

Sunapee School Board Meeting
August 1, 2012
SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll
Kim Denney
Paul Skarin
Brian Garland - 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
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Synthia Lisak, Special Education Coordinator
Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance:

Kate O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Shaun Carroll the moment of silence.

Minutes:

Kim Denney moved to approve the school board minutes of June 6, 2012.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Public Forum:

Katie Ortiz, 114 Sargent Rd., has three children attending Sunapee schools and is following up on the June meeting in which parents with children in the special education program requested a Special Education Advisory Committee be created. This Board would allow parents to voice their ideas and concerns to principals, special education teachers, related service staff and the

special education directors. The parents would like this to be a collaborative effort between them and the Sunapee School District staff to enhance the quality of special education in the Sunapee School District.

Shaun Carroll stated that the Board feels that there are procedures in place currently that have and are working well in the district. The parents are more than welcome to create their own committee and then bring their ideas and concerns to the Sunapee staff per the policies in place. Currently, you would bring these ideas and concerns to the teacher, then the principal, then the special education coordinator and then the Superintendent. The Board would only get involved if necessary. The Board does not want individual student's or staff members names brought out into the public as that would open the district up to a lawsuit. If there were individual requests, they would be brought forth in a non-public session.

Katie Ortiz stated that she does not feel the parent's are being heard. She and the other parents want to be able to hold a forum with special education staff that is collaborative like a support group.

Sean Moynihan stated that he holds a quarterly Principal's Advisory Committee at SMHS and welcomed all special education parents to come. He stated that you cannot bring up individual concerns, but if you have ideas or general concerns, this would be the place to do so. He could then work with parents at enhancing the atmosphere of special education at SMHS.

Jodi Bergen, new SCES Principal, stated that she would like to start a quarterly committee as well at the elementary school similar to Sean Moynihan's. She welcomes parents to come and visit with her and express their ideas.

Kim Denney asked the parents if they felt that their IEP team meetings were not working.

Katie Ortiz stated that it bothers her that the paraeducators are never present for the meetings and feels that is why IEP's are not followed even though these are the people working with their children. She stated that there is a lack of communication between the staff.

Kim Denney stated that she feels the support group would be good for parents, but student confidentiality has to be maintained and that is the Board's main concern.

Brendan Minnihan introduced Synthia Liska, the new special education coordinator, to the parents and welcomed them to call and set up a meeting with her before school starts.

Nicole D'Angelo, Sunapee resident and parent with a student with special needs, asked why the parents were not allowed to meet with the Board in a non-public session.

Shaun Carroll stated that they wanted to wait until Jodi Bergen had started. He also stated that when things get to the Board level, it is now a legal issue, so it is better for parents to go through the administrators first to try to resolve issues.

Brendan Minnihan invited the parents to please meet with the new special education coordinator and both the SCES and SMHS principals to try to find a resolution.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the following report to the Board:

1. She, Terra Geer and Synthia Liska attended the Special Education Administrators Academy where they learned about the new laws and procedures, as well as, Response to Intervention.
2. Summer school was well attended and the students were engaged.
3. The cement work at the amphitheatre looks fabulous.
4. She has been very excited to the staff and many have come in and introduced themselves.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the following report to the Board:

1. Many students and teachers have been coming into the school for summer reading.
2. There is a group of students and teachers this week working on first day of school activities.
3. He did some research on dress code policies at other schools. He plans on touching base with the students at the first Principal's Advisory Committee and telling them his findings. He hopes that will resolve any issues.

Superintendent's Report:

Brendan Minnihan gave the following report to the Board:

1. He and Sean Moynihan spent hours this week working on a 150 page report for the State, but it is now complete.
2. A thank you note was received from Dick Barnes and his wife to the Board.
3. There will be a meet and greet for Jodi Bergen on Monday, August 20th from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. in the SCES library. Punch and cookies will be provided.
4. The Art, Health, Music and Physical Education Curriculum is available to read at SMHS and the SAU Office. Sunapee is currently in the middle of a five year process to revise the curriculum.
5. He, Jodi Bergen and Dawn Crate are currently working to revise the Elementary Guidance practices. There is a current job description in this month's Board packet. They are using the ASCA model – Role of the Guidance Counselor, to come up with a new job description. They are looking at the role in terms as the whole school, small group and individual needs. They are also looking at what is currently not working in

the position. They will give a presentation to the Board probably in October.

Building and Grounds:

Kelly Cornish gave the following report to the Board:

1. The SMHS roof has been completed, as well as, the electrical panel.
2. The tree removal is now done.
3. The SCES stairwells have been painted, but the spaghetti boards are still being removed.
4. The amphitheatre is almost done. They have patched and laid new concrete, but still need to finish the stairs.
5. The kitchen floor in SMHS is done.
6. Fire safety wise, the hole in the stairway at SCES is now closed.
7. The laundry machine, cooler and vending machines have also been removed due to fire safety and are no longer in the way.
8. The fire doors at SCES are being kept, but Claremont Glassworks is putting new smoke glass in the doors. New railings still need to be installed.
9. Egresses at SCES in the boiler room are being worked on, as well as, the hoods in the kitchen.
10. The woodwork and tile work at SMHS still need to be completed. The tile work is being looked at by Armstrong.

Items 8-10 will not be complete by the beginning of the school year, but they hope by October.

Culvert:

Brendan Minnihan told the Board that they've received three bids on the culvert project. Two of the three bids stated that the design doesn't match the new EPA rules. The new rules state that a three-sided box culvert has to be used; this will add an extra \$20,000 to the project and they cannot get a waiver.

The Board stated to reject the old bids and ask the three to rebid using the new specifications.

Kim Denney moved that the Board reject the three bids for the culvert project and put the bid out again using the new EPA specifications.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Repaving of SCES Parking Lot:

Brendan Minnihan explained that the town decided to repave School St. and redo its sidewalks. The school district has asked the town to repave the parking lot as well. The cost will be \$10,200 which will come from the Elementary Capital Fund. This project was not planned yet, but since the town is starting now, he figured they should move the project up.

Paul Skarin asked if a smaller amount of the parking lot should be repaved to open up more of the field for the kids.

Gidget Ducharme, 56 Cross Rd., agreed that it would be safer for the kids than the parking lot.

The Board explained that they need a certain amount paved to allow for the busses to turn around, otherwise, they could get stuck in the mud.

Kim Denney moved to approve the repaving of the SCES parking lot, by the town, not to exceed \$11,000, from the Elementary Capital Reserve Fund.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Policy JICK - Bullying:

Brendan Minnihan explained that after the parent complaint about the bullying policy, he reviewed the current procedure. There is no need for a Board vote as the policy itself is not being changed. Jodi Bergen helped him review and gave him a form she was using in her previous school district that he tweaked, expanding the form, and thinks better suits Sunapee's needs. The Board reviewed the new form in their packet.

Approval and Appointment of New School Board Member:

Brendan Minnihan stated that Edward Bailey will be recognized for his work on the Board at the September Board meeting as he is away in Maine.

At the last meeting the Board stated that Edward Bailey had resigned so as to be able to bid on the electrical work at SMHS. The Board stated they were going to notify those who ran in the March election to see if they were still interested; they were as follows: Gidget Ducharme, Paulette Rowell, Maria Fair and Michael Ripley. All said they would entertain serving.

Paul Skarin asked that all of the members introduce themselves and explain why they wanted to serve on the Board.

Maria Fair stated she has children in the district, first at SCES and now at SMHS. She moved here eight years ago and wants to be active in the school district.

Gidget Ducharme stated she a child in middle school, she is active in volunteering in the school, was PTO treasurer for four years and also worked in the Middle Links. Communication is a high priority for her and attends Board meetings regularly for information.

Michael Ripley said that he grew up in Sunapee and attended Sunapee schools. He currently has young children who are not school age yet. He thinks the schools run well and wants to give back to the town.

Shaun Carroll stated that Paulette could not attend, but she wanted the Board to know that she ran to give back to the community as she loves Sunapee.

The Board stated that they choose Michael Ripley as the new Board member as he was the person with the second most votes after Paul Skarin in the March elections and they want to follow what the townspeople wanted.

Kim Denney moved to approve Michael Ripley as the new Board member replacing Edward Bailey until March 2013.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Michael Ripley will need to see Kathy Ward at the SAU to get sworn in.

Fall and Year Round Co-Curricular Positions:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the fall and Year Round Co-Curricular Positions as presented.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of New Hires:

Brendan Minnihan brought forth the following new hires to be approved by the Board for the 12-13 school year:

Alyssa Guldager, Teacher of the Deaf, for 185 days.

Kim Denney moved to approve Alyssa Guldager as Teacher of the Deaf for the 12-13 school year.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Elizabeth Solan, part-time middle school math teacher, for 4 classes a day.

Paul Skarin asked if she will be available outside of class to help students as that has been an issue in the past.

Sean Moynihan said she would not be available, but that there will be other teacher's on hand to do so. He will also keep track throughout the year and apprise the Board if there seems to be any issues.

Kim Denney moved to approve Elizabeth Solan as the part-time middle school math teacher for the 12-13 school year.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

1st Reading EHB – Data Records Retention:

Brendan Minnihan explained that a change needed to be made to reference the law. It will be brought forth in September for a second reading and approval. He asked the Board to review.

Manifest:

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

- #2012-27 = \$100,046.97
- #2012-28 = \$200,806.13
- #2012-29 = \$71,862.38
- #2012-30 = \$36,366.60
- #2013-1 = \$68,385.00
- #2013-2 = \$13,327.47
- #2013-3 = \$167,635.91

Kim Denney moved to approve the following payroll manifests:

- #2012-25 = \$323,361.47
- #2012-26 = \$419,587.64
- #2012-26.1 = \$470,749.88
- #2012-27 = \$213,680.75

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Communication:

John Augustine, Sunapee resident, asked whether agendas are posted prior and how long before the Board meeting.

Brendan Minnihan stated that they are posted at both the schools and at the SAU 24hrs in advance. When the new website is up, it will be posted on there as well.

He stated that Google student emails are now setup and the calendar of events will be populated online at the beginning of the school year when the secretaries come back.

John Augustine asked whether e-readers will be made available to students in 12-13.

Brendan Minnihan stated that the district is using Kindles.

Ray Palin stated that currently the library can only loan books to devices the district themselves own and not to students personal devices.

Maria Fair said that the PTO wants to purchase Kindles with fundraising money.

Agenda for Next Meeting, September 5, 2012:

- Recognize Edward Bailey
- Manifest
- Minutes – 8/1/2012
- Good News
- Superintendent News
- 2nd Reading of Policy EHB - Record Retention Policy
- Negotiations
- Building & Grounds Project Updates
- Common Core

The Board will meet at 5 p.m. for goal setting prior to the Board meeting at the SAU.

Kim Denney moved to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,



Kate O'Connor

Sunapee School Board Secretary