

Sunapee School Board Meeting
March 14, 2012
SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

Brendan Minnihan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll
Brian Garland
Kim Denney
Edward Bailey (7:10 p.m.)

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator
Kelly Cornish, Financial Services Manager
Mike Trojano, Business Administrator
Wayne Palmer, Facilities Manager
Terra Geer, Special Education Coordinator
Alan Pullman, SCES Principal
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary - Absent

Pledge of Allegiance:

Sean Moynihan led the Pledge of Allegiance and Brendan Minnihan led the moment of silence.

Nominations:

Kim Denney moved to nominate Shaun Carroll as Board Chair.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Edward Bailey moved to nominate Kim Denney as Vice Chair.
Brian Garland seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Minutes:

Brian Garland moved to approve the school board minutes of February 1, 2012.
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous

Public Forum:

John Augustine, Stagecoach Rd, Sunapee, NH – 5yr old daughter this spring

John Augustine asked why performance data for the district was not included in the Annual Report.

Shaun Carroll responded that it is discussed at the Board meetings. Some of the data is put into the Annual Report, but it is usually printed in the local papers when the statistics are released, discussed at the Board level and the deliberative session and the scores are on the NH Department of Education website, but not usually in an Annual Report. The Board would be willing to put in one page going over the basics of the data next year. The district also puts a lot of the information on the school website.

Sean Moynihan interjected that the schools also send information home to the parents when the data is released throughout the school year.

Shaun Carroll, Brendan Minnihan and Sean Moynihan all agreed that a one page report in the Annual Report could easily be provided.

John Augustine stated he feels that the schools should be sending out quarterly report cards stating how well the schools are doing.

Kim Denney welcomed Mr. Augustine to attend the Board meetings as they discuss the data in depth; the discussions are also in the Board minutes.

Brendan Minnihan interjected that 75% of the districts in NH are DINI (Districts In Need of Improvement), but Sunapee is not one of them.

Paul Skarin, newly elected member of the School board, asked to speak to the Board as he was told his election might be a conflict of interest as he has coached JV baseball and basketball for the last 4 yrs. He stated that he looked through the Board policies and it omitted coaches. He is still interested, but if he is not allowed to coach he will still volunteer.

Harvard Model Congress:

Sean Moynihan introduced Marcia Spencer, SMHS Social Studies teacher. He stated that every year Marcia Spencer has organized the Sunapee School District to participate in the Harvard Model Congress against larger schools and he really appreciates all her hard work.

Marcia Spencer thanked the Board for their continuing support of the program. She has brought three students with her who participated and won scholarships from the Congress. She then handed out a list of participating schools to the Board and gave the following presentation to the Board:

- Participating schools come from all over the country and international schools including many private schools.
- The Harvard Model Congress is a simulation that replicates our own Congress.
- Students role play being house members, senators, media specialists and lobbyists.

- 8 of the 15 Sunapee students attending the Harvard Model Congress also participated in the Mock Trial Team on February 17th and 18th at the Pillsbury Superior Court and then went straight down to the Harvard Model Congress.
- Sunapee is the only school in NH and Northern New England (Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine) to participate in the Harvard Model Congress.
- Rhode Island has 0 schools attend, Connecticut had 4 and Massachusetts had 14.
- Out of the 15 Sunapee participants 7 were scholarship winners including:
 - Aaron Berube
 - Aubree Kozie
 - Samantha Kimball
 - Connor Denney
 - Alyssa Goucher
 - Addy Cain
 - Riley Denney
- The total amount of money given out for 1500 participants was \$7,500. Out of that, Sunapee won \$1,865.00. Ms. Spencer felt that Sunapee did so well because all winners wrote well and made their points clearly.
- Connor Denney was the only Sunapee student to win an award for her role as a media specialist.

Shaun Carroll thanked Ms. Spencer and all the participants for representing Sunapee.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The spring play this year is “Bye, Bye Birdie” and will be performed in May, a little later than usual, to give the teacher more time to get it organized.

SCES Good News:

Alan Pullman gave the Board the following good news:

- March 16th is National Pi Day. The students will learn the concept of Pi and divide fruit and pizza pies.
- The Sportsmanship Council raised \$584.22 in a penny drive for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- Mrs. Blewitt’s 4th grade class attended First Place this week and last week Mrs. Cantagallo’s 4th grade class went. The program teaches kids to program the “Mars Rover” with tasks using computer work and Legos.
- 37 Valentine boxes were delivered to the Sunapee Senior Citizens. If you come by the bulletin board and at SCES you will see thank you notes to the students from the Senior Citizens.
- Most of the hallways and classrooms were freshly painted green and beige over the February break.

- The Hampstead Players will perform Robin Hood tomorrow, March 15th, at 9 a.m. in the Sherburne Gym.
- Mary Howard, Literacy Specialist, is visiting again on Monday and Tuesday, March 19th and 20th for the last time this year. She will be working with the entire staff on Monday and doing individual sessions on Tuesday to help review student progress along the assessment wall. Staff will hold a potluck supper on Monday evening for Mary.
- The D.A.R.E. Program will start on March 22nd and will end in late May or early June.

Superintendent Communications:

Brendan Minnihan gave the following report to the Board:

- He thanked the Board and the BAC for all the hard work they put into the budget for the upcoming 12-13 school year.
- On Saturday, March 24th, Imagine Sunapee 2020 will be down in the harbor; the Sunapee School District is participating. Sunapee School District will be showcasing technology they are currently using and what they plan on doing in the future. Sharon Parsons, Kelly Cornish and Shaun Carroll will be manning the booth.

Auditor's Report:

Mike Trojano gave the following report to the Board:

- The Board was handed out copies of the auditor's report ending June 30, 2011.
- Auditor's report states that Sunapee's books have been fairly presented. They found everything to be in order. There are no reportable conditions or material weaknesses.
- Sunapee is currently following an internal control system.

The Board said they would review and would bring any questions they had to the April 4th meeting.

Calendar:

Brendan Minnihan explained that the NH Department of Education has stated that the calendar had to be 180 days with 10 additional days added for snow days or inclement weather. They have recently changed it so that district's may now use either days or hours. The Board needs to decide if they want to keep it how it is, use hours or use a hybrid system. If they use hours, snow days would not need to be made up in June.

He stated it gets tricky because the hours are different for SCES compared to SMHS. The pros to hours is that parents would be able to plan vacations and camps better and they wouldn't be making up snow days when it is hot in June. The con is that students need a full 180 days of instruction.

Sean Moynihan and Alan Pullman both support keeping the 180 days of instruction.

Gidget Ducharme, Sunapee resident, asked how the policy of attendance would be affected if the district changed to hours.

Brendan Minnihan stated that attendance is done by half days, so it wouldn't affect it, but that the school district policy would need to be changed.

Brian Garland stated he felt that parent's would be able to wrap their mind around days better than hours. He also stated that he would like to look at elongating the school year in general.

The Board stated that negotiations are coming up in September and October and making the school year longer is something they should put in their Board goals this summer and then discuss at negotiations.

No action was taken because the Board decided to stay with 180 days.

Approval of Auditor:

Mike Trojano said it is a good idea to change auditors because it is good to get a different set of eyes, but Sunapee has only used the current auditor, The Mercier Group, for three years and he recommends signing another three year agreement with them. The contract is only a 3% increase over the last contract and it will remain the same for the next three years.

Kim Denney moved to approve the signing of a new three year contract with The Mercier Group with a three percent increase over the last three year agreement.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

12-13 Calendar:

Brendan Minnihan reported that he spoke with the Claremont School District about moving around professional development dates in November of 2012, but that Claremont could not make the changes. This calendar matches both the Newport and Claremont School District's which Sunapee has to follow because of the vocational centers. He told the Board they will need to review the calendar next year as Claremont is seriously considering going to only one week of vacation in the winter instead of a week in February and a week in April.

Brian Garland moved to approve the 12-13 school calendar as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

12-13 Tuition Rate:

Brendan Minnihan said that the current tuition rate for the 11-12 school year is \$17,200.00, next year the rate will be \$18,000.00. He explained to the Board and public that four years ago there was a big gap between what was charged and the actual cost; that gap is almost gone. In two to three years Sunapee should be charging the actual cost. Currently there are eleven students who pay tuition into the school district.

A discussion of how residency is determined was brought up by Gidget Ducharme. The Board and Sean Moynihan explained the residency law and how they find if someone has moved.

John Augustine asked the Board why the district is charging less than the actual cost.

Brendan Minnihan explained that there was such a discrepancy four years ago that the tuition rate would have jumped \$4,000-\$5,000 dollars in one year, which was not reasonable for most families and the district would have lost the revenue. By going up in increments each year, it was less strain on the families.

He also explained that it does not cost the district as much to teach an individual tuition student because you don't have to hire new teachers or provide transportation. The district receives additional revenue for each tuition student as long as there is no need to hire an additional teacher.

Kim Denney moved to approve the 12-13 tuition rate of \$18,000.00.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Approval of Capital Projects for SCES:

Kim Denney moved to approve the capital projects for SCES as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Mike Trojano gave the Board the following report:

- David Lauren, an architect, toured SCES and told them what safety standards have changed since the building was first built.
- SCES is well-maintained and clean and has a sprinkler system installed throughout the entire building.
- There is no requirement to install these safety standards, but these are standards that would be present in a building built now.
- The repairs that need to be completed are:
 - Installing smoke doors in stairwells; currently not fire code compliant,
 - Raising railing height and adjusting width in between banisters due to a change in code,
 - Making a second egress from boiler room in case of an emergency,
 - Repair of amphitheater and back steps (not a safety repair)
- There are also changes that can be done without a funding request:
 - Moving the washer & dryer to a safer location
 - Creating venting to the outside
 - Moving a cooler out of the way of an egress

Mike Trojano said he is unsure about replacing classroom and library doors; it is pretty expensive because the doors are larger than standard doors. He is currently looking at whether they can refurbish the existing door to meet code. The district may experiment with refurbishing the downstairs doors and see how that works.

All funds will come from the Elementary Capital Reserve Fund, which will leave \$100,000.00 in the fund. All of these repairs, except the amphitheater are safety related, but none have to be addressed.

The Board discussed touring the amphitheater to see exactly what needs to be fixed. They also asked Alan Pullman and Sean Moynihan to bring with them to the next meeting what uses the amphitheater would have if fixed.

Kim Denney moved to amend her motion to approve to all safety related items with approval of the amphitheater at a later date after report from principals and tour of amphitheater.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Brendan Minnihan wanted it noted in the minutes that after the principal interviews the Board voted in non-public session to hire Jodi Bergen as the new SCES Principal for the 12-13 school year. Brian Garland, Shaun Carroll, Judy Trow and Kim Denney all voted unanimously.

He also wanted to comment to the Board that the SPTO Representative said the SPTO are paying for a mosquito magnet which they plan to install in the Outdoor Classroom. The district will have to clean it out once a month.

The Board asked that he find out the safety of the mosquito magnet because it is a propane tank that attracts mosquitos and report back to the Board.

Approval of Spring Extra-Curricular Contracts:

Kim Denney moved to approve the spring extra-curricular contracts with the exception of the JV Baseball coach (School Board Member, Paul Skarin), as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Approval of SMHS Nominations:

Brendan Minnihan handed out the general qualifications of the applicants to the Board.

Sean Moynihan said there were two vacancies due to retirements and the middle school guidance position was revised to a half-time position.

He recommends Kate Dulac for the four day a week middle school guidance position. She comes from Newfound Memorial Middle School, Mike Robinson from Concord High School for the English teaching position in which there were forty-five applicants and six interviews and Danielle Vienneau from The White Mountain School in Bethlehem, NH for the Mathematics teacher in which there were four interviews.

Kim Denney moved to approve the 12-13 SMHS nominations as presented.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

SMHS Extended Field Trip:

Sean Moynihan explained that these are two field trips; one to Gettysburg for the 8th grade class and a Close-Up trip in Washington, D.C.

The Gettysburg trip takes about 30 students and costs about \$250.00 per student for which fundraising is done. They tour Harpers Ferry and Gettysburg and go bowling. They all go down in private vehicles and Sean approves all chaperones. The students are required to read a novel and write a report to attend the trip.

The Close-Up trip is expensive, so fundraising is done. The trip is taken every other year and about 10 students attend. Usually only two chaperones come, but if the group is more than 10 students more chaperones will go. Again, he approves all chaperones and students.

Brian Garland moved to approve the Gettysburg and Close-up field trips.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Manifest:

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

- #2012-17 = \$48,508.95
- #2012-18 = \$101,689.48
- #2012-19 = \$67,332.10

Kim Denney moved to approve the following payroll manifests:

- #2012-17 = \$192,507.77
- #2012-18 = \$197,457.66

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Non-Public Session:

Kim Denney moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:58 p.m.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Roll Call:

Kim Denney, Shaun Carroll, Brian Garland and Edward Bailey

Public Session:

Kim Denney moved to come out of non-public session at 9:50 p.m.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Roll Call:

Kim Denney, Shaun Carroll, Edward Bailey and Brian Garland

Kim Denney moved to go into public session at 9:51 p.m.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Brian Garland moved to deny the paraeducator request for a waiver of tuition for the rest of the 11-12 school year for all of her children.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda for Next Meeting, April 4, 2012:

- Nominations
- Auditor's Report Approval
- Manifest
- Minutes – 3/14/2012
- Good News
- Amphitheater
- Superintendent News
- Superintendent's 12-13 Salary Approval
- Review Board Expectations and Protocols

Edward Bailey asked if the crossing guard could be moved from the Sherburne Gym road to the intersection as it makes more sense since students cross at that point. The Board said that the crossing guard is actually a town employee and Brendan will have to have a discussion with the town.

Edward Bailey asked if there was a way to get approval for two busses to be able to cross over the bridge that the district has been told they "can't" go over due to the weight of the busses. He feels that the bridge is too short for the bus to ever have its entire weight on the bridge. If the busses could go this way it would save time and money. The Board reported that they know the bridge is up for replacement, but currently the government won't allow it. Shaun Carroll said the district should see if they can have the bridge inspected to make their point. The Board would like to look into it.

Adjournment:

Kim Denney moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kate O'Connor
Sunapee School Board Secretary