

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

January 11, 2017

Call to Order:

School Board Chair Skarin called the School Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Paul Skarin
Brian Garland - Absent
Heather Furlong
April Royce

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal
Terra Geer, Director of Student Services
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Jackie Balch, Student Representative

Pledge/Moment of Silence:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jackie Balch and a moment of silence was led by School Board Chair Skarin.

Minutes:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the public minutes of the December 7, 2016 School Board meeting as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SCES Media Specialist/Tech Integrator – Heidi Doyle:

Heidi Doyle gave the following report to the Board:

- She works with students, k-5, during teacher’s collaborative time, on a variety of different subjects, using an array of mediums.
- Students of all grades learn together and can share experiences by doing so.
- Some of the activities they have done:
 - Coding using B-Bots where the students can code the bots to create their name or shapes.
 - Use iPads apps for coding. The students teach each other things they learn.
 - Students learn to read code and then perform activities, such as a “coding scavenger hunt”.
 - Field trips, including the fifth graders to the Hood Downtown where they learned about fractal architecture and the k-3 toured the sculptures on the Dartmouth campus.
 - They have built fairy houses and gnome homes using natural objects in the woods.
 - Held a “Game Day” where students play board games, play math games on iPads, and build puzzles.
 - Held “Makerspace Day”.

Board Chair Skarin noted that Board member, Brian Garland, is not in attendance due to the Board moving it’s meeting from the first Wednesday of the month to the second Wednesday of the month to accommodate the budget hearing.

Student Representative:

Jackie Balch gave the following report to the Board:

- Winter workshops were fun, successful, and offered a variety of activities to students.
- The ski team and basketball teams are off to a good start.
- The girls’ varsity basketball team has been going to SCES every Tuesday to read to students.
- The spring play practice of, “The Lion King”, is going well; she is happy to see middle school students able to participate.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- The school held a fantastic holiday concert, which included both band and chorus.
- The day before the holiday break the full student body shared in the “Jingle Bell Blitz”, which had teams of k-5 together. The students played games and had fun.
- Professional development is refocusing attention to reading instruction and holding in-depth trainings to continue at a successful level within the school.
- A parent letter was sent out asking parents if they have a hobby or talent they would like to share by teaching it to students during the spring after-school clubs. Jodi has opened it up to get more community involvement.

SMHS Good News:

Sean Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The middle school geography bee will be held next Thursday.
- Exams are coming up next Wednesday thru Friday.
- The students are leading a blood drive this year. He will have more information at a later date.

Special Education Report:

Director of Student Services Geer stated the NH Dept. of Education performed an audit in the District of written transitional plans for students, and the District received 100% compliance.

Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- He noted that he just emailed the school board self-evaluation to the members. He will put the topic on the next meeting’s agenda.
- NH Dept. of Education Commissioner, Virginia Barry, just stepped down last week. She has been the commissioner since 2009. There is much talk amongst districts in the State of what changes will occur in education with the transitions happening at the federal and state level.
- The next Superintendent Forum will be on February 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in SCES. He will also put it on the website.

Proposed Policies:

First Reading

JECB – Admission of Tuition and Non-Resident Students

April Royce moved to approve the second reading of policy JECB as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Heather Furlong, who is on the Policy Committee, noted that the committee twice reviewed this policy. This time, they received clarification on children of employees by the District attorney to note that the District in which the employee lives will be held responsible for special education costs if needed, not the employee.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Heather Furlong stated that a constituent contacted her about trading snow days for vacation days, so that the school year doesn't run long in June. Superintendent Holden stated he will review whether that is a feasibility.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed 2017-2018 Tuition Rate:

April Royce moved to approve the tuition rates, k-8 \$12,650 and 9-12 \$13,500, for the 2017-2018 school year as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Extended SMHS Field Trip:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the extended SMHS varsity boys basketball team's overnight field trip to Keene State College on December 27th and 28th as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Principal Moynihan said the trip did not make the December meeting because this is the coach's first year and he was unaware of the approval process.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Extra-curricular SMHS Positions:

April Royce moved to approve the SMHS extra-curricular positions as presented.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Superintendent Holden read the list to the audience.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of Proposed ABC Recommendations:

April Royce moved to approve the Advisory Budget Committee recommendations as presented.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Superintendent Holden stated the ABC is made of up 16-17 committee members that include town officials, community members, and a school board member. The committee met on five occasions and reviewed the school budget thoroughly.

Board Chair Skarin thanked all the members who were involved for their time.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of 2017-2018 Budget:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the 2017-2018 school district budget as presented.
April Royce seconded the motion.

April Royce noted that the Board tried to keep the budget level-funded; the default budget is higher. Superintendent Holden stated the total budget is \$12,071,638, which is an increase of \$262,259 or 2.2%. This means there will be a tax rate impact of \$.39 increase per \$1,000. The estimated overall tax rate will be 4.4%.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of 2017-2018 Draft Warrant Articles:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the 2017-2018 draft warrant articles as presented.
Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Superintendent Holden stated that there is a total of eight articles; four have no tax impact.

- The first two are to elect positions.
- Article 3 – Budget of \$12,071,638

- Article 4 – Raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Special Education Trust Fund from unreserved fund balance. No tax impact.
- Article 5 – Raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund from unreserved fund balance. No tax impact.
- Article 6 – Raise and appropriate \$75,000 for the SMHS Roof Fund. \$.06 tax impact.
- Article 7 – Allow the treasurer to appoint a deputy treasurer.
- Article 8 – To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Vote unanimous.

Approval of the 2017-2018 Default Budget:

April Royce moved to approve the 2017-2018 school district default budget as presented. Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

The Board discussed what would occur if the regular budget was voted down. The Board discussed lowering the default budget to the same amount as the proposed budget. Superintendent Holden explained the formula by which a default budget is created. He explained that next year's default budget will be based on this year's proposed budget. The Board decided to keep the default budget as it stands.

Vote unanimous.

SCES Facility Committee Update:

Superintendent Holden asked the Board if they would be willing to move the February Board meeting to SCES; the Board agreed after asking the audience.

Superintendent Holden stated the committee is having students at SCES work with SMHS students and adults at creating a movie of a typical day at SCES, so that the community can see the challenges the students face with the current building.

April Royce stated it would be great if SCES students could give tours to community members. Superintendent Holden replied that the committee is planning to hold an open house in the spring.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Superintendent Holden stated the committee met before the holiday break. A survey has been formulated and sent out yesterday. A link was sent to parents and students (5-12) via email. There are also ads in the Kearsarge Shopper and the Intertown Record asking community

members to fill out the survey on the District website by January 20th. He noted that there are also paper copies of the survey at the SAU.

Superintendent Holden will speak with John Kennedy tomorrow to plan the next meeting.

Manifest:

April Royce moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2017-12 - \$160,134.47
- 2017-13 - \$83,855.48

April Royce moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2017-13 - \$214,506.02
- 2017-14 - \$519,279.67

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

None

Agenda for February 8, 2017:

- Board Self-Evaluations
- Food Service Presentation
- Deliberative Session Follow-up

Heather Furlong asked about community discussions surrounding the Youth Behavior At-Risk Survey. Superintendent Holden stated there was a meeting before the holiday break. Chief Cahill is continuing to set-up events to discuss solutions and Mount Royal Academy has now joined the committee.

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment:

April Royce moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary