

Sunapee School Board Meeting

January 5, 2011

SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair

Judy Trow, Vice Chair – 8:20 p.m.

Kim Denney

Brian Garland

Edward Bailey - Absent

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent

Ray Palin, Media Coordinator

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Alan Pullman, SCES Principal

Mike Trojano, Business Administrator

Kate O'Connor, School Board Secretary

Kelly Cornish, Financial Services Manager

Terra Geer, Special Education Coordinator

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Brian Garland led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Shaun Carroll asked for a moment of silence.

Minutes:

Brian Garland moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2010 as presented.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Brian Garland moved to approve the Non-public minutes from November 3, 2010 as presented.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Shaun Carroll asked that the secretary to revise the December 8, 2010 minutes on the last page to "Shaun Carroll stated that the Town Selectmen have decided to change the way they distribute the annual report. He would like to see how it is received in the area and then have the Board discuss if they would like to make any changes to how they distribute their budget information themselves".

Shaun Carroll also asked the secretary to number the pages of the minutes.

Brian Garland moved to approve the December 8, 2010 minutes with revisions stated above.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

2 – Yes, 1-Abstention

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Alan Pullman gave the Board the following good news:

- The elementary band/chorus will hold its concert on January 11, 2011.
- There was a staff meeting today, January 5, 2011, in which the proposed Outdoor Classroom was discussed.
- An elementary student has moved to Pennsylvania over the Christmas break; the enrollment is now an even 200.
- Winter activities start tomorrow, January 6, 2011. 267 students have signed up for various activities including skiing, cooking and arts/crafts. 130 students are signed up for skiing.
- NEWA testing will be taking place during a 2-3 week window at the end of January. This testing is only for a subgroup of students who started in Sunapee after the original fall testing or those students who the school is concentrating on to see their progression.
- NEAP (National Assessment of Education Progress) testing will also be taking place for the fourth grade. NEAP is what some call the "Nation's Report Card". Some of the students will be tested in mathematics and others in language arts. Sunapee school district has been chosen by the government as a random sample. This will not give Sunapee specific school data, but will be included in Statewide and National data. Testing will take place February 14, 2011 for 90 minutes.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- NEAP testing will also occur at SMHS on February 14, 2011, but for only one grade.
- The middle school held its first play, "A Christmas Carol", and everyone loved it! They will be presenting another play this spring.
- NEAS&C sent Sunapee the final report of their visit. They had fourteen suggestions that were very positive. Only 20% of school districts don't have to do a special report before the required two year report and Sunapee is one of them. Sunapee will only have to submit the required two and five year reports. The visitors gave Sunapee 28 commendations. The next step is to work on the suggestions and report back how and that they were completed.

Superintendent Communications:

Brendan Minnihan gave the Board the following news:

- He reiterated how well the middle school play went and that many were quite amazed.
- The elementary concert was exceptional.
- Sunapee teacher, Kate Gioldassis, mother passed away over the break. The SAU and Board passed along their condolences. He shared with the Board a letter of thanks from Ms. Gioldassis.
- A group within the district has been formed to discuss the long-range plans for technology in the district. The group of 28 members will meet on March 29, 2011 for an evening event from 5-9 p.m. They will discuss what they envision for technology in the district as well as listen to a speaker from Maine who works with technology in the public school system.
 - Some parents and students may also be invited. He asked if one or two Board members would like to participate. Kim Denney and Brian Garland said they would be interested in attending.
 - Some of the obstacles are finding accessibility to sites including Facebook and Twitter, as well as bandwidth and how to use technology and not clutter.

Outdoor Classroom:

Leslie Scheele and Katherine Ayer made the following PowerPoint presentation to the Board:

- In the spring of 2010, Meagen Reed and Katherine Ayer, came to ask permission from the Board if the SPTO could start developing a plan for an Outdoor Classroom in which the Board agreed.
- The idea of an Outdoor Classroom came from a survey sent out to the teachers at SCES; this idea had the most positive feedback.
- The SPTO has done a lot of planning including equipment ideas, lesson plan ideas, met with those who can help implement the plan including Dean Carpenter who runs the New London Wooden Products Company. Dean has come up with the following ideas to help build the Outdoor Classroom out behind the preschool at SCES:
 - Created five large benches using the naturalness of trees. They will be lacquered and able to seat up to 25 students or adults. Students will be able to learn, observe, story tell and problem solve in this environment.
 - Separate chair/stool like seating for up to 25 more people for nature observations, writing and art classes.
 - A shed to store supplies/projects. It will have dropdown work tables on three sides and displays for teachers to use for writing and science projects.
 - Easels will be created for writing, drawing, painting and displays. There will be different sizes for the varying ages and will fold up.
- There is a plan in place to hookup water, electricity and a phone for safety. It can be installed this spring. It is not hard to hookup as it will be attached to the preschool building.

- Supplies needed for the Outdoor Classroom will be bought with funds from the SPTO including:
 - Garden tools
 - Science kits
 - Art supplies
 - Sponges
 - Funnels
 - Pots
 - Thermometers
 - Bins
 - Buckets
 - Magnifying lenses
 - Microscopes
 - Clay
- Some of the supplies will need to be bought continuously and will need to be added to the operating budget, but to begin they will be supplied to the District.
- There is a wax type lacquer on all wooden items created for the Outdoor Classroom giving them a life expectancy of 8-10 years; longer on the shed. After ten years, the District can decide if they would like to continue.
- Alan Pullman has said that training for the teachers will be offered to teachers at staff meetings and workshops which will be paid by the District, but most teachers will be doing some of the same lesson plans they are already teaching except it will be outside. This was done on purpose so intense training would not be required.
- Accommodations for handicap students and behavioral kids are in place. It is wheelchair accessible due to the trail already built in that area.
- SCES is focusing on integrating the science curriculum into the Outdoor Classroom with a focus on the State Standards.
- Recess will not interfere with the Outdoor Classroom due to timing.
- Teachers are very excited and want to know when it will be open. They especially like the fact they can use it all school year; even in winter.
- There will be a small amount of site preparation beforehand, but the overall atmosphere is supposed to be natural.

The Board stated they would like a site map to know where everything will be before they start building. The Board said they would need the SPTO to come back to them for phase 2 of the project.

Kim Denney moved to approve what has been presented tonight by the SPTO for the Outdoor Classroom with the stipulation that a site plan will be presented to the Board prior to building of the project.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Blodgett Property:

Mike Trojano said that not much has been done since the last meeting due to the holidays and work being done at SMHS, but the crew has been working on the heating and air conditioning of which the heating is now done as well as the addition. They are waiting for the subcontractors to come to finish the sheet rock and plastering. For now it is heated, the doors are in and the drainage and slab work are done in the cellar.

Brendan Minnihan gave out pamphlets to the Board that will be included with the Deliberative Session packet. He put the before and after photos of the Blodgett property on the front with the history of the building and the current plan. It also has what has been spent to date, where the money came from and how much money is needed for what is left to be done. It also gives the members of the school board and Brendan Minnihan's email addresses as well as dates for tours of the building; January 31st and February 24th from 9-1 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. Also included in the pamphlet is the warrant article about the property.

2011-2012 School Calendar:

Brendan Minnihan went over next year's school calendar with the Board; all surrounding school districts have the same calendar.

Kim Denney moved to approve the 2011-2012 calendar as presented.

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Second Reading & adoption of Policy EBBD:

Kim Denney moved to approve policy EBBD as presented.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Manifest:

Kim Denney moved to approve the following A/P and payroll manifests:

- #2011-15 = \$53,979.00
- #2011-16 = \$99,215.02
- #2011-13 = \$207,702.04
- #2011-14 = \$203,400.13

Brian Garland seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

After discussion, the Board and Brendan Minnihan changed the March 2, 2011 School Board Meeting date to March 9, 2011.

The Board discussed what local groups they wanted to meet with before the vote. They said they would like to meet with the following groups:

- Sunapee Seniors Group

- Sunapee Welcoming Group
- SPTO
- Booster Club
- Lions Club
- Sunapee Staff
- Town Library
- Harbor House Livery
- Riverway

Agenda for Next Meeting, February 2, 2011:

- Blodgett Property
- Manifest
- Minutes
- Budget
- Good News
- Superintendent News
- 1st Reading of Policy – Fraud Prevention

Adjournment:

Brian Garland moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.
Judy Trow seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,



Kate O'Connor
Sunapee School Board Secretary