

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

September 4, 2013

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair
Kim Denney, Vice Chair
Mike Ripley
Paul Skarin
Brian Garland

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Wayne Palmer, Facilities Director
Tom Frederick, Athletic Director
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

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

Shaun Carroll told all in attendance that Walter Graf and Charlie Sorrento's brother had recently passed away. Walter used to run the ski school on Mt. Sunapee and owned the Anchorage at one time. The district bought the house from Charlie's brother that is beyond SCES.

Minutes:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2013 school board meeting as presented.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Superintendent, Russell Holden, corrected pg. 3, Superintendent's Report, to "approval from State audit on August 12, 2013" instead of him attending a Title I meeting on August 12, 2013.

He also corrected pg. 4, Policy 1st Reading, that the four policies being brought forward on September 4th are required and that the remaining policies hadn't been updated since 2003.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the minutes from August 4, 2013 as amended.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Kate O'Connor stated that in years past, she would send the minutes to the Superintendent with questions. The Superintendent would review and email her back with small revisions to make if needed. She was unaware there had been mistakes. Superintendent Holden asked the Board what they preferred. The Board said to have corrections done beforehand unless it is a large mistake.

Public Forum:

Sunapee resident, John Augustine, complimented the Board on the developing Board goals for the 13-14 school year. He asked the Board to keep the goal of Sunapee being in the top 20% in the State or at least the mentality especially because of spending. Sunapee spends 50% more than the State average per student. He thinks their idea of doing a survey is a great idea, but they should survey the taxpayers not just those working in the district.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- SCES held their first annual Family Night the Thursday before school started. Parents and students could meet teachers, have a picnic and listen to a DJ
- There are 11 new students in grades 1-5
- There are a total of a 166 students including preschool
- There are 6 seniors working with staff as interns

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- This year the theme is "perseverance"
- First day activities went well. The activities were team building exercises such as building bicycles which the school will then donate

- 25 students took AP tests this past spring. 22 out of the 25 passed with a 3, 4 or 5. 40% of seniors took AP tests last year. (Explained how AP grades work and how they are weighted)

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the Board the following report:

- Concussion testing –
 - Tom Frederick explained how concussion testing works and that there is currently a policy in place saying that testing is recommended. The plan is to tighten up the procedure to give out to parents and students.
 - The testing is called IMPACT testing and they have a flyer to hand out from the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools). Sunapee contacted a variety of Division III schools about what testing they use.
 - He contacted Concord Hospital who will administer the test on the 11th and 13th of September. The test is 20-30 minutes long, is laptop based and tests five processes. This will give each student a baseline.
 - The information will be stored at Pittsburgh Medical Center, so that if an athlete has a head injury the results will be used to give them a starting point.
 - The cost is \$10 per student and the athletic department would pay; they are hoping to get all 125-130 athletes this fall and then will test again in the winter and spring for students in grades 6-12. They are hoping in the future to test everyone even if they are not in sports.
 - This is not a policy at this point and all athletes will have to sign a waiver. He met with parents of fall athletes last week and is holding another meeting tomorrow. (Tom Frederick left at 7:31PM).
- Special Education District Data Profile –
 - Russell Holden explained that the district received a determination letter stating that Sunapee had met requirements for special education during the 11-12 school year. He complimented the special education department.
- Opening Day PD Report –
 - He attended the assembly on the hill at the back of SCES and heard the children say what they love best about school. It was well done.
 - He was very impressed at SMHS that all 200 students sang “Happy Birthday” to Sean Moynihan on their first day of school.

Building & Ground Updates:

- School Projects – Wayne Palmer gave the following summer projects report to the Board:
 - Repairs to the back hallway are complete at SMHS where the floor needed to be glued down as was similarly the case in the other hallways of the school because moisture in the concrete kept pulling the tile up.
 - The bleachers will be repaired this Friday. They will be putting in a whole new top row.
 - A new counter top in the art room has been installed.
 - The storage container on the baseball field has been moved.
- Culvert Project –
 - Russell Holden has been working with K&A Steven, Wayne Palmer and the water department. He is getting permission to start work including leveling and concrete work. They have to get the work done between 7-2:30PM. If the noise is too loud they understand they will need to stop. The culvert has to be taken out by November 1st and then tar will be put down in the spring. They will be moving the hydrant without shutting down the line so that the sprinkler system will not be affected.
- Connector Road Project –
 - Russell met with the town administrator, the Police Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief. They understand that the school needs to egresses', but they have concerns of there being main entrance in front on the Safety Services Building. They stated they would not be in favor of the road. Due to this fact, he asked the engineer to put the study on hold until he spoke with the Board. He said the road doesn't alleviate the parking issues and suggested that other properties be looked at as an alternative.

The Board discussed the history of the land in question, warrant article passed during the 12-13 school year and what next steps should be taken; whether they postpone the study and find other alternative routes or whether they should move forward. IT was suggested, by John Augustine, that the Board attend a town meeting and speak with the selectmen directly since they now own the land needed for the road and oversee the Safety Services Building.

The Board decided this was a good idea and to also continue with the study. Russell Holden said he would find the date. Shaun Carroll said if all members were to attend they will have to post a meeting. They will bring the latest renderings they have available. Russell stated he is also meeting with the road agent, Scott, will look at other possibilities on his own time.

Russell also told the Board of two small projects that need to be completed:

- The rubber on the front staircase at SCES, ½ way up, around the tile steps needs to be redone.
- The stage in the Sherburne gym needs to be refinished.

Policy Review:

The Board will review and vote at the October 2nd meeting on the following policies –

- GCJ – Staff Time Schedule
- BEDG – Minutes
- EFA – Availability and Distribution of Health Foods
- IGE – Parental Objections to Specific Course Materials
- JLCK – Special Physical Health Needs of Students

Russell explained that our current GCJ policy says staff comes in at 8AM, but they actually come in at 7:40AM. The policy is changed to the actual time. Under BEDG, the public minutes are due within 144hrs and the non-public within 72hrs. EFA, IGE and JLCK are required policies that were not in place.

Kim Denney moved to approve the first reading of polices, GCJ, BEDG, EFA, IGE and JLCK.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Policies – Second Reading:

The Board reviewed the following policies:

- EBBC – Emergency Care and First Aid
- EGAD – Copyright
- EGAD-R – Copyright Rules and Procedures
- JCA – Change of School or Assignment
- JG – Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Level
- JLC – Student Health Services
- JLCD-R – Administering Medication to Students (Procedures)
- JLD – School Guidance and Counseling Program
- KB – Title I Parent Involvement (1st time in policy form)
- KB-R – Title I Parent/Student Contract (1st time in policy form)

Russell stated that JLD was recoded. Kim Denney asked Jodi Bergen if there were any big changes made, which Jodi replied there was none. The school administrators had reviewed the policies as well.

Kim Denney moved to approve EBBC, EGAD, EGAD-R, JCA, JG, JLC, JLCD-R, JLD, KB and KB-R as presented.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

District Report Card:

Russell Holden explained to the Board that he felt to put all the information that the Board wanted, data, district information, trends, into creating a pamphlet type of report card, it would be almost seven pages long. Much of the information is duplicated already on the NH DOE website. He recommended that the Board change the name to District Profile, put some of the basic information on the website and then add a link to the NH DOE website the directly links to Sunapee's data information.

Kim Denney moved to approve the District Profile Card as presented.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued between members of the Board on whether data and trends or extra-curricular enrollments, AP classes and other information showed success of students. The questions arose as to what is considered successful for students – test scores or participation in the school itself. It was decided that different people want to see different information.

Russell felt that it should not be tabled, but instead put on the website instead of paper form, linked to the DOE website and then he would continue to work with Sean Moynihan and Jodi Bergen on the overall profile.

Kim Denney moved to amend her motion to continue to form a District Profile Card.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Board Goals:

Tabled until next meeting

Field Trips:

Sean Moynihan explained that this is the annual 6th grade Nature's Classroom field trip. It costs \$308.00 per students.

Brian Garland moved to approve the annual 6th grade Nature's Classroom field trip.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Sean Moynihan brought forth the overnight backpacking trip Tom Coverdale runs every year. He is asking for approval for four backpacking trips for the year as depending on the weather the dates will change. This is only for boys with a set skill level. The first trip will be on September 20, 2013 to Mt. Adams. He will approve all chaperones attending. Only 6-8 students will go between grades 9-12 usually grades 11&12. The students only miss one day of school. There are funds available for those who need it.

Brian Garland moved to approve the four boys backpacking overnight trips for the 13-14 school year with Tom Coverdale.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

SMHS Senior Data:

Sean Moynihan gave the following report to the Board on the 12-13 graduating class:

- 26 seniors walked during graduation
- 25 received a diploma, one received a certificate
- 4 additional students, on top of the 26, graduated from the Kearsarge Adult Ed. Program
- 19 out of the 25 who received a diploma went to a 4yr college
- 5 out of the 25 went to a 2yr college
- 1 out of the 25 went to work, 1 did not graduate in time and will this month

Superintendent Open House:

There will be an open house to meet the new Superintendent on Thursday, September 12th from 9AM-5PM. Sean Moynihan pointed out that the SMHS open house is that night.

Policy Meetings:

Policy Committee meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 1-2PM at the SAU office.

Goshen-Lempster Withdrawal Study:

Russell stated that he received a phone call and a letter from Goshen-Lempster as the two towns are looking to withdraw from each other. He read them policy JECB which is Sunapee's policy on accepting tuition students. They would have to provide their own transportation for elementary students. He recommends that Sunapee continue with their current arrangement for accepting tuition based students from Goshen-Lempster.

Shaun Carroll explained that the dispute is over the loss of tax base in Lempster and the rising cost of educating students in the two towns.

Croydon School District – School Choice:

Russell explained that as of school year 14-15, Croydon is going to give their residents school choice for grades k-4. He would like the Board's permission for Jodi Bergen, another Sunapee representative and himself to attend a meeting on October 19th at the Croydon Town Hall to introduce themselves to the families. Jodi and Russell stated that SCES can take 8-13 more students depending on grade level. SMHS can take 5-9 more students depending on grade level. This is using 20 students per classroom as the maximum. Enrollment is falling slightly and this would keep numbers steady. Currently there are 16 tuition students – 3 elementary students, 4 middle school students and 9 high school students. Ten of out of the 16 are employee children.

The Board gave permission for them to attend to find out more information.

Intent to Retire Letter:

The Board received an intent to retire letter from Gail Baade, SMHS art teacher, at the end of this school year.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the resignation of Gail Baade.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Manifest:

Kim Denney moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2014-3 - \$87,572.08
- 2014-4 - \$79,530.34
- 2014-5 - \$163,703.26

Kim Denney moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2014-4 - \$54,082.18
- 2014-5 - \$197,688.23

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for October 2, 2013:

- 5 year Goals
- Board Goals
- Policies – 2nd Reading
- District Profile
- Project Updates
- Connector Road Projects
- Good News
- Superintendent Open House
- Manifest
- Budget Calendar

Non-Public:

Kim Denney moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (c) at 9:12PM.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Roll Call – Shaun Carroll, Brian Garland, Paul Skarin, Kim Denney, Mike Ripley and Russell Holden

Review personnel at SAU.

Paul Skarin moved to come out of non-public session at 10PM.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Adjournment:

Kim Denney moved to adjourn at 10PM.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Transcribed By,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary