

Sunapee School Board Meeting
March 5, 2009
SMHS

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair
Judy Trow, Vice Chair
Kim Denney
Hershel Strickland

Edward Bailey arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent
Kelly Cornish, Financial Services Manager
Alan Pullman, SCES Principal
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Kate Dunlap, School Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance:

Alan Pullman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shaun Carroll asked for a moment of silence.

Minutes:

Hershel Strickland moved to approve the non-public minutes of January 7, 2009.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous.

Hershel Strickland moved to approve the February 4, 2009 Board minutes.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous.

Hershel Strickland moved to approve the February 4, 2009 non-public minutes with the amendment of “track program” from “hiring of coach”.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous.

Public Forum:

Charlotte Brown asked why there was no school board members noted in the town's annual report. Brendan Minnihan said the information was sent, but wasn't put in.

Charlotte Brown said the Board should be more specific in terms of cost per student because many people do simple math and do not understand the State's formula for figuring the cost. They take the operating budget and divide it by the student population which is not correct. The Board understands the confusion.

Good News:

Alan Pullman presented good news for SCES to the Board (See Handout).

There was no good news for SMHS this time.

Superintendent Communications:

Brendan Minnihan presented news to the Board:

- Congratulations to the girl's basketball team for an excellent job during the first round of the playoffs and to Stephanie Larpenter for her 1,000th point this year.
- Congratulations to the boy's basketball team for going through their first round of playoffs. They play Colebrook on March 6, 2009. If they win they will play at Plymouth on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. They are a responsible and energetic team.
- There is a charter bus that Sean Elder got together for the community to take up to the second round of playoffs. He needs a certain amount of people for it to work. You have to get to the game early as the Colebrook gym is very small. Sixty-eight students are signed up to go on a school bus.
- Sunapee is now going through LGC for their workman's comp facilitation.
- There might be some grant possibilities for the Blodgett property such as going through the National Preservation Trust. Brendan is going to look more into it.

Tuition:

Brendan Minnihan discussed tuition with the Board (See Handout). The tuition rate in the past has been inconsistent. There is a large discrepancy between the MS 25 and the actual tuition being charged. He is looking to come up with a better system, but this will eventually affect families because the rates have to go up.

Rates for elementary and middle school are reasonable. Since Sunapee is a small school when any expenses go up it also will affect tuition.

The Board asked how many tuition students they currently have attending and the answer was ten to eleven.

The Board understood the reason for a better system.

Mission Statement:

Janice Porter presented the new mission statement for the Sunapee School District (See Handout).

- Staff met, reworked and agreed on new mission statement.
- Not dramatically different from previous statement adopted.
- Statement is broad, but it encompasses a lot.
- Students had input in advisories and one representative from each advisory shared gave feedback.
- Currently in the process of getting feedback from the community.
- Asked the Board to help define expectation and then email Jon Reed, Sharon Parsons or herself with feedback.
- Statement will be presented to the Board to be adopted once completed.
- Timeline to be finished is the beginning of spring.

Jon Reed said that all groups of the NEASC accreditation process are working simultaneously with one another, so there is always more than one goal being worked on at a time.

French Exchange Program:

Hershel Strickland moved to give preliminary approval of phases one and two of the French Exchange Program as long as the SMHS principal reviews and gets final approval.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Judy Trow asked that guidelines be given to the visiting French students during the summer. She asked if the Sunapee students going to France in April will interfere with their senior projects. Sean Moynihan said that is a possibility.

Vote was unanimous.

Spring Track Program:

Sean Moynihan brought Jon Reed to the Board to be hired as the Spring Track Coach and Bonnie Cruz as the girl's softball coach.

Hershel Strickland moved to approve hiring of Jon Reed and Bonnie Cruz for the track and softball coaches.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous.

Policy CBI:

This is the evaluation of the Superintendent policy. It is always held after the change of the Board which doesn't work if new members are on board.

Brendan Minnihan will find a better timeline, probably January or February, and then will bring back to the Board for review.

Board Self-Evaluations:

The Board did not get these back to Brendan Minnihan in time. They will have until Tuesday, March 10, 2009 to get them into him.

Blodgett Property:

Brendan Minnihan gave an update to the Board (See Handout).

- Shaun Carroll and Kim Denney worked on the schematic handout; still in planning phase.
- Eight inquiries into the project manager position; no cutoff date in advertisement.
- Will use project manager from beginning to end.
- Meeting with the town on April 2, 2009 to give a conceptual idea to the Planning and Zoning Board.

The Board reiterated that they would like local vendors and subs hired no matter who the project manager will be. Thought the committee is doing well and said to keep going at this time.

Policy EHB:

This is the first reading of the Data/Records Retention which has been changed to include more procedural wording.

The Board will read and review for next meeting.

Audio/Video and Email Retention of School Board Meetings:

Brendan Minnihan would like the Board to think about how long they would like to keep videos of the meetings and emails throughout the school district.

Email can be too much and affects RAM. Mike Montore said to keep emails for a short time to prevent memory clogging.

The School Board shouldn't email each other in mass because of legal issues. Kim Denney said to get legal advice on length of time.

The Board agreed that 45 days seems like a sufficient time for both. Brendan said he will

look into that timeframe.

Charlotte Brown said it would be nice for the Board to post the draft minutes and agenda on the website prior to the meeting. Brendan Minnihan said he will check with Barbara Loughman to make sure that is legal.

Manifest:

Hershel Strickland moved to approve the manifest in the amount of \$280,048.13
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

Truck:

The current maintenance truck will not pass inspection. Around \$8,000 was budgeted for this school year towards a used pickup truck. There are good deals on new trucks because of State contract bids and could possibly get one for \$16,000-18,000. These trucks will have lower maintenance costs and be undercoated unlike used trucks.

Hershel Strickland moved to authorize the Superintendent to purchase a truck as needed for up to \$18,000.
Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Judy Trow withdrew her motion.
Hershel Strickland withdrew his original motion.

Hershel Strickland moved to authorize the Superintendent to purchase a truck as needed for up to \$18,000, while looking into the possibility of buying a truck up to three years old.
Judy Trow seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

Calendar:

Brendan Minnihan said that the Sunapee calendar for next year is almost identical with the Kearsarge School District.

The professional development days were frontloaded because of the NEASC Accreditation starts in March 2010.
Hershel Strickland moved to accept the 09-10 calendar.
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

Sign:

Judy Trow said townspeople have approached her about naming the soccer field at the end of the SMHS building. The Sunapee School Board would pay for the sign. The Board said they will discuss it at the next meeting.

Agenda:

- Naming of the Field Sign
- Blodgett Property update
- 2nd Reading of EHB
- Self-Evaluations
- Email Retention
- Truck update

Hershel Strickland moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

Submitted By
Katherine Dunlap
Sunapee School Board Secretary