

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

August 5, 2015

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland

Jan Bettencourt

Matt McNally - Absent

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Ray Palin, Media Coordinator

Jon Reed, Technology Integrator

Mat Bouranis, Facilities Director

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jan Bettencourt and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Brian Garland moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of June 11, 2015.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

3 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 - Abstention

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Summer school went very well. This year they piloted an extended summer program during the first two weeks of August with 7-10 students attending; going well.
- Staff has been involved in professional development over the summer including one in Boston and taking classes through Granite State College.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- Extended year program has gone well this summer.
- The new art teacher, Kirk Romein, has been in to get his room ready for next year.
- AP scores came back strong; he will give a full report in the fall, but below is an overview:
 - AP Social Studies – 13 out of 13 students passed (5-5's, 6-4's & 2-3's)
 - AP Calculus – 5 out of 6 students passed (1-5, 3-4's, 1-3 & 1-1)
 - AP English – 13 out of 21 students passed

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the following report to the Board:

- The NH Department of Education approved the Sunapee Life Skills Program; it is not certified.
- An agreement has been signed with UNH for Sunapee students 18-21 years old to attend the SCORE Program. The students referred will be offered support services while they take college courses.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- Congratulated Kelly Wessells on finishing her MBA.
- Attended a Smarter Balanced Workshop and was told the test results will be available on September 8th with the public receiving the results on September 10th.
- Very happy that Sunapee is taking advantage of the SCORE Program at UNH.

Buildings and Grounds:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- Introduced Mat Bouranis, the new Facilities Director, to the Board. Came to Sunapee from the Kearsarge Middle School.
- Gave a breakdown of all the projects completed over the summer in the District, including the installation of LED lights inside SMHS and the baseball fields, as well as, repaving completed at SMHS.
- The culvert project is finally complete.

Jan Bettencourt asked about the irrigation of the fields. Russell Holden explained the work that needed to be done. It cost a total of \$9,000 and was done in June under the maintenance line.

New Special Education Teacher:

Russell Holden explained the committee conducted six interviews and brought two candidates to him.

Brian Garland moved to approve Melissa Young as a special education teacher for the 15-16 school year as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Student/Teacher/Parent/Community Survey:

These are the same type of surveys that were sent out last year. Russell Holden asked the Board to review the survey questions and contact him with feedback as he wants to send out the survey on October 1st. Students and teachers will receive it through their email at school, parents will receive it via personal email; he is trying to figure out the best way to target community members as the company the District goes through needs to send it directly to the recipient via email. The District will get the word out via Orientation Nights for the 6th, 9th and SCES when they are held at the end of August.

New Staff Hires:

Russell stated the following people have been hired as new staff members over the summer:

- Adam Glass – Part-time technology support
- Sheila Hulton – Paraeducator
- Alex Janas – Custodian
- Julie Wirth – Teacher of the Visually Impaired

New Director of Buildings and Grounds – Mat Bouranis:

Introduced above under Buildings and Grounds.

2014-2015 Financial Update:

Kelly Wessells stated she is working on the end of year closeout. She is estimating somewhere from \$150,000-\$200,000 will be returned to the town. The auditors will be in District next week; they will have the final word at the end of September.

Student Tuition:

Russell Holden stated 15 total tuition students are slated to come next year (1-SCES, 4-middle school and 10-high school). Three more students are still in the process; this is above the projection and more than last year. The students are coming from Goshen and Croydon, though both towns have signed with Newport as their anchor school.

Amendment to the Right to Know Law 2016:

Russell Holden explained that as of January, 2016 the law has changed to the Board having to approve sealing non-public minutes after returning to public session.

SMHS NEASC School Accreditation:

Sean Moynihan said the latest correspondence was the five year progress report. SMHS did very well as all, but one piece has been completed since the last site visit.

Russell Holden stated he has been asked to join the NEASC Committee to revamp the self-study process of the accreditation process to make it more school friendly.

Summer Meeting Update:

Russell Holden stated that he and Shaun Carroll had met with the town selectmen and think they will work well together towards upcoming projects.

Manifest:

Jan Bettencourt asked Kelly Wessells to explain what the manifest is to the public. Kelly Wessells explained that it is the total of what has been paid from both accounts payable and payroll in between each meeting.

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2016-01 - \$167,165.98

Paul Skarin moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2016-01 - \$27,907.54
- 2016-02 - \$221,775.47
- 2016-02.1 - \$202.06
- 2016-02.2 - \$459.13
- 2016-03 - \$95,454.06

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Gidget Ducharme, Cross Rd., asked if the public was allowed to view the manifests. Kelly Wessells stated they cannot view the payroll manifests as it violates HIPA, but Russell Holden said he will find out about the A/P manifest.

Don Bettencourt stated the town selectmen have many email addresses if the District wanted to contact them to help send out the survey. He mentioned the fact that Croydon is in a legal mess over paying for some students to attend private school with public funds. He wondered if Sunapee has considered school choice for their students. Russell Holden explained that because Sunapee already has a school the State will not allow families school choice; you have to be a town without a school for that to happen.

Chuck Weinstein, Sunapee resident, asked how many students per class SMHS can hold. Russell Holden stated 25 students comfortably. Chuck Weinstein then asked why the District wasn't taking in more tuition students since it is free money. Russell Holden explained that it is anticipated revenue, but they do have a policy in place for tuition students. Chuck Weinstein also asked if the students get a choice of attending the vocational school. Russell Holden responded that last year only 2-3 students took advantage of the vocational centers at either Claremont or Newport.

Heidi Currier, Sunapee resident, stated that many students are leaving SMHS to attend private school, VLACS or be homeschooled. She feels the District should investigate why they are leaving.

Jodi Manson, Youngs Hill Road, asked why the new Board member was not in attendance at tonight's meeting. Russell Holden responded that he was on vacation and had it planned prior to being on the Board.

Gidget Ducharme asked what the District was doing about the access road by SCES as they haven't spoken about it in a while. Russell Holden stated that it is currently taken off the table. They have plans and it is ready to be bid out when a decision is made as to the direction the Board wants to go.

Agenda for September 2, 2015:

- Board Evaluations
- Good News
- Manifest
- Finalize Surveys
- Student Representative

Adjournment:

Paul Skarin moved to adjourn at 8:12PM.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary