

Sunapee School Board Meeting

February 7, 2011

SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:55 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll, Chair
Judy Trow, Vice Chair
Kim Denney
Brian Garland
Edward Bailey

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Alan Pullman, SCES Principal
Mike Trojano, Business Administrator
Wayne Palmer, Facilities Director
Terra Geer, Special Education Coordinator

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were held before the start of the Deliberative Session.

Minutes:

Judy Trow moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2011 as presented.
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

None

SMHS Good News:

None

Superintendent Communications:

None

Deliberative Session:

The Board expressed their concerns that for a third year in a row there has been mistakes in regards to the annual report. The Board would like to send out their own report next year. Otherwise the Deliberative Session went well.

The Board will still be meeting with several area groups including the, SPTO, Sunapee Seniors Group and the two Sunapee School District staff groups.

NECAP Discussion:

Alan Pullman gave the following report on NECAP scores (test taken in October) for SCES that were recently released:

- The school has been doubling up on language arts for students and has seen an increase in test scores as a result.
- Elementary percentiles:
 - Third -
 - Math - 88% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction
 - Reading – 83% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction (Above State avg.)
 - Fourth –
 - Math – 74% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction
 - Reading – 73% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction (Below State avg.)
 - There is a vocabulary problem in this class; it’s currently being worked on.
 - Fifth –
 - Math – 83% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction
 - The math scores are ten points above the State average
 - Reading – 94% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction
 - Writing – 71% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction
 - The average State writing percentage is 56% comparatively

Brendan Minnihan stated that the AYP scores are coming out soon in either March or April. Two thirds of all schools in New Hampshire are currently not making AYP; Sunapee is not one of them.

Sean Moynihan gave the following report on NECAP scores for SMHS that were recently released:

- Overall the test scores are not as high as they have been in the past, but the middle school did very well; eleventh grade did not do as well.
- Middle School –
 - Sixth grade had a 79% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction in reading
 - Seventh grade received a 91% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction in writing

- The State average in writing for seventh grade is 76%
- Eighth grade received an 82% Proficient/Proficient with Distinction in writing
- Eleventh Grade –
 - Received a 36% in math; the State average is 36%. The test is very difficult
 - Growth not seen in this year's scores
 - Not as good as previous eleventh grade scores, but not terrible either.
- Sunapee usually is in the top 10% of schools in regards to NECAP scores; this year they are in the top 25%.

Volunteer Discussion:

Shaun Carroll explained that Thelma Hause (Grammy) worked at SCES as a volunteer reading tutor for 25 years. He would like to recognize her for her years of service. Alan Pullman is in the process of getting reading nook created and a plaque made with her name a picture of her with the students. Judy Trow noted that Ms. Hause is a former home economics teacher.

Brendan Minnihan said that they are also currently nominating her through NHSAA and the "Champions for Children" campaign. All nominations have to be in by the end of February. Alan Pullman noted that they can hold the dedication of the nook during their recognition ceremony held every Friday morning.

Judy Trow moved for the SAU and Alan Pullman to go through the process to establish a reading nook at SCES in honor of Thelma Hause a longtime volunteer at SCES. Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Additional Staffing Request:

Terra Geer explained that the schools provide speech and language services per IEP's of students. They also provide services to kids not on IEP's; this is done for kids who have gone through ESS or preschoolers. Currently the caseload for the speech pathologist is more than they can handle. She is seeing students in grades Pre-K through 5th, but most of her students are in kindergarten through 2nd grade.

She would like to get approval to hire a .25FTE to a .50FTE speech pathologist or speech pathologist assistant just to work with the Pre-K to grade 5 population not currently on an IEP; 14 students. These students are not receiving services with enough frequency. If their issue is caught early enough the problems can be helped sooner or hopefully fixed. There are 5 other students who are receiving services through personal insurance, but would also like some school assistance. The district has been able to help 50% of families facilitate outside help.

Terra said they would use federal grant monies to fund the position which would cost between \$4,000 and \$9,000 or 29hrs/2 days a week of direct service. This would only meet current requirements.

Kim Denney said she would like to see them hire a speech pathologist assistant for the position. Terra said they are very difficult to find; they had an advertisement out for a year and only one application. She is also looking into contracting with a provider.

Kim Denney moved for the SAU to proceed with hiring a speech pathologist or speech pathologist assistant to provide direct services to ESS preschoolers 2 days a week and then bring back to the Board.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Shaun Carroll and Edward Bailey both said yes.

Brian Garland abstained.

Blodgett Property:

Mike Trojano said the project is currently at a standstill as they have been waiting on quotes for wiring and fire safety i.e. alarms. The quotes were received today and they would be reviewing them this week.

The brochures on the Blodgett Project are back from the printer and are ready to go out with the sample ballots.

First Reading of Policy DIH – Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management:

The Board will review and vote on for approval at the next Board meeting.

Manifest:

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

- #2011-17 = \$46,180.88
- #2011-18 = \$95,397.43
- #2011-15 = \$387,998.27
- #2011-16 = \$189,659.26

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for Next Meeting, March 9, 2011:

- Blodgett Property
- Reorganization
- Manifest
- Minutes
- Good News
- Update from election
- Superintendent News
- 2nd Reading of Policy – Fraud Prevention
- Speech Pathologist/Assistant Update

Shaun Carroll mentioned to the Board that former school board member; George Curt's son had been diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma and is currently going through treatment. He asked the Board to check in with George and his family.

Adjournment:

Edward Bailey moved to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kate O'Connor".

Kate O'Connor

Sunapee School Board Secretary