

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

December 3, 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

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland - Absent

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Terra Geer, Special Education

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Ray Palin, SMHS Media Director

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Mike Montore, Technology Director

Sam Hagen, Student Representative

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sam Hagen and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Kim Denney moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of November 5, 2014.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda Review:

Added under #11 – Informational, D – Meeting with the BAC 12/17 and E – Draft Warrant Articles

Russell Holden introduced student representative, Sam Hagen, to the School Board. She is a senior who is active in the arts including State Choral.

Public Forum:

Jan Bettancourt, Fernwood Point Rd. – She listened to an interview with Commissioner Barry who spoke about the declining enrollment in the State and wanted to know what Sunapee was doing to alleviate the problem so it wouldn't distress taxpayers. She felt that Sunapee's per pupil cost is too high, especially at the high school. She used the Keene/Monadnock School District as an example. Mrs. Bettancourt asked if the Board had thought about sending high school students to other districts or becoming part of a regional school district. She also felt that with a 10:1 student/teacher ratio Sunapee students should be doing better than average on standardized test scores; she cited the 11th grade math scores as her example.

The Board and Superintendent explained that Sunapee is actually above average on test scores not only in the State, but nationally. The District had also thought about becoming part of a regional district, but voted against it years ago.

Maureen Brandon, Sunapee resident, stated that Sunapee residents are fortunate not to be part of a regional school district.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Fifth grader, Tyler Baron, assisted Jon Reed at the Christa McAuliffe conference. He setup an iPad and recorded the process to demonstrate the CasperSuite system and Apple deployment work. Later he helped another presenter who was demonstrating Mine Craft and was the only person out of 40 people to be able to help when there was an issue.
- There is school-wide participation in Countdown to the Holidays with a special activity for each day such as holiday mad libs, making holiday cards for seniors, scavenger hunt, filling out an elf application and holiday themed physical education games.
- The holiday concert will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30

SMHS Good News:

Meagan Reed gave the Board the following good news:

- The students put on the production "Into the Woods"; it was wonderful!
- 2 students attended the French recital in Hanover; Abigail Palin won an award.

- 170 people attended the band and chorus holiday concert last night.
- 30 students visited Washington, D.C. November 7th-9th for Close Up.
- Abby Porter was the high school student of the month and Johanna Roth was the middle school student of the month.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the Board the following report:

- Vocational rehabilitation will visit with the District special education team on December 10th.
- Explained the new alternative assessment for special education students, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) that is part of the new SmarterBalance testing.
- January 7th Peg Dawson, a licensed clinical school psychologist on staff at the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders in Portsmouth, NH will come present to staff and parents regarding Executive Functioning.
- April 8th NH International Dyslexia Association will put on a Learning Disabilities Simulation.

Building & Ground Updates:

- Connector Road Project – Nick from Ventures Engineering is looking at having the road come out at two different spots depending on whether he can cut into the first parking spot at the police station. He will then get numbers to Russell with and without the spot.

Policy Review – J Policies:

Mike Ripley moved to approve the first reading of J policies as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Mike Ripley moved to amend his motion to include the J policies reviewed and rescinded.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Computer Technician Position:

Mike Montore handed out a comparison sheet of other districts' technology needs and the staff on hand to meet those needs. The District has 411 devices and 100 iPads; Sunapee is at least one full-time person understaffed. He would like the Board to approve a 20 hour a week hourly position to help meet networking and hardware needs.

Mike Ripley moved to approve the hiring of a 20 hour a week hourly computer technician position.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

SMHS Extra Curricular Positions:

Russell asked the Board to note the list in their packet; the list provided to them at the previous meeting only stated athletic positions.

Holiday Open House:

The SAU Holiday Open House will be December 18th.

Thank You from the Abbott Library Trustees:

The library trustees sent a thank you for all their help.

Set a Date to Meet with the BAC:

The Board set Wednesday, December 17th from 6-7PM to meet with the BAC at the SMHS library. (Later in the meeting it was deemed unnecessary to meet).

Draft Warrant Articles:

Russell asked the Board to review the draft warrant articles in their packet and to contact Kelly Wessells or himself with any questions.

Manifest:

Kim Denney moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2015-9 - \$118,532.75
- 2015-10 - \$3,689.98
- 2015-11 - \$44,742.89
- 2015-12 - \$138,502.54

Kim Denney moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2015-8 - \$426,824.51
- 2015-9 - \$374,113.04
- 2015-10 - \$320,757.41
- 2015-11 - \$394,352.26

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

John Augustine, Sunapee resident and BAC member, asked the Board to send the BAC a draft of the warrant articles. The general impression of the BAC is that nothing is really going to change in the budget which is why they haven't met with the Board; it just isn't needed. He will send a list of about half a dozen bullet points the BAC thinks should be added to the summary page of the budget. He stated that the BAC does not feel they need to meet with the Board on December 17th.

He also asked the Board to put some sort of academic reference or something about college and career readiness as a topic on each agenda. He does not feel that the 84% of students that go onto attend college after graduation from Sunapee are being selective enough about the schools they are attending. He feels that more students should be attending elite universities.

Agenda for January 14, 2015:

- Policies
- Connector Road Update
- Good News
- Manifest
- Budget – Hearing from 6-7PM

Non-Public Session

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary