

Sunapee School Board Meeting

March 9, 2011

SMHS Media Center

Call to Order:

Brendan Minnihan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll  
Judy Trow  
Kim Denney  
Brian Garland - Absent  
Edward Bailey

Others Present:

Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent  
Ray Palin, Media Coordinator  
Holly Norton, SMHS Assistant Principal  
Alan Pullman, SCES Principal  
Wayne Palmer, Facilities Director  
Terra Geer, Special Education Coordinator  
Mike Montore, Technology Director  
Kate O'Connor, Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Kate O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was led by Brendan Minnihan.

Reorganization:

The Board has not been sworn in yet as you have to wait five days after the vote in case of a recount.

Judy Trow moved to nominate Shaun Carroll as Chair.  
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous.

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

Minutes:

Kim Denney moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011 as presented.  
Judy Trow seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Alan Pullman gave the Board the following good news:

- March 9<sup>th</sup> was the conclusion of the SCES presentation of the bullying seminar sponsored by Turning Point Network.
- The celebration for Grammy House will be a week from Thursday. Alan Pullman has contacted a sign maker for the event.
- Both he and Joanne Skarin went to a workshop at the Dept. of Education on Performance Plus. Performance Plus allows you to take the results from the NECAP, NEWA and other school assessments and print out reports to show you the progress of the students. This will allow teachers to take small groups and follow them. This is also a Train the Trainer seminar, the first training was today for half the day; there will be three and a half days in total.
- On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, the scheduling committee will hold their first meeting.
- The fifth grade participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Place, a robotics lesson, in Manchester, NH.
- Kindergarten registration will open May 11<sup>th</sup>; there eighteen students they know of so far.

SMHS Good News:

Holly Norton gave the Board the following good news:

- Ms. Christensen is directing the high school play "Little Shop of Horrors" on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.
- The middle school is also performing Treasure Island, directed by Ms. Titus, on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A solo recital was held last night, March 8<sup>th</sup>; twenty-four students participated.
- Mr. Pruettt took twenty-four performers, middle and high school, to perform as a solo ensemble at the University of NH.
- Teachers have also been preparing for next year's scheduling.
- Senior Projects will be held April 21<sup>st</sup> the Thursday before spring vacation.

Superintendent Communications:

Brendan Minnihhan gave the following report to the Board:

- Congratulations to the Board and a thank you as everything passed on voting day!

- A variety of training sessions were held on the last professional development day right before winter vacation, which was also the same day as a snow storm. Teachers had the option of attending and thirty-five to forty attended.
- The celebration for Grammy Hause will be March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. in the library, while an invite only get together will be held in the cafeteria right after. The Board asked that Ms. Tewksbury, the class Grammy Hause volunteered the most in, be invited via Skype so she could attend.
- The Argus-Champion is being put out again, once a month. Archie Mountain was kind enough to write an article for the district; it came out on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Introduced the Board to Moodle. Would like to use it to get the information for the Board meetings to the Board instead of sending out board packets. There would be a private section just for the Board that would be password protected. The secretary would still get a packet. The Board would like to try it, but would like a packet for the month of April still.

#### Governor's Budget:

Brendan Minnihan gave the following report to the Board:

- Governor Lynch has proposed many different cuts to balance the State budget, which includes eliminating or reducing quite a lot of aid for the public school system. This means the school districts have to adjust their budgets to make up for the loss of revenue. The cuts don't get voted on until the end of June, but the districts have to be prepared in case they are passed.
- Sunapee would lose Catastrophic Aid for 2011-2012 of \$28,000.
- Sunapee would not be affected by the loss of Adequacy Aid.
- Sunapee would lose 40% of Building Aid or \$50,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is money that is received for the addition to the middle school.
- The State is looking to give no funding for retirement which would be a loss of \$177,000.
- The administration met to discuss budget cuts and shared the information with Ron Beaudet of the teacher's union.
- They propose the following reductions –
  - Reducing the substitute line by \$10,000
  - Cut \$24,000 out of special projects, which has been reduced already.
  - Eliminate ski jumping (The Board and others had a problem with this as Sunapee is one of only six schools in the country to still offer the sport. Brendan said he will look into funding it from a grant source).
  - Reduce one of three special education teachers to half-time
  - Reduce one of two middle school counselor positions to half-time, but fund the other half of that person's position as a reading specialist as they were just certified. They would still be full-time, but with two different positions.
- Proposed reductions to teaching assistant's that are not tied to a special education student.



- Proposed reductions to related services. Kim Denney let it be known that she is not in favor.
- Proposed reductions to out of district tuition.
- Reduce Terra Geer, special education coordinator by thirteen days, which she would take during the summer.
- Proposed reduction to the textbook line.
- All together the reductions equal \$177,000.

Gidget Ducharme of Cross Rd. Sunapee, NH asked how the cut of a half a guidance position at the middle school level will affect the students. The administration stated they feel confident that between both counselors all students will get an adequate amount of time.

Kim Denney moved to have administration move forward in the reduction in staff positions in the Sunapee School District, but to let the Board know the exact cuts before telling the staff members. They already know about the cuts to special education director and special education teacher positions.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Audit:

The Board decided to table the discussion on the audit until next month's meeting when Business Administrator, Mike Trojano, can attend.

Speech Pathologist Update:

Terra Geer stated that only two people have applied. One is remotely qualified, but doesn't feel either candidate is what the district looking for in a speech pathologist. If no one is hired, the district will use a contracted service for the rest of the school year.

Blodgett Property:

The Blodgett property was passed in the budget. Sheet rock and plaster repair are currently being done. The entire property is now wired. One extra phone and data cable have been installed in each room. The stripping of the floorboards still needs to be done. Brendan Minnihan believes the project should be ready by August 1, 2011.

The Board asked for a new To-Do list for the next meeting.

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

Kim Denney moved to approve policy DIH – Fraud Prevention and Fiscal Management as presented.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Project Award – Installation of Wide Area Network (Fiber):

Mike Montore recommended the Board choose Next Generation Telecommunications to install fiber cables at the new SAU as they had the most thorough quote and a twenty-five year warranty. Sunapee already has the rod and rope needed. They are a very good company.

Kim Denney moved to approve the hiring of Next Generation Telecommunications to install wide area network fiber at the cost of \$12,994.96.

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Manifest:

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

- #2011-19 = \$46,022.55
- #2011-20 = \$94,340.51
- #2011-21 = \$45,834.55
- #2011-16.1 = \$565.49
- #2011-17 = \$364,635.69
- #2011-18 = \$389,226.88

Edward Bailey seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for Next Meeting, April 6, 2011:

- Governor's Budget
- Moodle
- Manifest
- Minutes
- Good News
- Blodgett Property
- Superintendent News
- Financial/Audit
- Update on hiring of Speech Pathologist

Non-Public Session:

Edward Bailey moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) at 8:38 p.m.

Judy Trow seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

*Roll Call –*

Kim Denney, Judy Trow, Shaun Carroll and Edward Bailey

Judy Trow moved to come out of non-public session at 9:03 p.m.

Kim Denney seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Overnight Field Trip:

The overnight field presented is for the baseball and softball varsity teams to attend spring training and scrimmages in Cape Cod from April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be six moms and six dads attending the trip. Sean Moynihan has approved all participants and chaperones. Fundraising has been done to pay for the trip.

Judy Trow moved to approve the overnight baseball and softball trips from April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Edward Bailey seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous.

Adjournment:

Edward Bailey moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.  
Kim Denney seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted By,



Kate O'Connor  
Sunapee School Board Secretary