

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

January 10, 2024

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 - Absent

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:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2023 School Board meeting as presented.

Kerri McCaul Claus seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Scott Ritzmann moved to approve the public minutes of the December 6, 2023 ABC meeting as presented.

Kerri McCaul Claus seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SMHS Presentation:

SMHS Teacher, Sharon Parsons, presented the following to the Board:

- She and Mrs. Watkins has been the Service Club Advisors for the last eight years. The Service Club is for students who want to help in their community.
- The Service Club is open to the students in grades sixth through twelfth. They can choose to participate in the events they are interested in and are not required to attend each one. This works great for athletes who have busy schedules.
- There are a multitude of different events, such as the:
 - Clothing Drive,
 - Food Drive,
 - Blood Drive,
 - Elementary Mentors,
 - Afterschool Tutoring Program,
 - The Chowder Challenge,
 - The Halloween and Christmas on the Harbor events,
 - Sunapee Cove Senior Community,
 - Abbott Library, and;
 - Thrift Shop
- She noted that the annual blood drive is run solely by the students.
- November 13th was World Kindness Day. The Service Club created cups with positive messages on them and gave them out with hot cocoa for lunch.
- Another student worked on getting people to put out a teal pumpkin at Halloween, which indicates if the candy they are giving out is nut-free.
- The Service Club is to teach students how to be positive and contributing members of their community and how to appreciate their community.
- Each year the Service Club puts on the Empty Bowls fundraiser. It has been held for the last seven years at The Livery. The students make food and handcrafted bowls. People then purchase tickets to attend and receive the food and the bowl for their support. The money helps local families in need with food assistance.

- The event was still held during COVID, but it was done in takeout style. They tried doing it both ways last year, in-person and takeout, but found it very difficult and they returned to the in-person event only this year.
- The Service Club made some changes to this year's event by teaming up with The Livery who helped secure a musician (thanks to a donation from Burpee Hill) and providing advertising. This partnership really helped increase outreach to the broader community.
- Tickets were raised from \$20 to \$40, the dinner was "fancier up" to include more dishes, this included making 16 loaves of sourdough bread.
- The goal was to sell 80 tickets and they had to stop at 85.
- \$3400 was raised and, with that money, 48 bags were filled with food for families and a gift card was purchased for each bag to Hannafords.

SCES Good News:

Principal Gordon gave the following report to the Board:

- The Playground Committee met this past Monday and reviewed two proposals for the elementary playground and preschool playground, both from the same company. The total cost is \$400K.
- The other company they were dealing with is no longer responding. The committee has reached out to two more companies who stated they will work on proposals. He noted the State of NH has new accessibility requirements for playgrounds that need to be followed.
- The Holiday Concert was a huge success. He thanked the SPTO for their help. They take on a lot at the holidays.
- Winter Program Activities have started. There are 90 students skiing this year. Last year skiing cost \$267 per student and this year it costs \$310. 22 students are receiving full or partial scholarships to be able to participate in the ski program.
- Amanda Huglock and Sandy Olin worked with the NHESA out of Mt. Sunapee to assist students with disabilities to ski and snowboard during the winter program weeks.
- There are a multitude of other activities as well, including:
 - Lego Your Mind - STEM program
 - Animal Study
 - Pottery
 - Horsemanship
 - Knitting
 - Cardmaking
 - Karate

Student Representative Report:

David Flater gave the Board the following good news:

- Student morale remains steady. Midterms are coming up soon.
- Basketball has had some wavering success and the ski team is lamenting the lack of snow.
- He met with the middle school student body and commented on how well-spoken they were. They voiced their dissatisfaction with the dress code and would like more time for social interaction.
- High school students expressed their concerns regarding workload and scheduling.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- He met with the Principal Advisory and discussed Spirit Week and student scheduling. The students seem to understand the challenges with scheduling. They expressed their opinion that they enjoy having gym offered at the end of the day.
- Midterms will be held next week.
- Auditions for Aladdin, Jr. were held today.
- The Broadway Trip will be held on April 6th. They will either see Wicked, Hamilton, or Harry Potter. Students will purchase their tickets, while the District will pay for the transportation.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- On the Districtwide PD Day there will be multiple guest speakers, including an attorney talking with special education teachers and staff regarding IEPs. There is also a cybersecurity expert coming.
- The Chair of the Croydon School Board came to meet with him. The Board would like to have another conversation with the Sunapee Board regarding tuition. The Chair has a strategic plan they are presenting to their Board next Tuesday. Croydon would like to set up a meeting with Sunapee the third week of February.
- During the last snowstorm, not all families received a message via the new Alma system. 97% received some form of message either phone, email, or text, but they are looking into why the other 3% did not.
- He will be holding a second Community Forum on Wednesday, January 17th at the Abbott Library starting at 5:30 p.m. He will be reviewing the budget and the warrant articles. Two members of the NH legislature will also be in attendance to answer questions. There were

only 5-7 people at the first forum. Kerri McCaul Claus suggested posting it on the Sunapee Happenings website.

- Thanked the town for doing a great job at getting the roads ready during the last snowstorm.

School Board Topics:

None.

Approve Proposed ABC Report:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the proposed ABC report as presented.

Andy Nichols seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed 2024-2025 Budget:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the proposed 2024-2025 budget as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed 2024-2025 Default Budget:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the proposed 2024-2025 default budget as presented.

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed 2024-2025 Warrant Articles:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to approve the proposed 2024-2025 warrant articles as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Biomass Open House:

Superintendent Holden stated that there will be an Open House to view the biomass system on Wednesday, January 24th from 4-7 p.m.

Deliberative Session:

Superintendent Holden stated the Deliberative Session will be held on February 5th at 6 p.m. in the SMHS gymnasium.

Harvard Model Congress:

Superintendent Holden stated that the annual Harvard Model Congress trip, which is overnight and out of state, has been approved by him as stated in Board policy for annual field trips.

Manifest:

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

Scott Ritzmann seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for February 7, 2024:

- 2024-2025 Calendar Approval
- Deliberative Session Recap
- Tuition Rate

Adjournment:

Kerri McCaul Claus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Andy Nichols seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary