

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

September 2, 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

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
Terra Geer, Special Education Director

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

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

Minutes:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of August 5, 2015.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
4 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Abstention

Shaun Carroll asked everyone to speak clearly as the Board Secretary was absent.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

John Augustine, Sunapee resident, stated there is a current proposal to sell the Harbor House Livery Building which will be voted on September 8th. It looks as though the building would be rented to a group who would use the building as a music and arts center. The District should look at collaborating with the group.

Minette Sweeney, Sunapee resident, said the music and arts center was discussed during the planning stages. The center talked about collaborating with the school district offering free or discounted music lessons and music business lessons.

Shaun Carroll noted that Don Bettencourt was recording the meeting.

Library Services Presentation:

Ray Palin, SMHS Library Media Specialist, gave the Board the following presentation:

- When he first came to Sunapee he devised a five year strategic plan that he presented to the Board that encompassed creating a multi-media workspace designed for reading, informational retrieval and technology use, creating a learning commons model that universities and colleges use; the Board allowed his changes.
- He changed the floor design of the library to make the room more flexible. It is more student centered and a full service research learning space.
- Teachers are bringing in classes an average of three periods a day.
- Study halls are now being used for collaborative work. They can either work in small group spaces or in individual spaces.
- The library is now averaging 80 students per day.
- He moved the paperback fiction books to behind the circulatory desk and created a virtual learning space in the back of the library for students taking online classes, including accounting, Chinese and Latin.
- He showed the Board information sources and technology tools on the library website students can use to conduct research. He is currently teaching students how to write research papers so that they are better prepared when they enter college.
- Android tablets were purchased to give to students who do not have access to the technology.

- He showed the Board a technology presentation that students in technology courses created.
- He handed out a survey given to students in regards to the library, what he has to offer and improvements the students feel could be made.

Russell Holden told the Board that Ray Palin had been asked to write a paper and present in Washington, D.C. on the creation of the Sunapee High School library learning commons as he was a frontrunner in high school design.

The Board asked questions in regards to how virtual learning classes are setup, the types of classes taken and how credit is established. The administration also answered questions on restrictive passes to the library and why some students do not have full access.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Opening Day went smoothly. A Family Fun Night was put on the Thursday before school started and fun was had by all.
- SCES has sixteen new students with five of those being tuition students. The school has a total number of 169 students as of the first day.
- NWEA testing is this week to get a baseline for the later testing in October.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- SMHS also had a smooth start. A theme is chosen every year and the first day games and “get to know you” activities are done. This year the theme was gratitude.
- There will be a fall and spring play again this year. The fall play will be “Mulan Jr.”; auditions are coming up soon.
- Open house will be next Thursday, September 10th.
- The total number of new students this year is fourteen with 251 students from 6th-12th grades. More tuition is being received this year than past years.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the following report to the Board:

- Over the summer the special education team has been revising forms and procedures.

- Thanks to Mr. Denis, Mr. Reed and specialists, SMHS has accessible materials available in multi-formats for students.
- The State August Report was received and Sunapee was found to be in 100% compliance with special education procedures under IDEA. Russell Holden and Terra Geer explained what the report identifies and what the indicators mean.
- Last year there were sixty-four special education students; this year there is a total of fifty-two. This may change at the October 1st enrollment report.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- Reiterated the first day of school went well.
- The Smarter Balance test results will be released to districts on September 8th with the public receiving the results on the 12th. The test coordinators at each school will receive the results. Please remember this is a new test, so there is nothing to compare it to.

Buildings and Grounds:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- The last project is being completed, which is a handicap accessible bathroom in the middle school wing.
- The new Facilities Director, Mat Bouranis, is doing a fantastic job.
- He conducted Wayne Palmer's exit interview, and this past Monday Wayne and his wife left for Kentucky.

Policy JCA – Change of Assignment:

Russell Holden explained the law has been changed so that a Superintendent can no longer approve a student attending another school if it is in their best interest. The School Board now has to approve. The Superintendent will still recommend.

More policies will need to be updated due to legislative changes. The policy committee will be reconvening starting this month.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the first and second reading of policy JCA – Change of Assignment as presented.

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Nature's Classroom:

Sean Moynihan explained that this is an annual trip done with the 6th grade class. This year thirty-seven students are attending. This is a multi-night trip. The District helps pay for students who need monetary assistance.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the Nature's Classroom field trip as presented.

Matt McNally seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Finalize Student/Teacher/Parent/Community Survey:

Russell Holden thanked both Paul Skarin and Jan Bettencourt for their feedback. He revised based on their suggestions and will be cleaning up grammar and typos. He also ran it by both principals and hopes to get the survey out the first week of October.

Matt McNally moved to approve the survey as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Outdoor Program Approval, Building Principal:

Sean Moynihan explained that teacher Tom Coverdale takes a group of high school boys every year on overnight camping trips. He makes this trip once a quarter. The dates of the trip have to be flexible due to the weather, so the location may change as well. He is asking the Board to allow him to approve the trips as they come up during the year as Tom Coverdale still has to get permission from the principal.

Paul Skarin moved to allow Sean Moynihan to approve the four Outdoor Program Overnight Camping Trips during the 2015-16 school year.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

CIP Committee Member Selection and Walkthrough Dates:

The Board discussed who will be on the CIP Committee until March, 2016. It was decided that Shaun Carroll and Brian Garland would stay on with Jan Bettencourt as the alternate. Russell Holden will email the three of them with dates for the month of September they could meet to do a walkthrough at each of the schools.

Board Evaluation:

Russell Holden explained that the results of last year's Board evaluation from the three remaining Board members from last year, Shaun Carroll, Paul Skarin and Brian Garland, are included in the September Board packet.

NHSBA Resolutions:

Russell Holden noted that the NHSBA Resolutions were included in the Board packet for September. This will have any changes or legislative updates to laws.

Enrollment was discussed. Russell Holden stated that districts and the Department of Education go by the October 1st enrollment. He will bring the October 1st enrollment and the District Profile to the next Board meeting.

Manifests:

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifests:

- 2016-02 - \$20,774.06
- 2016-03 - \$108,935.39
- 2016-04 - \$211,391.20

Paul Skarin moved to approve payroll manifests:

- 2016-4 - \$64,281.62
- 2016-4.2 - \$513.13
- 2016-4.3 - \$1,837.83
- 2016-5 - \$372,915.69

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Don Bettencourt, Sunapee resident, asked what policy JCA means. Russell Holden explained how policies are coded and the change of wording specific to JCA. Don Bettencourt then asked how the school year calendar is set. Russell Holden stated the school administration reviews the calendar and works with the Claremont and Newport School Districts as Sunapee students attend the vocational programs in those districts. The calendar is usually set between January

and February. Mr. Bettencourt then asked if other rooms could be utilized for the Board meetings such as the music room as it is difficult to see presentations.

John Augustine, Sunapee resident, asked about the 15-16 school year tuition and budget. Russell Holden explained the District has three more tuition students than last year. They are over what they predicted for revenue.

Gidget Ducharme, Cross Rd., asked how the Outdoor Program Overnight Camping determined which boys attended. Sean Moynihan stated that it is open to all high school boys.

Jan Bettencourt asked the administration if they were aware that the Intertown Record had run an article from Newsweek about Sunapee High School that stated Sunapee has a 100% graduation rate and 100% college bound and if so, are they going to ask for a retraction. Sean Moynihan and Russell Holden stated that they are aware and had contacted Newsweek. Newsweek apologized for the error, but stated they would not make a correction. Jan Bettencourt asked if Newsweek got paid to put Sunapee in the magazine and Sean Moynihan stated they do not.

Agenda for October 7, 2015:

- District Profile
- Good News
- Manifest
- Enrollments
- Tuition
- SCES Library Media Specialist Presentation

Non-Public Session:

The Board went into non-public session at 8:34pm. Please see non-public minutes.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary