

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

November 2, 2016

Call to Order:

School Board Vice-Chair Skarin called the School Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Paul Skarin

Brian Garland

Heather Furlong

April Royce

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Terra Geer, Director of Student Services

Ray Palin, Media Director

Michael Montore, Director of Technology

Jon Reed, Technology Integrator

Restructuring:

Vice-Chair Skarin read a letter, dated November 1, 2016, from School Board Chair Shaun Carroll which stated that Shaun Carroll would be stepping down from the School Board effective immediately due to personal reasons.

April Royce moved to approve Shaun Carroll's resignation effective immediately.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Vice-Chair Skarin stated per the School Board policy, the Vice-Chair becomes the School Board Chair until the elections in March. A new Vice-Chair needs to be nominated.

April Royce moved to nominate Brian Garland as Vice-Chair.

Paul Skarin seconded.

Brian Garland moved to nominate Heather Furlong as Vice-Chair. There was not a second nomination.

Vote unanimous for Brian Garland as Vice-Chair.

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brian Garland and a moment of silence was led by Vice-Chair Skarin.

Minutes:

April Royce moved to approve the public minutes of the October 5, 2016 School Board meeting as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Brian Garland moved to approve the public minutes of the October 24, 2016 School Board retreat as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

April Royce read the minutes from the meeting.

Vote unanimous.

Heather Furlong moved to approve the non-public minutes of the October 5, 2016 School Board meeting as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

Superintendent Holden added School Updates item "Special Education Update" and added letter "C- Approve Board member to the town ABC" under Action Items.

Public Forum:

Jodi Manson, Young Hill Rd., talked about the bizarre School Board retreat on October 24th that took place in a dark parking lot. She stated that retreats are still public meetings and the guidelines for posting the meetings should have been followed, but were not. Postings must be in two locations and visible. She stated that Superintendent Holden insisted they were posted

correctly and she felt dismayed at the attitude of both the Superintendent and the School Board Chair.

Kelly Wessells, School Business Administrator, read an email from Sunapee resident, John Brandolini. His email was urging the School Board to approve policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings to allow the public to comment on any pertinent school item, even if the item is not on the agenda.

Jimmy O'Brien, Sargent Rd., stated he is a 2016 graduate and feels that the Board should change policy BEDH to allow the public to speak about items that aren't on the agenda.

Technology Presentation (Michael Montore and Jon Reed):

Michael Montore, Director of Technology, gave the following overview of technology in the District to the Board:

- The District now has bandwidth due to new fiber optics.
- The District has upgraded the phone system and added Copsync 911, which is a faster, and more effective alert system in case of an emergency that directly connects the schools with police.
- The District now has one large firewall and last year upgraded to virtualized servers.
- Administration now has virtualized desktops that enable them to work from home.
- The wireless was also upgraded last summer and now all school buildings have it both public and private.
- Keyless entry and video security systems have been added to all school buildings.
- The backup system is housed at SCES. Backup is kept of all student, faculty, special education, and SAU data.
- The financial and PowerSchool systems are now hosted offsite.

Jon Reed gave the following overview of Technology Integration to the Board:

- Jon discussed differentiated instruction and using differentiated devices.
- There is now an IMAX mini-lab in the library where students are editing and designing the yearbook.
- The 1:1 iPad program is now in grades five, six, and seven.
- The Technology Committee is restarting along with Digital Citizenship.
- The schools are working on integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Arts, and Mathematics) into all areas of study.
- Makerspace has created a Deconstruction Station at SCES.
- The metals and woods classes are using new technology for creations.
- The District has a new 3D printer this year.

- The students are learning how to code using the Python and Swift programming languages.
- A group of teachers will be attending the National ATIA Conference.
- The group of teachers who gave demonstrations of what students are learning in their classrooms will be starting again on November 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m. at the Abbott Library. There will be five sessions in total.

State Testing Reports (SBAC, NECAP):

SCES Principal Bergen discussed the results of the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Test) and the science NECAP. She compared how grades third through fifth did compared with the State and other comparable districts.

She gave a handout to the Board that showed the following:

- Grade three – 70% proficient in math and 81% proficient in ELA (English Language Arts)
- Grade four – 59% proficient in math and 73% proficient in ELA
- Grade five – 97% proficient in math and 91% proficient in ELA
- Almost all three grades were double percentage points higher than the State average.
- The grade four science NECAP scores showed Sunapee at 60% and the State at 48%.

SMHS Principal Moynihan handed out the middle school SBAC scores which showed:

- Grade six - 76% proficient in math and 79% proficient in ELA
- Grade seven – 79% proficient in math and 79% proficient in ELA
- Grade eight – 82% proficient in math and 79% proficient in ELA
- All three grades were double percentage points higher than the State average.
- The grade eight science NECAP scores showed Sunapee at 21% and the State at 24%. This is an area of needed improvement.

Superintendent Holden commended the schools on their test results and stated that New Hampshire ranks as one of the best states in the nation for education.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Holden stated he held his third community forum last Wednesday. Twelve people were in attendance and asked good questions.

He also stated that the first quarter had ended positively as were fall sports. Winter sports tryouts would be coming up in the next few weeks. The fall play will be opening next week.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Staff worked with literacy expert, Dr. Mary, Howard, on October 6th and 7th focusing on reading strategies and small group instruction for students. SCES had worked with Dr. Howard several years ago and she is back to help reinvigorate small group work to focus on differentiating for student needs. She will be coming back a few times throughout the school year.
- One fourth grade student organized a cereal drive during the month of October and the Halloween parade included the whole school walking to the Town Hall and delivering the cereal collected. Students and families donated over 250 boxes of cereal to the food pantry.
- The whole school field trip to the Hood Downtown in Hanover, while teachers had collaborative planning time was a success. Two unified arts teachers organized three grade levels at a time in morning and afternoon trips.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The fall play opens next week and is part of a Senior Project.
- SMHS just held Mix It Up Day, which means all students had to sit with different students during lunch time.
- Veteran's Day breakfast will be held next week.
- He and Ms. Watkins, high school guidance counselor, met with the Dartmouth College program to get students started taking classes.
- SMHS Asst. Principal Reed talked about the recent professional development day that had individual offerings and one whole school offering that brought teachers to Hypertherm and Rutgers to find out what skillsets are needed by graduates.

Special Education Update:

Director of Student Services Geer gave the following update:

- The NH Department of Education came to the District today to review the new Core Life Skills Program and give final approval. She should hear back from them soon.
- The final district profiles were released and Sunapee received a zero, which means 100% compliance for State performance indicators.

Proposed Policies:

First Reading

JICH Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Superintendent Holden noted this is a mandatory RSA change.

April Royce moved to approve the first reading of policy JICH as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Second Reading

BEDG-R Access to Minutes and Public Records

BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings

EEA Student Transportation Services

EF Food Service Management

IHBAA Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

IKF High School Graduation Policy

KED Facilities or Services – Grievance Procedure

IHCA Summer Activities

April Royce moved to approve the second reading of the policies presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

The Board discussed policy BEDH in length.

April Royce moved to rescind her original motion and moved to approve all policies for second reading, except policy BEDH, as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

April Royce moved to send policy BEDH back to policy review for more clarification and documentation as just discussed.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Superintendent Holden stated that policy JECB is still in the process of being reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Approve the Proposed Girls Varsity Basketball Trip:

Principal Moynihan explained that this is the annual trip to Connecticut.

April Royce moved to approve the girls' varsity basketball trip to Connecticut as presented.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Winter Coaches:

School Board Chair Skarin read the list of winter coaches to the public.

April Royce moved to approve the proposed winter coaches as presented.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approve School Board Member to the town ABC:

Heather Furlong moved for School Board Chair Skarin as the School Board representative to the ABC.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

SCES Facility Committee Update:

Superintendent Holden stated the committee met a few days ago, which included Director of Facilities Bouranis, School Board Chair Skarin, Heather Furlong, and himself. They put together five questions that they will ask outside the polls on Election Day. Today, the Intertown Record ran a fact sheet about the facility.

Strategic Planning Update:

Superintendent Holden stated the first focus group will meet on November 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the SMHS music room. The community and elementary students will be asked questions. The second focus group will take place on November 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the SMHS music room and parents along with SMHS students will be asked questions.

Community Conversations Update:

Superintendent Holden stated the first event had a great turnout with 40 people in attendance. The Sullivan County Drug and Alcohol Counselor, Sunapee Police Department, and school administration were all in attendance. The community discussed what everyone can do to help keep students away from drugs and alcohol. The core committee will meet next Thursday at the Abbott Library; this meeting is not public.

CIP Update:

Director of Facilities Bouranis took Heather Furlong and Superintendent Holden on a tour of the buildings in the District.

Heather Furlong stated they toured SCES first and realized that there are a lot of needs, especially in the area where the school is not meeting State standards. She noted that SMHS is an impressive building, she loved the woodworking shop, but the art room needs a little help.

Superintendent Holden stated that one question at the exit polls is asking the public if they have toured SCES or would tour it to see the issues.

Board Retreat:

Superintendent Holden explained that the retreat was to be held at the Millstone Restaurant. The manager called the superintendent with concerns of capacity as he was receiving multiple phone calls that 50-100 people from the public would be in attendance. He then asked the Board to use the parking lot across the street. Superintendent Holden called Barrett Christina at the NHSBA (NH School Boards Association), who told him to open and then close the meeting to reschedule. Therefore, the retreat seemed strange.

Manifest:

April Royce moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2017-08 - \$110,772.62
- 2017-09 - \$64,285.46

April Royce moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2017-07 - \$212,105.95
- 2017-07.1 - \$619.40
- 2017-08 - \$460,308.65
- 2017-09 - \$460,596.31

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Shaun Carroll, Apple Hill Rd., discussed the retreat and the events that took place. He then talked about his time as the District Chair and where he hopes the District can go next.

Paul Manson, Young Hill Rd., asked how the Board will fill the position of the vacant Board seat. Superintendent Holden explained that he is currently waiting for direction from the District's attorney who is on vacation, but policy states that the Board shall appoint a new member. There is no timeline stated. In the past, interviews were conducted and a new member was chosen by the seated Board members. Paul Manson asked if it would go back to the results of the prior year's election for the person with the next highest votes. Superintendent Holden did not believe that would be the case.

Jodi Manson, Young Hill Rd., stated that holding the retreat was fine, it was the fact that it was improperly posted. She feels that it wasn't treated as a public meeting. She also was upset that at an earlier meeting, Shaun Carroll handed out a document to the Board that wasn't made public.

Ashley Carroll, Apple Hill Rd., stated that the document handed out earlier at this meeting was handed out by her not by Shaun Carroll. It is a public document that anyone can have a copy.

Agenda for December 7, 2016:

- SAT results
- Policies
- Exit poll results
- Budget information

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment:

April Royce moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary



Russell Holden <rholden@sunapeeschools.org>

Request for revisions to the minutes

2 messages

Jody Manson <jodymanson22@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 10:46 PM

To: Russell Holden <rholden@sunapeeschools.org>, Paul Skarin <pskarin@sunapeeschools.org>

Hello Russ and Paul,

This is a request for a few revisions to the draft minutes.

In the draft minutes under the second public forum there is a blank spot after Paul's name and address. It should read:

"Just wondering how the board's going to handle the open position."

Russ responded "Good question. Unfortunately our school board attorney is in Italy. We have been unable to reach her. I have an email out to her asking her our best way to go forward. We've looked at the RSA, there is no specific timeline on the RSA, it says SHALL appoint. We had a procedure I believe a year and a half, two years ago, where we had conducted interviews. The board, once I get some information back from the attorney, on which way we should go legally, we'll share that with the board and they'll go on that process.

Paul asked, "Is there a best practice or have we come across this in the past?"

Russ stated: "So I think Paul, we did this like I said a year and half ago, and we conducted interviews. We had 2 seats open, we conducted interviews, the board put an ad in the paper I believe. I think at that point in time we had 7 candidates apply for the 2 positions. The board did 1/2 hr or so interviews for each candidate. They might have called people back for a second round and then they brought those 2 names forward. That's how the past practice was.

Paul asked if it's ever gone back to the election and by the number of votes?

Russ said "not during my tenure, no."

Jody Manson's statement as written in the minutes reads in part: She was also upset that at an earlier meeting...It should say, She was also upset that EARLIER IN THE MEETING THAT NIGHT, Shaun Carroll handed out her personal emails with Russ to the PUBLIC (not to the board, as written) which should not have been made public.

Also Ashley Carroll's statement as written in the minutes is incorrect in stating that the document was handed out at an earlier meeting. Her accurate statement was: "I just want to clarify real quick that Shaun did not hand out a single paper, and it is a public document, and I have copies if anyone would like one."

Thank you,
Jody and Paul Manson

Russell <rholden@sunapeeschools.org>

Sat, Nov 19, 2016 at 8:32 AM

To: Jody Manson <jodymanson22@gmail.com>

Cc: Paul Skarin <pskarin@sunapeeschools.org>

Jody, I will bring your request to the board.

Thanks
Russ

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]