

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

November 4, 2015

Call to Order:

Shaun Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Shaun Carroll
Paul Skarin
Brian Garland - Absent
Jan Bettencourt
Matt McNally

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Terra Geer, Special Education Director
Diane Gorrow, School District Attorney

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence by Shaun Carroll.

Minutes:

Matt McNally moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of October 7, 2015.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Matt McNally asked that his name be changed from Mike to Matt.

Russell Holden – Pg. 6, Ray Porter is not a Sunapee resident, but a parent of a Sunapee High School student. Pg. 7, under Heidi Currier, strike out “not need a new school”.

Paul Skarin noted that he was the one who commented on physical education credit not Shaun Carroll.

Kate O'Connor asked that when the public speaks they make it clear whether they are Sunapee residents.

Matt McNally moved to approve the School Board meeting minutes of October 7, 2015 with amendments.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Matt McNally moved to approve the School Board non-public meeting minutes of October 7, 2015 as presented.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

The Board recessed at 7:05 p.m. and returned at 7:25 p.m.

Agenda Review:

Action Items – letter b – Student Council Lock-in at SMHS

Informational – letter g – Additional SMHS Stipend Agreements

Public Forum:

Shaun Carroll reviewed policy BDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings. He then welcomed the public to speak and reviewed the rules.

Jessica Warkentien, Penacook Path in Sunapee, asked if the School Board put out the flyers on cars asking people to attend the School Board meeting. Shaun Carroll responded they did not.

Alden Clough, Nutting Rd in Sunapee, stated he was attending the meeting to hear more about the bullying situation in the District and what was being done.

Tammy Hamel, Nutting Rd. in Sunapee, asked how bullying complaints are handled in the school. Shaun Carroll responded the school district attorney representative, Diane Gorrow, would be presenting on it that night.

Sharon Knapp, Georges Mills, stated her displeasure with the way bullying is handled within the School District.

James William O'Brien, SMHS student. James stated that he has experienced and witnessed bullying from 6th-10th grade and recounted multiple incidents when he was subjected to threats involving weapons. He stated that he felt very feckless. He also stated that he has autism making him unable to advocate for himself and his mother had to contact the school many times and that he wished that there was something that could be done before it got any worse as the last thing he wants is for other students to be picked on.

Brittney Hamel, Nutting Rd. in Sunapee, graduated from SMHS. She stated her displeasure with the way bullying is handled in the District.

Shaun Carroll explained the current bullying protocol in place in the District.

Pam Colonaro, Lower Main St. in Sunapee, expressed her displeasure with the way bullying is handled in the District.

Wendy Sisto, Sunapee resident, son graduated from Sunapee in 2012. She expressed her displeasure at how the school handled the bullying situation.

Scott Flint, Sunapee resident, expressed his support for the District and administration. Stated if bullying is a problem everyone should work together.

Gene Dabrowski, Georges Mills, asked for clarification from Shaun Carroll as to the role the Board plays in handling bullying situations.

Paul Skarin moved to continue public forum.

Matt McNally seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Shaun Carroll explained the administration handles all student and faculty related issues. Issues only come to the Board if the Superintendent deems necessary or a parent has gone through the administration and files for a formal hearing with the Board. Shaun Carroll explained the procedures.

Pam Richardson, North Rd. in Sunapee, expressed her displeasure of the process and how bullying is handled by the District.

Shaun Carroll reviewed Board protocol in terms of handling student related issues.

Alden Clough, Nutting Rd. in Sunapee, stated he felt that bullying is not being heard with how many people are in attendance tonight showing their displeasure.

Mike Pollari, Edgemont Rd. in Sunapee, felt that administration had done their part in dealing with a bullying issue in their family, but the faculty handled the situation poorly. More training needs to be done.

Stephanie Larpenter, 2009 SMHS graduate, showed her support for the District.

Jessica Warkentien, Sunapee resident, stated she took issue with the flyer placed on her car; showed her support for the District.

Kevin O'Brien, Sargent Rd. in Sunapee. He stated he is a current SMHS student. He recounted bullying he has experienced and witnessed in the school. He expressed his displeasure at what he's seen, the lack of follow up and how bullying is handled.

Scheduling and Class Size:

Myles Cooney, SMHS, gave the Board a handout with the following information:

- School Profile
- Curriculum offered for 6-8 and 9-12 and the teachers teaching each course.
- VLAC's
- List of teachers, number of classes they teach, number of students in each class and the average class size.
- Historical, current and future enrollment at SMHS
- Student outcomes – where they are headed after graduation
- Listing of activities and enrollment

He will forward onto the Board electronically. The Board thanked him for the presentation.

Bullying Overview:

Diane Gorrow, Esquire, gave the following overview to the Board and public:

- Read statute RSA 193:F, which is the anti-bullying law
- Only a student can be a bully and only a student can be bullied; doesn't need to be a Sunapee student.
- Retaliation and false accusation provisions are covered under the law
- Students, employees, and volunteers can be disciplined for making false reports.
- The law requires school district to adopt bullying policies, which Sunapee has done under policy JICBB.
- All reported incidents must be investigated and all substantiated reports must be reported annually to the NH DOE.

- Parents may appeal results of an investigation to the Superintendent, School Board and the State Board of Education.
- Reviewed the complaint procedures
- Reviewed notification to parents
- Reviewed investigation timeline
- Reviewed how administration should investigate a bullying complaint.
- Reviewed the law on educational institutions policies on social media and what they can access.
- Reviewed the notes and reports administration must take during an investigation.
- Reviewed the process of the findings of an investigation
- Explained how the report is shared with the Superintendent and School Board
- Explained the appeal process to the Superintendent and the School Board.
- Explained how an appeal hearing in front of the School Board works.
- Explained how an appeal to the State Board of Education works and the Standard of Review that is made.

Tammy Hamel, Nutting Rd. in Sunapee, asked how bullying by staff or administration is handled under the law. Diane Gorrow explained an investigation would have to be done by the principal or Superintendent, but the complaint would not fall under the RSA guidelines. It would instead fall under Board policies or union agreements.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- The First Annual Cardboard Challenge was a huge success. Grades k-5 participated with 30-40 students involved.
- Homework Club started the second week of October; 9-15 students attend every day.
- Tomorrow is Family Night. The PTA is putting on an ice cream social and the Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place.
- The 5th grade online robotics challenge is coming up.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- He currently has 56 followers on Twitter.
- The Service Club volunteered their time at Halloween in the Harbor and building dugouts.
- The 8th grade is going on the Freedom Trail field trip tomorrow.

- The play Mulan Jr. is taking place November 21st and 22nd.
- The volleyball team won the semifinals and is going to the championship.
- The soccer team was in the finals for the sixth year in a row.
- SMHS is holding a Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast on November 11th.

Special Education Report:

Terra Geer gave the following report to the Board:

- Childfind notices were sent out for the October screening and two new children were found in the area that need services.

Superintendent Report:

Russell Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- Apologized to John Augustine, Sunapee resident, for being abrupt at the last meeting; did find out that John had not actually signed up for the District email. John stated he had already spoken with Jon Reed.
- Jon Reed has been able to link the District's email, Twitter and Listserve. He is still working on the NHIAA calendar.
- The community survey went out. Currently, 33.9% of students, 53.6% of staff and 20% of families have responded.
- SmarterBalanced results will be available for the next Board meeting.
- He has also spoken with Patty McMill about more community involvement within the District and she has some interesting ideas.

Intent to Retire – D. Shaw:

Paul Skarin moved to accept the retirement of Dorie Shaw as presented.

Jan Bettencourt seconded motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Student Council Lock-in:

Sean Moynihan explained the Student Council has been working on this proposal for a few weeks. They would like to have a lock-in on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 8 p.m. – 7 a.m. at SMHS. Two to four teachers would be present for 40-50 students. All students would have to be in the building by 9:30 p.m. and you cannot leave with anyone, but a parent. Teachers would be checking attendance throughout the night.

A member of the public commented it is the same night as the play. Shaun Carroll asked Sean Moynihan to check the date so there isn't a conflict.

Matt McNally moved to approve student council lock-in as presented once date has been confirmed.

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Classroom Recording RSA 189:68, IV (HB505):

Russell Holden explained the new law states there can be no more recording in classrooms without written permission from the parent of each student and the teacher. Administration will discuss and bring to the Board in December.

Budget Books:

Russell Holden asked that the Board take their budget books before they leave. They will meet the week of November 16th. He will be sending out an email to the Board confirming the date. The Board will be meeting with the Budget Advisory Committee on December 2nd right before the Board meeting.

Follow-up from Parent Request:

Russell Holden stated he spoke with the parent who requested the bullying presentation. He is in the process of an investigation.

SBAC and NECAP Results December 2nd:

Russell Holden stated results will be out December 2nd and a presentation will be given by each administrator.

List of Stipend Payments:

Russell Holden told the Board there was a list of all positions receiving stipends over the last two years in their packets. If there are any questions, please call the SAU.

Additional SCES Stipend Agreements:

Russell Holden noted additional stipend agreements for SCES in the Board packets.

Additional SMHS Stipend Agreements:

Russell Holden handed out updated agreements that are now filled at SMHS.

Manifest:

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2016-08 - \$52,898.72
- 2016-09 - \$90,601.48

Jan Bettencourt seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

John Augustine, Stagecoach Rd. in Sunapee, asked the difference between substantiated and unsubstantiated in the bullying investigation.

Diane Gorrow, Esquire, explained the definitions from the RSA.

Paul Manson, Young Hill in Sunapee, asked if employees bullying students is covered in the RSA.

Diane Gorrow, Esquire, replied that it is not covered under the RSA and that other rules apply.

Pat Walsh, Sunapee resident, expressed her support for the District.

Agenda for December 2, 2015:

- SBAC Results Presentation
- Good News
- Manifest
- Community Survey Results
- Policy
- Budget

Non-Public Session:

The Board went into non-public session at 9:17 p.m. Please see non-public minutes.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary