

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

October 1, 2014

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair

Kim Denney, Vice Chair

Mike Ripley - Absent

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal – 7:05 PM

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Terra Geer, Special Education

Ray Palin, SMHS Media Director

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kate O'Connor and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of September 3, 2014.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda Review:

No changes

Public Forum:

Jan Bettencourt (Fernwood Point) – Asked for better communication from the School Board. Gave examples on type of communication she would like to see from the Board. Requested that copies of the Board packet be available for the public at meetings.

Paul Manson (Young Hill Rd.) – Asked if there had been changes to the dress code since last meeting. Shaun Carroll stated they would be addressed later on in the meeting. Paul suggested that the first 2.5 pages of the dress code be eliminated, thus leaving that a student's dress will be determined by faculty and/or administration.

John Augustine (Stagecoach Rd.) – Asked the Board to reach out to the town manager and Town of Selectmen. Also asked that scholarship dollars be tracked.

Gidget Ducharme (Cross Rd.) – Asked about enforcement of dress code. Shaun stated it would be addressed later in the meeting.

SCES Presentation:

Jodi Bergen gave a presentation on the math curriculum at SCES:

- Professional development is concerned with aligning to the new Common Core Standards.
- The elementary grades have been using Everyday Math and a large percentage of students are scoring proficient and above the State scores, but we are not meeting school goals.
- The faculty decided to use a combination of Everyday Math and Singapore Math to meet all student needs.
- Discussed EDM philosophy, college and career ready, compared EDM and Singapore Math.
- Using 1XI and Study Island as online learning tools.
- Using NWEA reports to track progress.
- EDM doesn't align with Common Core, but is working on evaluating it.
- Professional development this year with Mahesh Sharma who is a Professor of Math and founder of the Center for Teaching and Learning of Math.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- The SPTO put on another successful Chowder Challenge last weekend. The money will fund the Naturalist in Residence program through VINS.

- Students are participating in the chess and computer coding club after school and four Destination Imagination teams will be operating as well.
- Open House is tomorrow night from 6-7PM.
- School pictures are next Wednesday, October 8th.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- This week was Spirit Week for SMHS.
- College Night is tonight.
- Class elections have taken place.
- 6th grade Nature's Classroom field trip is Monday.
- There will be a Destination Imagination middle and high school team this year.
- Thanked the Board for approving the overnight camping trip; it was a success.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the Board the following report:

- The new Life Skills program is running beautifully.
- Notices for Childfind have been posted.
- Reviewed the steps in the special education process. It can take up to 132 days to get a fully functioning IEP signed and in place, currently Sunapee is taking an average of 65 days.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the Board the following report:

- Ray Palin stated that 5 juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society last Sunday bringing the total in NHS to 7.
- New Minimum State standards have been put out and there are policy changes to K-12 competencies and performance assessments. Sunapee is in great shape with their policies.
- The first committee meeting on teacher and principal effectiveness will be held next week.
- The Smarter Balance test is coming in the spring. He is stressing to parents, students, teachers and principals to look at the practice tests ahead of time.

Building & Ground Updates:

- Connector Road Project – Ventures Engineering is checking on some things. The DOT seems okay and doesn't want a traffic study.

Policy Review:

JKAA – Use of Restraints and Seclusion – Russell explained that there have been some State changes to the law as of September 2014.

JIBB – Student Representation on the School Board – Russell stated that he will be bringing forth candidates to the Board to interview in November.

Paul Skarin moved to waive the second reading of policies JKAA and JIBB and approve as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

JICK – Dress Code - Russell explained the only change from last year to this year is from shorts and skirts being 5.5 inches from top of knee to shorts and skirts having to be at the same length as to the end of fingertips.

Sean Moynihan stated that the administration has changed how they are handling dress code discipline. Any student who now checks in with administration in the morning about their outfit that is deemed inappropriate can change without any consequence.

Brian Garland moved to approve JICK as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Board Goals:

Were reviewed before tonight's regular School Board meeting.

Brian Garland moved to approve the Board goals as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Winter Coaches:

Sean Moynihan stated that varsity spirit is being advertised.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the winter coaches as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Withdrawal for Summer Painting SCES Capital Reserve Fund:

Russell stated that the invoice has come in for the large painting job done at SCES over the summer, which included the library, at \$9,929.70.

Paul Skarin moved to approve withdrawing \$9,929.70 out of the SCES Capital Reserve Fund to pay for the SCES summer painting last summer.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

FY2013 Audit:

Shaun Carroll noted the good comments the District received in the back of the audit and Russell stated the District has also been praised by the NH Retirement System for excellent recordkeeping while they conducted an audit in Sunapee.

Brian Garland moved to approve the FY2013 Audit as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Budget Timeline:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the budget timeline as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Accept Gift for Title One Program in Memory of Jean Fortier:

Paul Skarin moved to accept the gift from Jean Fortier's family in her memory for the Title I Program.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Russell will send a thank you letter from the Board to the family.

Approval of Connecticut Extended Field Trip for SMHS Girls Basketball Team:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the extended field trip to Connecticut for the girls varsity basketball team as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Sunapee on Twitter:

Russell stated that the District, schools, technology department and the media centers are now all on Twitter. The District is currently creating an email signup as well.

NEASC Accreditation Report:

Sean Moynihan stated that the report the Board has been given is in response to the special report the District sent to NEASC. NEASC will be sending Sunapee their 5 year progress report soon, which is all routine.

NHSBA Training:

A NHSBA representative will be coming on Wednesday, November 5th from 6-7PM, the hour before the regular School Board meeting, to give the Board a refresher training. Shaun Carroll asked that it be posted as a Board work session.

Manifest:

Kim Denney moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2015-05 - \$114,915.50
- 2015-06 - \$101,382.05

Kim Denney moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2015-4 - \$167,150.45 (amended)
- 2015-5 - \$350,861.51 (amended)
- 2015-6 - \$263,152.39
- 2015-6.1 - \$33.38

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Gidget Ducharme, Sunapee resident, asked how much money had been raised at the Chowder Challenge; Jodi had not been given the figures. She also asked how many IEPs are currently in the District; Terra replied 64.

Paul Manson stated he is appalled at the blatant disrespect for public opinion by the Board and administration. He feels that the Board are public servants and should do what the public asks and that the District is being run like a private school instead of a public institution.

Karen Reilly, Sleeper Rd., asked the Board if it was possible a committee could be formed to discuss issues, like the dress code, that is made up of teachers, Board members and students. Shaun replied that one is already created and that students have their say in Principal's Advisory.

Sean Moynihan and Meagan Reed leave the room for a moment so that 12th grader Sam Hagan may speak freely about Principal's Advisory.

Sam explained that the students on the advisory are elected by their peers. The dress code was talked about all last year in the advisory and then those students go back to their peers and discuss. Not everyone agrees with the changes, but the principle is reasonable.

Jodi Manson stated she feels that the kids on the advisory aren't listened to; the administration is too discriminatory and the guidelines are not definitive enough.

Agenda for November 5, 2014:

- Policies
- Connector Road Update
- Good News
- Manifest
- SMHS Presentation
- BAC – Books and Questions

Adjournment:

Paul Skarin moved to adjourn at 8:18PM.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary