

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

December 7, 2016

Call to Order:

School Board Chair Skarin called the School Board meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Paul Skarin
Brian Garland - Absent
Heather Furlong
April Royce

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal
Terra Geer, Director of Student Services
Ray Palin, Media Director
Mat Bouranis, Facilities Director

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Augustine and a moment of silence was led by School Board Chair Skarin.

School Board Apology:

School Board Chair Skarin read the following into the minutes:

“The Board would like to extend an apology to the individuals affected by the distribution of an email from citizens at our last school board meeting. The emails between a parent and our Superintendent with the entire School Board copied which contained confidential information should not have been shared.

Our Board policies address confidentiality of information about students, parents and staff. Board members have attended trainings by the School Boards Association and by the School

District's attorney regarding confidentiality. The Board does not condone disclosure to any member of the public of confidential information. The Board was not, at the time, aware that a disclosure had been made or that a disclosure would be made. The Board will continue to follow its policies regarding confidentiality.

Mr. Carroll has resigned from the Board. The Board does not have the authority to discipline prior Board members or members of the public.

To ensure compliance with school policies on confidentiality, Board members will continue to receive training on confidentiality and have also recently received and reviewed Sunapee's policies on confidentiality."

Minutes:

April Royce moved to approve the public minutes of the November 2, 2016 School Board meeting as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

April Royce noted the following changes:

- Under the CIP tour, April Royce will take the tour on a different date; she didn't attend the tour in October due to a conflict.
- Under the second public forum, it should state that an email had been handed out during the November 2, 2016 school board meeting, not during an earlier meeting.

School Board secretary, Kate O'Connor, read into the minutes a statement that will be added under the second public forum of the November 2, 2016 minutes. The statement was in regards to the question Paul Manson asked about how a new school board member would be selected and the subsequent answer by Superintendent Holden. Superintendent Holden stated the District was waiting to hear back from the District attorney, but in the past, the Board had conducted interviews and then had chosen a new member by Board vote.

April Royce withdrew her first motion.

April Royce moved to approve the November 2, 2016 public minutes as amended.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

Superintendent Holden added letter "E – Approval of Harvard Model Congress" under Action Items.

Public Forum:

Jodi Manson, Young Hill Rd., thanked the Board for their apology tonight in regards to the email that was distributed.

State Testing Reports (SAT):

Sean Moynihan gave the following report to the Board:

- Last year was the first year the entire eleventh grade was required to take the SAT.
- Under English and reading, the national average is 409, State average is 519, and Sunapee is 547.
- Under mathematics, the national average is 480, the State average is 507, and Sunapee is 568.
- Sunapee is tenth in the State out of 79 school districts.
- The testing gap of students from different socio-economic means is narrower in Sunapee than it is for other districts.
- The English proficiency rate in the State is 66%, for Sunapee it is 79%.
- The math proficiency rate in the State is 40%, for Sunapee it is 69%.
- He noted that in Sunapee students take pride in doing well on these tests.

SCES Update:

Superintendent Holden noted that Principal Bergen is out ill. He gave the Board the following good news:

- The holiday concert will be held in the Sherburne gym on December 15th at 6 p.m.
- Fifth grade has begun a Breakfast Book Club. They are on their second book. 25 students participated for the first book and 18 students participated for this time. Parents attend as well.

Student Representative Report:

Student Representative, Jackie Balch, gave the following report to the Board:

- She apologized for missing the last meeting due to soccer practice, but it paid off as the girls' varsity soccer team won the State Championship.
- The Close-Up trip was wonderful and informative.
- Student Council is prepping for winter workshops.
- The Service Club is holding a food drive. Each advisory has been asked to bring in 20 goods.

SMHS Update:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The art show and concert will be held on December 14th at 6:30 p.m.
- The play, "Much Ado about Murder" was held at the library and was a success.
- Early college acceptance letters are beginning to roll in.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Holden stated that Sunapee had a two-hour delay and a full snow day at the start of December due to weather conditions.

He recognized the administration and teachers for the job they do every day and thanked them.

Proposed Policies:

Second Reading

BEDH Public Participation at Board Meetings

April Royce moved to approve the second reading of policy BEDH as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Heather Furlong, who is on the Policy Committee, explained that more clarification has been added to the policy. Two public forums will be listed on all agendas with the first for agenda items only and the second for items not listed on the agenda.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Long-Term Substitute Teacher:

Superintendent Holden stated this is for a third-grade teacher. Five people were interviewed for the position. Michele Shepherd moved from Vermont last year and will start December 13th if approved.

Heather Furlong moved to approve Michele Shepherd as a long-term substitute teacher in the third grade at SCES as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Winter Coach:

April Royce moved to approve Amanda Barton as the girls' JV basketball coach for the 2016-2017 winter season.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Resignation:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the resignation of SCES third grade teacher, Michael Kennedy.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Withdrawal from SMHS Capital Reserve Roof Account:

April Royce moved to approve the withdrawal of funds from the SMHS Capital Reserve Roof account.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Superintendent Holden explained that this account was setup two years ago as roofs cost between \$250K-\$300K to replace. He stated the account is currently at \$75K and the Board is asking the town for an additional \$75K through a warrant article to have a total of \$150K.

Superintendent Holden explained that Facilities Director, Mat Bouranis, has met with a company that will scan the roof and tell the District what places need to be done and can warrant those sections. It will cost \$1800 for SCES and \$2600 for SMHS.

Facilities Director Bouranis told the Board he had met with a representative from Tremco who does the scanning and roof replacement. Their scan can detect heat loss, where insulation is needed, decking, etc. There are different packages from which to choose. The District can also hire them to do the scan, but have the option of using a different company for the roof replacement with Tremco acting as the project manager.

Facilities Director Bouranis stated that the SMHS roof has been done in the past over different stages. Superintendent Holden explained that Tremco is an established company with new technology. Facilities Director Bouranis stated he has a meeting scheduled with a representative the following week. Superintendent Holden asked the Board if they would approve up to \$5K to be used to scan the SMHS roof.

April Royce withdrew her original motion.

April Royce moved that the School Board vote to withdraw up to \$5K from the Sunapee Middle High School Roof Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of having an infrared scan of the SMHS roof completed.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Harvard Model Congress Trip:

April Royce moved to approve the Harvard Model Congress Trip as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Principal Moynihan stated that this is a longstanding activity at SMHS. It is a good experience for the students. There are enough chaperones for the trip.

Vote unanimous.

SCES Facility Committee Update:

Superintendent Holden stated that the committee met last week to review the responses to the survey conducted during the election at the polls. There was a total of 541 responses out of 1,833 voters.

Due to the survey responses, the committee is thinking of holding school board meetings at SCES every other month and opening it up for tours on the weekend for people.

77% of those who responded said they would be in favor of a renovation, but not a new school. 80% said they'd be in favor of a building project at SCES and 83% were in favor of an egress on Route 11.

The committee will be meeting in January to discuss the next step. They are looking for community involvement and feedback.

Strategic Planning Update:

Superintendent Holden stated that the focus groups are done and the Strategic Planning Committee will meet with the representative on December 13th to review the data and decide whether a survey should be put together. The survey would ask people to rank in order the strengths/challenges of the District.

Administrative Assistant:

Superintendent Holden stated that Caroline Gross has been hired as the new administrative assistant at SCES. There was a total of 12 applicants and six were interviewed.

Open Board Seat:

School Board Chair Skarin read the policy on vacant School Board seats. He explained that it is the decision of the Board as to how a vacant seat should be filled. The Board has decided to wait until the March elections for a new Board member so that the community can make the choice. This means the Board will only have four members from December until the first meeting after the election.

Next Board Meeting Dates: January 11, 2017, February 8, 2017, and March 8, 2017:

Superintendent Holden explained that the Board meetings for January, February, and March will be held on the second Wednesday of those months and not the first.

National School Lunch Program Review:

Superintendent Holden explained that the program had a review last year by the State government. The program has passed, meeting standards and last year they made a profit.

Heather Furlong asked when the Food Director would be giving a presentation to the Board. Superintendent Holden replied it would be before the end of the school year.

Manifest:

April Royce moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2017-10 - \$53,832.26
- 2017-11 - \$105,911.64

April Royce moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2017-10 - \$318,123.44
- 2017-11 - \$473,007.46
- 2017-11.1 - \$23,272.02
- 2017-12 - \$213,575.94

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

School Board Chair Skarin stated that now that BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings has been approved, the new rules apply. The second public forum allows for topics not on the agenda.

Pat Balch, 41 Emily Lane, complimented the schools, students, teachers, and School Board for the SAT scores.

Jon Reed, Sargent Rd., stated that SCES has started a Drama Club for students in Grades K-5 where they learn the basics. Over the last eight to ten weeks the students have worked hard and recently put on five small plays. In the spring, the club will expand to include costumes and backgrounds.

John Brandolini, Sunapee resident, stated that he had asked the Board to allow topics during public forum that were unrelated to agenda and the Board has approved this request by revising policy BEDH. He thanked the Board for doing so.

Lee Ostrom, 7 Ryder Corner Rd., noted that two phenomenal teachers had left the District in the past year. She wanted to know how the District was going to celebrate them as she has not heard anything.

Superintendent Holden responded that they will be celebrating Michael Kennedy, whose resignation the Board approved tonight, in the upcoming annual report.

Agenda for January 11, 2017:

- Policies
- Strategic Plan Update
- SCES Facility

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment:

Heather Furlong moved to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary