

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Music Room

November 7, 2018

Call to Order:

Chair Tyler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Jim Borelli

Brian Garland - Absent

Edward Andersen

Jesse Tyler

Scott Ritzmann

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Jodi Bergen, SCES Principal

Terra Geer, Director of Student Services

Ray Palin, SMHS Teacher

Blaise O'Mara, Student Representative - Absent

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Tyler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Edward Andersen moved to approve the public minutes of the October 3, 2018 Board meeting as presented.

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Edward Andersen moved to accept the non-public minutes of the October 3, 2018 Board meeting as presented.

Jim Borelli seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Edward Andersen moved to approve the public minutes of the October 24, 2018 SCES Facility Sub-Committee meeting as presented.

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

Chair Tyler read the public participation policy.

Minette McQueeney, of the Intertown Record, noted that there was no article written of the last Board meeting due to not being able to hear at SCES.

Chair Tyler responded that they are aware of the issue and they are looking at how to fix it.

Jan Bettancourt asked why there is no longer a microphone for public comments. Chair Tyler explained that a new video camera is being used that picks up sound better. It works great at SMHS, but not at SCES.

Don Bettancourt stated that he is disappointed that there are no attachments to the Board agenda.

OT Presentation - Sandra Olin:

Sandra gave the following presentation to the Board:

- She has worked 28 years in the field of occupational therapy, helping people through therapeutic use of daily activities.
- She collaborates with faculty and staff, evaluates and assesses needs, provides consultations, and co-teaches or provides direct service.
- Areas she works with students on is motor areas, sensory, vision, technology, functional life skills, and executive function.
- For service delivery, she participates in the Vision Club, co-teaches in the classroom, spends time in the community, and collaborates with other teachers.
- She reviewed all the types of occupational therapy she provides from preschool through age 21.

Student Representative Report:

Blaise O'Mara was unable to give his report due to the annual Dodgeball Tournament, so Principal Moynihan made it for him under the SMHS Good News.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- The boys' soccer team won the State Championship by beating Newmarket.
- November 19 and 20 the play "Beauty and Beast" will be performed by the Drama Club.
- Next week 26 students will attend Closeup in D.C. The students raised over \$7,500 to offset costs.
- The Annual Veteran's Day Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Friday morning.
- STEAM over Halloween was held by the Community STEAM class. There are 22 students taking the course, which is run by the SMHS technology education teacher and SMHS art teacher. Project Sunapee asked the group to design a variety of games for the community Halloween event, which they did and volunteered at the event.
- The STEAM class is also building the backdrop and set for the fall play.
- Student representative to the Board, Blaise O'Mara, was nominated for the DAR Good Citizen Award.

SCES Good News:

Principal Bergen gave the following report to the Board:

- Students participated in a cereal drive organized by 6th grader Mia Cahill. This is the third year she has organized the drive, and even though she has moved onto middle school, she mentored fifth graders to take the reins moving forward. The students donated 264 boxes of cereal to the food pantry.
- The SCES fall drama club will be performing for friends and family on Thursday, November 15 at 6 p.m. Fall drama is open to all students to get a taste of what goes into a production.
- Several staff members attended a Social Thinking conference last month which provided strategies for improving student social strategies such as perspective taking, social problem solving, and self-regulation. These strategies are very useful with all our students at one time or another.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the following report to the Board:

- The District completed Homeland Security updates, received recommendations, and revised emergency plans.
- The administrative team has been busy preparing the budget, attending negotiations, and working on facilities.
- Yesterday he was outside the voting station handing voters information on the SCES renovation.

Policy:

Edward Andersen moved to approve the first reading of the following policies:

- AC - Non-Discrimination
- ACD/GBED/JICG - Tobacco Products Ban Use Possession In & On School Facilities & Grounds
- ADB/GBEC - Drug-free Workplace & Drug Free Schools
- BEDG - Minutes
- EBCA - Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response
- EHB - Data/Records Retention
- EHB-R - Local Records Retention Schedule
- GADA - Employment References & Verifications (Prohibiting Aiding & Abetting of Sexual Abuse)
- JCA - Change of School or Assignment - Best Interests
- JEC - Manifest Educational Hardship
- JIC - Student Conduct
- KEE - Website Accessibility & Grievances

Jim Borelli seconded the motion.

Scott Ritzmann explained that the changes to the policies are due to new legislation. Policies GADA and KEE are new. It was noted that in a few months, the District will have a new website.

Vote unanimous

Jim Borelli moved to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- ILD-R - Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment
- IMGA - Service Animals in Schools

Edward Andersen seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Accept Letter of Resignation from SMHS Teacher:

Scott Ritzmann moved to accept the resignation of Marybeth Callahan as presented.

Edward Andersen seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed List of SMHS Extra Curricular Stipends:

Edward Andersen moved to approve the proposed list of SMHS extracurricular stipends as presented.
Jim Borelli seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed SMHS Special Education Life Skills Teacher:

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve Robin Prew as the new SMHS Special Education Life Skills Teacher as presented.
Edward Andersen seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Spending for Bond Counsel:

Superintendent Holden stated that there is a capital reserve fund for SCES facilities. Currently there is \$188K in the fund. He is asking the Board to approve spending up to \$3,500 out of the fund to hire bond counsel to start the process for the SCES renovation; bond counsel will need to be hired even if the Board decides to not apply for a bond. He gave the Board an outline of dates that need to be kept.

Edward Andersen moved to approve spending up to \$3,500 out of the SCES Capital Reserve fund to hire bond counsel as presented.
Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Starting Salary Adjustments (Substitute Teacher, Para Educator, and Custodian):

Superintendent Holden explained that these groups are not in the teacher's contract. The SAU conducted a comparison pay study and found that surrounding towns were paying each of these groups \$2-\$3 more an hour than Sunapee.

He explained that we will raise substitutes from \$70 a day to \$85 a day. The substitute line for this year is at \$60K, which he expects it to be kept at.

Sunapee was starting para educators at \$11.50 an hour. The administration has now created a range with the starting wage at \$12.76 an hour.

The starting wage for custodians was \$11.25 an hour. A range has also been created for them with the starting wage at \$12.43 an hour.

Both the para educators and custodian groups will receive raises based on merit performance after their initial hire.

SCES Facilities Committee:

Chair Tyler stated that there were four this week regarding SCES. He and Jim plan on going on a living room tour around town. They have also spoken at the senior center, library, and with the police and emergency services departments.

The project is estimated to cost \$26M with no building aid. To continue using the building for the next ten years, the District will need to spend \$5M-\$10M no matter what just to address deficiencies, which can no longer be ignored. The modulars that were added ten years ago need to be replaced as well.

There will be an Open House on December 6 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Jason Ebert, resident, stated that it would be nice to see what improvements the committee is going to make instead of hearing of the bad points. He suggested they show folks what they could look forward to.

Jan Bettancourt commented that declining enrollment is still an issue. She does not agree with the NESDEC projections on housing starts.

Heidi Currier stated that ten years ago a survey was sent out about town growth. She asked if a survey could be sent out about sending kids to regional schools. Chair Tyler responded that a survey was done at the National election and 80%-90% surveyed stated they want their own school district and SCES on the hill.

Kevin, resident, stated the Sunapee schools have an excellent name and will attract middle class families by upgrading. He is concerned about the price tag, but is also more concerned about the next 10-15 year then the next two years. He also feels more people need to come to the forums.

Manifest:

Edward Andersen moved to approve A/P and payroll manifests:

- 2019-07 - \$125,744.14
- 2019-08 - \$156,904.74

- 2019-07 - \$231,364.24
- 2019-08 - \$431,473.03

Jim Borelli seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Public Forum:

Jan Bettancourt asked the Board if they plan on hiring a professional negotiator for the negotiations of the next teacher contract. She feels they should do so as this person would represent the public.

Agenda for December 5, 2018:

- Negotiations Update
- Policies
- SCES Update
- Presentation

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment:

Chair Tyler adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary