

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

October 7, 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
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator
Terra Geer, Special Education Director
Rachel Malanga, Student Representative

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rachel Malanga and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Brian Garland moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of September 2, 2015.
Matt McNally seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous

Agenda Review:

Shaun Carroll noted Chief Cahill will be talking about future bonfires will be added under 4A, which will take place under Public Forum.

Public Forum:

Dave Brown, Sunapee resident, asked what the Sunapee School Board's position would be if in the same position as the Croydon School Board. Russell Holden stated that is about using public monies to fund students going to private schools. Shaun Carroll stated there would be no position because Sunapee has a full pre-K through 12th grades compared to Croydon who only has a pre-K-4th grades. Russell Holden stated Sunapee is taking in tuition students from other Districts, currently Sunapee has fifteen.

Chief Cahill stated there was a big communication gap about the Spirit Week bonfire this year. Wood needs to have no nails in it, cleanup needs to be done and a form needs to be signed; he stated this to the students. It came back to the police department the students were saying it was cancelled. The police spearheaded getting good wood and helped with cleaning it up. In the future, the police department would just like the rules followed and will help in the future.

Library Services Presentation:

Heidi Doyle, SCES Library Media Specialist, gave the Board the following presentation:

- Explained the different lessons she does with all grades, including stories, scientific process, stop motion animation and mathematics.
- A set of twenty Chromebooks and a set of twenty iPads are being circulated throughout the school for student use.
- Explained the programs/subscriptions for Tumblebooks, BrainPop and Keyboarding without Tears. Starting keyboarding in third grade which will help in taking the new standardized tests.
- Spoke about events held in the library including Dot Day.
- Making the space more flexible and mobile for students and use in classrooms. Would like to replace the tall bookshelves with smaller ones for students.
- Students have one forty-five minutes session a week in the library.

The Board thanked her for the presentation.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Excited about the First Annual Cardboard Challenge being held tomorrow night in the Sherburne Gymnasium. It's a showcase for student creativity, showing what you can come up with using cardboard. It's an international project.
- Chess Club started with 28 students and homework/tutoring club will begin soon after school. Destination Imagination groups are starting; 24 students applied.
- PTA had their Chowder Challenge event on 9/27; raised \$6,000.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- National Honor Society Induction Banquet was held; more students were inducted than in the past.
- Thirty-five juniors and seniors attended the college fair at UNH.
- 6th grade just returned from Nature's Classroom.
- Destination Imagination is beginning. Look to have a least two teams this year.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the following report to the Board:

- Instead of SBAC testing for juniors, they are going to take SAT's this spring. The special education department is getting prepared now as there are a variety of issues for special education students in 11th grade taking this test instead of the SBAC.
- Several staff members are taking a competency knowledge workshop this fall.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- The SBAC assessment data has not been given out by the State yet. It will be prepared and given out on November 8th. Because the November 8th date will not comply with the State's release date of November 12th, the results will be shared at the December meeting.
- Budget has started with principals and teachers.
- School Board surveys are going to go out to students and parents on Friday and the community link on the website will be setup for Monday. There is an ad in the Intertown Record and Kearsarge Shopper that the survey is available on the website.

SMHS Girls Basketball Team Trip:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the Girls Basketball trip as presented.

Jan Bettencourt seconded motion.

Sean Moynihan stated this trip has been going on for several years now down to Connecticut with the girls Varsity basketball team and is always successful. Ten to fifteen students go on the trip.

Vote: Unanimous

Budget Timeline:

Russell Holden stated there is a timeline in the packet and ran it by the town as well.

Paul Skarin moved to approve the budget timeline as presented.

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

District Stipend Contracts:

Russell Holden stated negotiated stipends are in the packet for SMHS and SCES for the Board to approve.

Jan Bettencourt moved to approve the District stipends as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Student Representative (Rachel Malanga):

Russell Holden introduced Rachel Malanga to the Board and reviewed her accomplishments at SMHS.

Paul Skarin moved to approve Rachel Malanga as the Student School Board Representative for the 15-16 school year.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

CIP Walkthrough Discussion:

Russell Holden stated the CIP Committee met with building principals. Talked about what has been completed and what should be worked on for the future. In the packet there are a variety of projects for both SMHS and SCES the CIP Committee would like to discuss with the Board for the upcoming budget season.

The Board discussed the District Strategic Plan and the implementation of it. Russell Holden will send a copy of the different plans through the subcommittees to all of the Board members. The Board discussed facility issues at SCES and that more discussion needs to be done to fix problems at the elementary level.

Winter Coaches:

Russell Holden stated the list of winter coaches is in the packet for informational purposes only. A discussion on cross country and alpine skiing as sports teams in the District and enrollment in said sports.

Running Late Bus:

Russell Holden stated that due to additional afterschool programs and students receiving afterschool help with classes, the District is implementing a late bus for both elementary and middle/high school students. Communication to parents is being sent via website and through the schools.

2015 District Profile:

Russell Holden stated the updated District profile is up on the website and there is a copy in their packet.

Parent Request for Bullying Presentation:

Russell Holden stated he had a parent request to have an attorney come in and give the Board a presentation on bullying. They can give a general presentation, but anything about a specific student would have to be in non-public. They would give the legal aspect of handling bullying complaints, the law and review of school procedures. The NHSBA would also be available to give a presentation on bullying.

Discussion on bullying protocols and bullying in Sunapee specifically. Russell Holden will contact the District's lawyer to present on bullying to the Board.

Jan Bettencourt thanked the audience for coming to the meeting. She stated she has been talking to faculty in the District to learn more about the District. Spoke with Chief Cahill about DARE and thinks there is a need for SMHS to be involved. She attended an NHSBA Collective Bargaining Agreement conference and found it to be wonderful learning experience. She also attended the Kearsarge School Board meeting last week. She would like the Board packets available to the public as well as the Board.

Manifest:

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2016-05 - \$118,832.89
- 2016-06 - \$150,736.54
- 2016-07 - \$174,204.00

Paul Skarin moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2016-6 - \$221,376.35
- 2016-7 - \$284,495.37

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Ray Porter, parent of a Sunapee student, if a parent or group of parents wants to address the Board how would that happen. Shaun Carroll stated they would need to speak to the Superintendent and talk to him about the issue to see if it would come before the Board. If it is specific to a faculty member or student it cannot be talked about in public session. The Superintendent deals with issues first and if parents are still unsatisfied then they can bring it to the School Board. Then the School Board would decide if it is business of the Board.

John Augustine, Sunapee resident, asked why the survey is only on the website. Why can't the school put out an email push with the survey. Russell Holden stated that the District did try to get signups for email, but only six people signed up. They did not want to utilize the town's email system, because the District was not a part of it. John stated he signed up and never received emails. Shaun Carroll asked if Russell Holden could see if there was an issue with the email system.

John Augustine also asked about the Sunapee Driving School and if it is something the District gets money from. Russell Holden explained that it is something the District offers students; it is driver's education.

Paul Manson, Sunapee resident, wants to know why the District is hesitant to hear a presentation on bullying. It seems they only want to know about RSA's and legal advice. Russell Holden stated he needs to make sure that if parents speak at the meeting they do not bring up specific students, so it needs to be a generalized discussion.

Chief Cahill, stated that he feels the schools have great communication with the police about bullying and follows all policies and procedures per the law. He agreed that Sunapee doesn't have many cases of bullying. He reviewed the protocols of drug searches and bullying in concert with the District.

Heidi Currier, Sunapee resident, it might be a good idea to hold an assembly with the student body about bullying. There are a lot of good presenters out there now. She believes that bullying in Sunapee is underreported. She asked how the basketball trips are funded. Shaun Carroll said they raise money for it. She feels space isn't an issue; safety concerns should be the only concern. Shaun Carroll went through all updates in SCES and explained why space is an issue.

She also wanted to know why students who are involved on sports teams cannot get credit for gym class, so their schedule is opened up. Paul Skarin stated that Sean Moynihan has been trying to get that Board approved for a while and Russell Holden is on board. It is something the Board is planning on reviewing. It will affect the schedule tremendously, so it needs to be reviewed thoroughly.

Matt McNally stated that other Districts have not only a Principal Advisory Committee, but a Superintendent Advisory Committee as well. Shaun Carroll asked that Russell Holden look at setting this up.

Ray Porter asked how many bullying complaints were received in the previous school year. Russell Holden stated that maybe a handful, but zero came up as actual bullying.

Agenda for November 4, 2015:

- Bullying Presentation
- Good News
- Manifest
- Guidance Presentation – Myles Cooney
- SBAC Presentation
- Policy
- Budget

Non-Public Session:

The Board went into non-public session at 9:16PM. Please see non-public minutes.

Brian Garland moved to go back into public session.

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Jan Bettencourt moved to allow grievance to go to arbitration.

Matt McNally seconded the motion.

Yes – 3, No – 1, Abstention - 1

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary