

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

October 4, 2023

Call to Order:

Chair Andersen called the School Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Kerri McCaul Claus - Absent

Andy Nichols

Edward Andersen

Amanda Spears

Scott Ritzman

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Meagan Reed, SMHS Asst. Principal

Patrick Gordon, SCES Principal

Amanda Hughlock, Director of Student Services

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the public minutes of the September 6, 2023 school board meeting as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Andy Nichols moved to approve the public minutes of the September 28, 2023 CIP meeting as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Amanda Spears moved to approve the public minutes of the September 28, 2023 Policy Committee meeting as presented.

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Principal Gordon gave the following report to the Board:

- Working with students on schoolwide expectations called SOAR, which means:
 - Stay safe
 - Own your actions
 - Act responsibly
 - Respect everyone
- Students are celebrated for following the expectations. Principal Gordon also had Sunapee Outfitters create t-shirts for the staff.
- A new law on dyslexia was approved in June and needed to be implemented for this school year. All students in grades K-3 need to be screened. He and a small group of educators have received training on assessment and interventions.
 - Chair Andersen asked how the law affected teachers' needs and the budget. Superintendent Holden responded that it is called an unfunded mandate. The new program used to screen the students cost \$1,600 so far this year and will cost \$3,000 next year due to more people needing to be trained. It also takes time and energy to learn the assessment and interventions for students. Principal Gordon stated it took 20-30 hrs to learn the system.
 - 110 students in total were screened for dyslexia.
 - The State of NH suggested three companies for the assessment and intervention. Sunapee went with one that could do both as they didn't not have a program already in use.
 - Chair Andersen asked how Principal Gordon chose those to be trained. Principal Gordon stated any staff can be trained as there is no special certification required. He had non-classroom staff trained this year and next year they will do a larger training program.

- K-1 teachers are working on evidence-based structured literacy.
- Three vendors have submitted proposals for the playground equipment.
- The fourth grade will go to the Polar Caves on Friday, October 13th.
- Team teachers are attending professional development on social-emotional needs of students.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following good news:

- SMHS will be putting on a fall and spring play this year like in the past. This fall they will be presenting “A Midsummer’s Night Dream”. He is also working on putting together a field trip to Broadway as they had done prior to COVID.
- SMHS is not dominating in sports this season, but they are only at the midway point.
- Juniors and some sophomores will be taking the PSATs soon.
- Staff and parents are still learning how to navigate the new student information system called ALMA.
- A student representative to the School Board has not been chosen. Usually the Student Council doesn’t elect positions until the fall and he will start having them do it in the spring, so there is a representative starting in August.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- He is impressed with the faculty and staff on learning ALMA. They purchased it in June and implemented it in August. He believes this will make backend reporting to the State of NH DOE much easier.
- The administration has begun the budget process. They will have preliminary budget numbers for the November meeting. Approval of the budget calendar is on the agenda for tonight. He noted that the projected health insurance increase has come in at 10%, which will be an increase of \$200,000. There will also be an increase in special education costs.
- He is keeping an eye on all legislation, like the dyslexia mandate, that is working its way through the legislature. He noted that if people want to stop unfunded mandates from happening then stay abreast of what legislation is being proposed and attend a meeting at the State.
- The biomass plant’s silo is full at SCES. They plan on firing it up next week to ensure it is working properly.
- Trees on SCES property that are considered a danger will be coming down this weekend.

School Board Topics:

None.

Policy - First Reading:

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve the first reading of policies -

- ACN – Nursing Mothers Accommodations
- BEDG – Meeting Minutes
- EBCC – False Alarms, Bomb, Active Shooter and Other Such Threats
- EHAB – Data Governance and Security
- FA – Facilities Development Goals and Preparation of Capital Improvement Plan
- GBCD – Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check
- IIA - Book and Material Selection Policy
- JCA – Change of Class or School Assignment, Best Interests and Manifest Hardship
- JKAA – Use of Restraints and Seclusion
- KCD – Public Gifts/Donations

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Scott Ritzmann explained that most of these are due to legislative changes. Scott Ritzmann reviewed the process the Policy Committee uses to revise policy.

He noted there is a new policy that states the CIP Committee will send their facilities plans to the State, which will assist the State in proactively preparing a Building Aid budget. Superintendent Holden interjected that new legislation allows the State to give districts pockets of money for facilities each year depending on their CIP plans.

Approve Proposed Extra-Curricular Positions SCES & SMHS:

Andy Nicholes moved to approve the proposed extra-curricular positions as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Principal Moynihan noted that their winter coaching staff is not currently full.

Approve Proposed 23-24 Budget Calendar:

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve the 23-24 Budget Calendar as presented.

Andy Nichols seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

SCES Project Update:

Andy Nichols stated they met two weeks ago and the project is now 100% completed. The final walkthrough is taking place next Wednesday, which is also when they plan to fire up the biomass boiler. The committee also discussed the biomass grant received in the amount of \$400K to install a boiler at SMHS. Mike at EEI will update the numbers for the November School Board meeting.

They have also coordinated with staff to install the new windows next week, including the lower level.

October 1, 2023 Enrollment:

Superintendent Holden stated the district is up 12 students for a total of 412. The ninth grade is larger than normal this year with ten additional students. Sunapee continues to attract students from surrounding towns.

Outing Club Trips 23-24:

Superintendent Holden stated that, per policy, he can approve trips and then inform the School Board. The Outing Club is planning on four trips this year, weather and staff permitting.

Manifest:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the A/P and payroll manifests as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for November 1, 2023:

- NH SAS testing results
- Second reading of policy
- Student Representative
- Budget

Adjournment:

Scott Ritzmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary