France came and stayed with her family and she loved it. This past year when she went over to France; the families were very welcoming. You have to take the bus everywhere as the official driving age is 18. She attended school and felt she was very prepared communicatively as she had no trouble understanding the language.

Brendan Minnihan surprised Connor as they asked her to attend to give her a surprise. He introduced Mr. Scranton from the New Hampshire School Boards Association. Mr. Scranton presented her with a scholarship for \$1,000.00. Connor will be attending Tennessee State University this fall.

Public Special Education Requests:

Shaun Carroll addressed the parents from the public forum. He restated that the Board will review and will not take lightly their concerns. He told them to feel free to come to all of the monthly Board meetings. He did note that Sunapee had been praised by the NEASC accreditation teams on their special education department. Sunapee also enacted their bullying policies before most other school districts, but that doesn't mean things can't be tweaked.

Approval of Resignation of School Board Member:

Kim Denney moved to approve the resignation of School Board member, Edward Bailey. Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Shaun Carroll explained that if Edward Bailey's company, Bailey electric, is going to do the electrical work at SMHS, then he cannot be on the Board.

Vote unanimous.

Approval and Appointment of New School Board Member:

The replacement for Edward Bailey will run from August to March of 2013.

The Board discussed whether to ask old board members if they were interested or those who ran in March.

Paul Skarin felt that it should be put out to the community by putting an ad on the website and in the local papers for those interested to submit a letter of interest.

Kim Denney felt that the Board should contact those who had run for the appointment in March.

The Board tabled the decision until next meeting when Shaun Carroll will bring a list of old Board members and those who ran on the ballot. There is no meeting in July. The Board will meet again on August 1st.

The Board said they will recognize Edward Bailey for his service at the August 1st Board meeting.

Approval of the SMHS handbook for 12-13:

Sean Moynihan stated that the handbook brought forth has no changes from the 11-12 school year. He and some staff are currently working with a group of students who would like to see the dress code changed in regards to shorts. He envisions the dress code will stay the same for this coming school year, but there may be a minor change brought forth before the year begins.

Approval of the SCES handbook for 12-13:

Alan Pullman stated that lunch fees had changed and the Acceptable Use Policy. Also, the new principal, Jodi Bergen wrote a letter for the handbook.

Kim Denney moved to approve the SMHS and SCES 12-13 handbooks as presented, pending an amendment from SMHS.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Track Fundraiser Request:

Jon Reed, Technology Integrator, explained to the Board that the fundraiser would be taking little, white volleyballs and selling them in the local area. People decorate and then a winner is chosen for best decoration. Then the volleyballs will get loaded up into a dump truck and dumped down Burkehaven Hill. The first ball down the hill will be the winner.

The balls will be sold over 6-8 weeks over the course of the summer. The winner for best decoration and the race will be in August. It will cost \$5 to buy a ball.

Currently, there are 50 students on the middle and high school track team. The team would like to get team sweats and create a "Friends of Sunapee Track". He will need to coordinate with the town to do this fundraiser.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the track fundraiser as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Summer Fitness Challenge:

Jon Reed explained that the Summer Fitness Challenge has been held the last 2 years and is open to all grades 6th-12th and Sunapee District staff. You can walk, run or hike. At 50 miles you get one colored shirt and at 100 miles you get the next color shirt. You win the yellow shirt for the most miles completed.

The first year Sharon Parsons won with 300 miles of running total. The second year Tom Coverdale won.

This year they are changing it up a bit by holding a "Do-athalon" where you have to complete 2/3 of your minutes in fitness whether walking, running, hiking, swimming or biking and 1/3 of your minutes in reading. The elementary school is now included this year.

New Hires:

Kim Denney moved to approve the Synthia Liska and Terra Geer as presented.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Terra Geer has agreed to stay on as the Special Education Director for 80 days during the 12-13 school year or about 2 days a week to help transition Synthia Liska into her new role.

Synthia Liska will have a 195 day contract. She is from out of State, but will be starting July 1st.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Food, Breakfast and Lunch Cost:

Kim Denney moved to approve the new food, breakfast and lunch costs as presented.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Mike Trojano explained that the government focus is tied to Wellness and Health Standards. There needs to be more fruits and vegetables, higher quality food and leaner meats. New regulations require paid lunch be equal to free/reduced lunch subsidy that districts get. Most NH school districts are currently less than the free/reduced lunch price.

He recommends the Board increase lunch by .25 cents for a total of \$2.50. Breakfast and milk will stay the same.

Vote unanimous.

Permission for Superintendent to make Summer Employment Decisions:

Paul Skarin moved to approve Brendan Minnihan to make hiring decisions over the summer and bring forth to the Board at the August 1st Board meeting.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Brendan Minnihan said they are currently interviewing for a part-time math teacher for SMHS and a Teacher of the Deaf.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of the Contract for Career and Technical Education:

Brian Garland moved to approve the renewal of the contract with Claremont and Newport Vocational Education Technical Centers for ten years per the State requirement.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Contract for Electrical Bid to Bailey Electric:

Kim Denney moved to approve the SMHS electrical panel bid to Bailey Electric.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approval of Contract to Weathercheck, LLC for SHMHS Roof Replacement:

Kim Denney moved to approve the SMHS Roof Replacement bid to Weathercheck, LLC.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Manifest:

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

- #2012-25 = \$80,615.27
- #2012-26 = \$78,890.33

Kim Denney moved to approve the following payroll manifests:

- #2012-23 = \$185,230.86
- #2012-24 = \$260,191.36

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Agenda for Next Meeting, August 1, 2012:

- Recognize Edward Bailey
- Manifest
- Minutes – 6/6/2012
- Good News
- Superintendent News
- Policy ERB - Record Retention Policy
- New School Board Members
- Building & Grounds Project Updates
- Hire Updates
- Goal Setting Retreat

Non-Public Session:

Kim Denney moved to go into non-public under 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:36 p.m.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

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

Discussed concerns raised by parents.

No votes taken in non-public.

Paul Skarin moved to exit non-public at 9:02 p.m.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Paul Skarin moved to come into public session at 9:03 p.m.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Paul Skarin moved to adjourn meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kate O'Connor", written in black ink.

Kate O'Connor

Sunapee School Board Secretary