

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Media Center

December 4, 2013

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair

Kim Denney, Vice Chair - Absent

Mike Ripley

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Terra Geer, Director of Pupil Services

Ray Palin, Media Coordinator

Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

Carissa Pierce led the Pledge of Allegiance and Shaun Carroll led the moment of silence.

Minutes:

Mike Ripley moved to approve the budget meeting minutes of November 6, 2013.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

3 – Yay, 0 – Nay and 1 - Abstain

Mike Ripley moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of November 6, 2013.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

3 – Yay, 0 – Nay and 1 – Abstain

Mike Ripley moved to approve the non-public minutes of November 6, 2013.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

3 – Yay, 0 – Nay, 1 - Abstain

Public Forum:

Jan Bettencourt of Fernwood Point Rd. stated she feels the Board has a lack of constraint when it comes to spending. She feels the Board doesn't differentiate between needs versus wants. She asked why \$11,000 was spent on NutriKids and how it benefits the District. She asked why the Board was looking at purchasing a turf field. She feels that spending \$19,000 a year per student is too high; what are we getting for that money?

The Board and Russell explained why NutriKids was purchased and that the turf field was brought forth by a committee to the Board; it does not mean that it is being purchased. Shaun asked that she come to the Board meetings every month to get the answers to many of her questions.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- The holiday concert will be held on December 9th at 6:30PM.
- Professional development training on SmartBoards and Literacy for All has been taking place the last few weeks.
- Teachers have been attending the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference this week as well as, webinars, Aimsweb training, reading instruction and Continental Math League.
- The Geography Bee will be held the week after Christmas break.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The SMHS chorus/band held their concert last night; 175 people attended.
- The drama club held their production of "Get Smart"; it went very well.
- Mock trial team competition will be held at Bishop Guertin.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the Board the following report:

- He is working on a new Technology Plan with the Technology Committee. He attended the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference yesterday.
- Announced that Kelly Wessells is a grandma for a second time.

SCES Presentation – Quacking Out Loud:

Joanne Skarin and Mrs. Koehler work with fifth grade students on creating “Quacking Out Loud,” the SCES school newspaper. She brought with her to give the presentation three fifth grade students – Sean Moynihan, Carissa Pearce and Parker Reed. They gave the following presentation:

- There is an editorial squad, writers, graphic and layout crew and assembly and distribution. Altogether there are 12 members of the team.
- They meet on Mondays and Fridays during WINTime.
- They start with a timeline, then brainstorm, write three drafts, make revisions, send to graphics/layout, edit, print and distribute.
- They use Google docs to share graphics and articles and use Microsoft Publisher for the layout.

The Board thanked the students for coming in to present their paper.

Athletic Field SMRT:

Sean Moynihan introduced SMRT representative Dick Webb to the Board. Sean explained that 75-80% of student are involved in co-curricular activities. There are at least five soccer teams and the District/town needs more fields. SMRT is an independent professional landscape architectural firm based in Keene. They design both synthetic and natural grass fields. The current fields are shared with the town, they have to patch holes constantly; the fields are doing well considering, but it is taking time and money.

Dick Webb explained to the Board the advantages/disadvantages to both natural and synthetic field:

- The initial cost of grass is less, but the maintenance costs are significantly higher. The drainage is difficult and you have the issue of freezing. You should be able to get 100-125 games a year out of natural grass.

- Synthetic is safer, there is no freeze and it drains quickly, but the initial costs are quite high. With turf there is also an 8yr warranty, but you should be able to play up to 12-15 years. You can also play on it 24/7.
- Synthetic costs around \$5,000 a year to maintain while natural grass costs around \$35-40,000 annually.

Sean reiterated to the Board the issue of field space and the fact that they have to practice on the same fields they play on, which isn't good. With the purchase of turf they would gain days just because drainage wouldn't be an issue.

The Board thanked Mr. Webb for coming and will discuss the issue.

Building & Ground Updates:

- Culvert Project –
 - The engineers are fixing an issue found during the replacement of the culvert. They have five years to remedy the situation, but want to get it done soon; they are getting approval from the State. The culvert the District bought is in; fencing will also have to be erected.
 - There were erosion and rust on another section of culvert the Army Corps. Of Engineers put in and within 5-7 years it will collapse. We will not know cost to replace until we hear back from State. We can fix the issue after approval from the State and should have up to 5 years to address.
 - We outline the options of how to address the old culvert once we had State approval.
 - The extra work to install the original culvert the District bought due to the issues found have made the project go over budget by \$12, 172.78.

Brian Garland moved to approve the overage amount of \$12,172.78 for the culvert project as presented.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

- Connector Road Project – The Board reviewed the four proposals for the connector road project. After reviewing and discussing the four proposals the Board decided to go ahead with the original design for the road. Russell will contact the Planning Board and get the date of the next meeting for himself and Shaun to attend.

Policy Review:

Mike Ripley moved to approve policies under first reading:

- ACE – Procedural Safeguards: Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability
- BBAB – Roles & Duties of the Board Chair
- BBAC – School Board Powers & Duties
- BBAC-R – School Board Powers & Duties (Part Ed 303 Duties of the School Boards)
- BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics
- BCA-R – Annual Code of Ethics Affirmation/Reaffirmation
- BHE – School Board Use of Email
- IJOA – Field Trips & Excursions
- IJOA-R – Field Trips & Extended Travel Procedures
- IJOC – Volunteers
- IJOC-R Sunapee Volunteer Application

Mike Ripley moved to approve policies under review:

- BA – Board Operational Goals
- BAAA – School Board Policies & Administrative Procedures
- BBA – Board Contact with District Professional Advisors
- BBAA – Board Member Authority
- BBBA – Board Member Qualification
- BBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment
- BBF – Board Member Conduct
- BBFA – Board Member Conflict of Interest
- BCB – Board Officers
- BCD – Board/Superintendent Relationship
- BCE – Board Committees
- BCF – Advisory Committees to the Board
- BDDE – Rules of Order
- BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- BEA – Regular Board Meetings
- BEB – Special Board Meetings
- BEC – Non-Public Sessions
- BEDA – Public Notification of Board Meetings
- BEDC – Quorum
- BFC – Policy Adoption
- BFE – Administration in Policy Absence

- BG – Board Policy Process
- BGA – Policy Development System
- BGE – Policy Dissemination
- BIA – New Board Member Orientation
- BIB – Board Member Development Opportunities
- BIBA – Board Member Conference, Conventions & Workshops
- BIE – Board Member Indemnification
- BJ – School Board Legislative Program
- BKA – Liaison with School Board Associations

Mike Ripley moved to approving rescinding policy:

- BBA-R – Substantive Duties

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Annual Report Cover:

The Board asked that SCES and SMHS art classes work together to form a word listing all the extra-curricular activities in an artistic format for the front page of the cover of the Annual Report.

Finalization of Warrant Articles:

Russell recommended that the Board forego the parking lot warrant article for a year or two (\$75,000). The Board agreed and asked the SAU to form a new warrant article asking the voters to put aside \$100,000 into the Capital Reserve account for the connector road project.

Resignation:

Brian Garland moved to approve the resignation of Valerie Blachly as presented.

Mike Ripley seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Holiday Open House:

Brian Garland moved to approve the SAU Holiday Open House on December 19th from 12-4PM as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Winter Sports Coaching Positions:

Sean explained that right now all positions are filled. They may want to lower the stipend for ski jumping and cross country in the future if the numbers of participants don't increase.

Mike Ripley moved to approve the winter sports coaches as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

3 – Yay, 0 – Nay, 1 – Abstain

Long-term Substitute:

Mike Ripley moved to approve long-term fourth grade substitute, Heidi Virta, starting in January, 2014.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Letter to Goshen-Lempster:

Russell explained that Goshen-Lempster are splitting. He has written to the Goshen-Lempster Cooperative School Board who has been asking if Sunapee would take Goshen students, pre-k through grade 8. In his letter he explained that they would consider taking Goshen students per Sunapee's policy on tuition students, i.e. good academic standing, no behavioral issues, etc. Sunapee would be able to choose the students and the tuition would be the same as it is for all students.

Manifest:

Mike Ripley moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2014-8 - \$125,253.91
- 2014-9 - \$162,241.29
- 2014-10 - \$181,695.77
- 2014-11 - \$109,083.38

Mike Ripley moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2014-7 - \$344,530.18
- 2014-8 - \$414,561.83
- 2014-9 - \$200,963.35

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for January 15, 2013:

- Resignation
- Extended Field Trips
- Policies – 2nd Reading
- Project Updates
- Good News
- Manifest

Public Forum:

John Augustine asked that the cover of the Annual Report include academics more than extra-curriculars because with the tax rate going up people might find them superfluous. The Board stated that they want both academic and extra-curriculars on the cover to show a well-rounded school environment.

Paul Skarin moved to adjourn at 9:17PM.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary