

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

March 8, 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
Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal
Terra Geer, Director of Student Services
Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal
Jackie Balch, Student Representative
Dana Pruett, SMHS Music Teacher
Kirk Romein, SMHS Art Teacher
Nicole Bailey, SCES Music Teacher
Mary Willis, SCES Art Teacher

Board Chair Skarin acknowledged three school board candidates in the audience—John Augustine, Jesse Tyler, and Edward Andersen.

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:

April Royce moved to approve the public minutes of the February 8, 2017 School Board meeting as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

Under action items add "C" – Approve Proposed Overnight Field Trip for SMHS Baseball and Softball.

Public Forum:

None

Unified Arts Presentation – Mary Willis, Kirk Romein, Nicole Bailey, and Dana Pruett:

Mary Willis gave the following report to the Board on the SCES art program:

- She is a '00 graduate of SMHS, a '04 graduate of Plymouth State University, and this is her tenth year working for the district.
- The District introduced new art standards two years ago and began implementing this year. They are based around creating, performing, responding, and connecting.
- She showed examples of the curriculum, including curriculum maps, student self-assessments, and the assessments sent to parents.
- Each class has art once a week for 45 minutes.
- She collaborates with other teachers in the school on lessons on a consistent basis.
- Next week the second year of the after-school pottery club begins.
- There is an art show coming up later in the spring.

Kirk Romein gave the following report to the Board on the SMHS art program:

- He is a '00 graduate of Plymouth State University. He worked at Campbell High School for fifteen years and this is his second year at SMHS.
- He explained his educational philosophy. He wants all students to be successful and teaches them art basics, history, self-expression, and creation. He uses a variety of different mediums and demonstration to teach.
- He tells students to make mistakes and discussions on art and student creations are a focus. He also likes to include excursions to art destinations in his curriculum.
- He teaches a variety of classes including:
 - Sixth grade – Basic Introduction to Art
 - Seventh and Eighth grade – Two-dimensional and Three-dimensional art
 - High school – Studio Art, Pottery, Digital Art, Pinterest Class (crafts), and Independent Art.
- He highlights student artwork in the hallways of the school and displays at the Abbott Library.

- There are two art shows held a year: one each semester.
- He has students compete in the Scholastic Art Awards which is a National competition.

Nicole Bailey gave the following report to the Board on the SCES music program:

- This is her first year at SCES. She has a bachelors and masters in music from UMass Lowell and a masters in education administration.
- Prior to coming to Sunapee, she worked in the Salem School District for 13 years. She and her family moved here six months ago; she has a three-year-old girl and a four-year-old boy.
- She teaches each grade music classes once a week for 45 minutes. Chorus is once a week for 30 minutes, instrumental band lessons (before and after school) once a week for 30 minutes, and full band instruction once a week for 30 minutes. There will be a concert later this year in May.
- She is also using the new unified arts curriculum implemented this year. She has expectations for students on the wall of her classroom.
- She teaches a composer of the month where the students learn about the composer and complete activities.
- The third and fourth grade students learn the recorder.
- She offers new musical opportunities including:
 - Christmas concert
 - Taking the fourth and fifth grade to Boston Symphony Hall on April 6th.
 - The chorus will sing at a Fisher Cats game on April 21st.
 - School talent show on March 17th.
 - She would like to start a District Music Night next year.
- Next week, the ukulele club will begin on Tuesday afternoons.
- She plans to integrate more technology into her curriculum and increase participation and support of ensembles.

Dana Pruett gave the following report to the Board on the SMHS music program:

- He is in his 11th year in the District. He received his bachelors in music and masters in educational leadership from Plymouth State University. He also spent 11 years in the Newfound School District.
- His classes rotate due to the high school schedule. He teaches the following classes:
 - Performance ensemble (every other day).
 - High school band (13 musicians) – Will perform at Sunapee harbor on May 7th.
 - Holds eighth grade advisory.
 - Middle school band (34 musicians) – Will perform at the spring concert and the Great East Festival in May, down in Massachusetts.

- Instrumental lessons (sixth and seventh grades—seventh being new this year).
- General music class (sixth grade).
- Introduction to guitar (12 students—all seniors) semester class, offered twice a year.
- High school chorus (will perform at spring concert) teaches sight-reading, which he feels is essential.
- Middle school chorus (23 students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades) will perform at the Great East Music Festival and the spring concert.
- Two middle school band and two middle school chorus students qualified for the Southwest District Music Festival, which will be held on a Saturday in May.
- One high school student this year participated in the Dartmouth Youth Wind Ensemble.
- In April, he has Opera North coming to present to the students.
- 15 middle and high school students participated in the UNH Solo and Ensemble Festival. Participants were from both the band and chorus.
- He discussed the unified arts standards in the District.

Student Representative:

Jackie Balch gave the following report to the Board:

- The National Honor Society is hosting a father/daughter dance fundraiser on March 25th, for all ages, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sherburne Gym. There is a \$15 fee.
- The senior class is hosting a “Live Free or Dye” color run on April 15th at 9:00 a.m. Sign-up before April 2nd and receive a free t-shirt, otherwise, it will cost \$15.
- Last night was winter sports awards.
- This was the third year in a row the girls’ varsity basketball team won the State Championship.
- Will Austin won first place at the Great Slalom and Slalom State Championships. He also took first place in skimeister at Great Slalom for slalom and tenth place at the Cross-country State Championship.
- Three students, including herself, took first, second, and third place slalom for women. She also took first place as skimeister.
- Four students moved onto the next level in the State and, from those four, two more students (including herself) will be attending the Eastern High School Championship.
- The school play is March 16th and 17th at 7:00 p.m.
- Senior acceptance letters are coming in—you can find them on the bulletin board in the hallway.

SMHS Good News:

Meagan Reed gave the Board the following good news:

- Rupert Dalton (7th grader) won the National Geographic Geography Bee for the second year in a row and will be competing at the State level.
- The College and Career Readiness Fair was a success with 30 presenters. There was also an alumni guest speaker and workshops were held. There was also a talent show in the afternoon for grade seventh thru twelfth.
- Senior Project presentations are Thursday, April 6, 2017.

SCES Good News:

Jodi Bergen gave the Board the following good news:

- Auditions for the talent show are March 17th.
- The drama club will be presenting in April.
- Jump Rope for Heart was held on February 17th and raised over \$3,700.
- Eight to ten faculty members are participating in a book study group. The most recent book was "Kids Deserve It".

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- The College and Career Readiness Fair was tremendous.
- The town will be paving Lower Main St. starting April 17th. They will be turning off the water, but mainly at night. There will only be one-way traffic on the road. The SAU will put out a notice to make parents aware.
- The State held a Youth Summit on Opioids. Eight thousand students from across the State were in attendance, including a handful of students from Sunapee. Meagan Reed noted that they came back saying they learned multiple strategies to deal with the issue.
- He is in the process of collecting alumni information using a LinkedIn page. He is hoping to canvas alumni to gain feedback of where they are now.
- A community group to study strategies to deal with drug and alcohol issues within the community was started due to the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey results. The group is now smaller with key people planning an event during Red Ribbon week in April on the topic that will include guest speakers and simulations of intoxication/substance abuse. The event was planned using feedback from students and what they wanted to learn.

Approve Proposed Strategic Planning Goals:

April Royce moved to approve the Strategic Planning goals as presented.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

April Royce read the five goals to the audience (see attached).

Superintendent Holden stated 16-18 people created the goals. Focus groups, a survey, and review of the District's strengths and challenges were used to put them together. After the Board approves them, the leadership team will then meet in April to create "action steps" which will be how the District will achieve these goals. These steps will then be brought before the larger committee in June.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Spring Coaches:

Heather Furlong moved to approve the proposed spring coaches as presented.

April Royce seconded the motion.

Heather Furlong read the list to the audience. Superintendent Holden noted that the positions that are currently not filled are being advertised.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Baseball/Softball Overnight Field Trip:

Paul Skarin moved to approve the proposed overnight field trip for the baseball and softball teams to Cape Code.

Heather Furlong seconded the motion.

Board Chair Skarin stated this is a decade long trip that he used to chaperone. The teams go to Cape Cod on a weekend as their fields are usually open before ours.

Vote unanimous.

Community Conversations Update:

Superintendent Holden followed up from his comments earlier in the meeting about the committee that is overseeing the alcohol and drug conversations in the community. He is enthusiastic about the committee and conversations. He noted that people understand that this is a community issue, not just a school district issue. He is happy that Chief Cahill and Mount Royal Academy are actively involved.

2016 Audit Report:

Superintendent Holden told the Board that if they have any questions to contact Business Administrator Wessells. He stated the auditors are pleased with the District's processes. Their only note is to make sure there are double signatures on student activity accounts.

Manifest:

Paul Skarin moved to approve A/P manifest:

- 2017-16 - \$68,961.52
- 2017-17 - \$62,699.02

Paul Skarin moved to approve payroll manifest:

- 2017-17 - \$296,602.98
- 2017-18 - \$369,559.18
- 2017-18.1 - \$5,929.29

April Royce seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Ed Andersen, Sunapee resident and Board candidate, stated he used to be in law enforcement. He thinks it is great the community is coming together to combat drugs and alcohol. He offered the committee the use of \$2K goggles that show an individual how you see when you are intoxicated.

Superintendent Holden thanked Mr. Andersen and said he'd be in touch.

Jesse Tyler, Sunapee resident and Board candidate, asked how the school district keeps their tax increase low compared to other area towns.

Superintendent Holden explained the following changes were made over the last few years to keep it down:

- Employees pay 20% of health insurance costs.
- Staff was reduced by hiring dual-certified people.
- Reviewing the cost-effectiveness of utilities.
- Created programming for special needs students in-district to cut down on out-of-district costs.
- Lowered tuition rate to bring in more students.

- Make sure to not overestimate revenue.

John Augustine, noted that the District should be cognizant when talking about the tax rate that there is a difference between the tax rate and the tax burden, because of changes in revenues and warrant articles.

The Board presented April Royce with a thank you present for her service on the Board as she is stepping down after this month's Board meeting.

Agenda for April 5, 2017:

- Restructuring of the Board
- Teacher and Administration Nomination Approvals for 2017-2018
- Superintendent Evaluation

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment:

April Royce moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Paul Skarin seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary