

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

December 6, 2023

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Kerri McCaul Claus

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

David Flater, Student Representative

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 Budget Work Session as presented.

Andy Nichols seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Andy Nichols moved to approve the public minutes of the November 1, 2023 school board meeting as presented.

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 ABC meeting with the following correction: Ed would be added as attending
Andy Nichols seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2023 ABC meeting as presented.
Andy Nichols seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2023 CIP meeting with the following correction: "Assessing potential options to the front entrance of Sunapee Central Elementary School".
Andy Nichols seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

The presenter for tonight's presentation is sick and will not be attending. It will be moved to after January.

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Principal Gordon gave the following report to the Board:

- The Playground Committee has met with two contractors and discussed plans. The committee gave each of them a wish list and they are now working up plans to bring back for the committee to review. The committee has invited both contractors back to discuss the preschool playground plans as well. Neither contractor has returned yet. The committee meets again next month.
- The first trimester has closed and report cards have been sent. Teachers did a good job navigating the new platform. SCES is working on an electronic way to send the report card to send home.
- Celebrated Kindness Spirit Week. Students dressed as teachers and teachers dressed as students.
- He was very impressed with the Sunapee community as they helped to put together lots of Thanksgiving baskets for local families.
- On November 20th, SCES honored a student who was part of Make-a-Wish.

- On December 14th the annual Holiday Concert will be held in the Sherburne Gym at 6 p.m.
- On December 22 the annual Jingle Bell Blitz will be held.
- They are finalizing the winter program activity schedule. It has been difficult this year to secure activities due to many organizations having staffing issues.
- The fundraising for the playgrounds will commence once the committee knows the proposed costs for both.

Student Representative Report:

David Flater gave the Board the following good news:

- Seniors are halfway through their Senior Projects.
- Winter sports have started; basketball held their season openers and the ski team just got on the slopes.
- The library is looking for SMHS Advisory Acts, which are presented by students.
- The Student Council is working on the forms for winter workshops.
- Food service is short staffed this year, but the food is still good quality.
- He was unable to attend the NHSBA Student School Board Representative training due to a date mixup.
- He will be meeting with middle school students before next month's meeting, so he can report on happenings in the middle school in January.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- The Holiday Concert will be held on December 7th at 6:30 p.m.
- The Veterans Appreciation Breakfast was held on November 14th. 25 local veterans met with the Global Study students.
- Honor Roll students attended a field trip to watch a Dartmouth Hockey game last Friday. It was well attended.
- Second quarter progress reports were sent this week.
- The Yearbook Club was recognized for meeting its 1st National ?. There are six students in the club.
- For the first time ever, the fall theater production was canceled due to other engagements students were participating in and they didn't feel they could put on a quality show because of it. There will be a spring production.
- There will be a field trip to see a Broadway show in the spring.
- Meagan Reed stated that a communication survey has gone out to the community. Enhancing communication is part of the strategic plan. The survey has been emailed to

parents, an ad was placed in the Kearsarge Shopper, and there are fliers posted throughout the community. So far, 75 responses have been received.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- The communication survey is well-written and will tell us what is the best way to communicate with all members of the community.
- The last month has been focused on budget creation.
- Inclement weather has started and they are using the new system, Alma, to get out messaging.
- The NH Supreme Court has ruled that the State is not adequately funding public education. Currently, school districts receive \$4100 per student and the court said that a minimum of \$7700 is required. He also spoke about the case regarding the SWEPT tax. The court has stated the SWEPT tax is not fair or legal. If rescinded, this will take \$1M from the town, which means it will need to be made up locally.

School Board Topics:

None.

Approve Proposed SMHS Extra-Curricular Position:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the proposed middle school basketball coach as presented.

Kerri McCaul Claus seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

SCES Project Update:

Andy Nichols stated there are still punch list items left. All mechanical components, including fire, have been installed. The fire inspector needs to come back. The biomass boiler is working well. The Facilities Director is tracking the data, which should be available for the Deliberative Session. There was an issue two weeks ago, but it was fixed. Then there was an issue on Lower Main St., which caused a surge and blew the control panel. It was fixed again and they are now installing ground protection to thwart that happening again.

Manifest:

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve the A/P and payroll manifests as presented.

Kerri McCaul Claus seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for January 10, 2024:

- Budget Hearing

Adjournment:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Andy Nichols seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary