

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

March 13, 2024

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 - Absent

Alysse Lizotte

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 - Absent

Scott Ritzmann, Former Vice Chair

Jon Reed, Director of Technology

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024 School Board Meeting as presented.

Alysse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Technology Presentation:

Director of Technology, Jon Reed, presented the following to the Board:

- Explained how all the different departments are weaved together with technology.
 - Facilities uses technology to control the heating, cooling, ventilation and a variety of other systems that can be managed remotely..
 - SCES uses technology every day to teach in the classroom, including students using Chromebooks, kindergarteners learn Keyboarding without Tears, coding, robotics, and more.
 - Food Service uses a point of sale system and to distribute the menu.
 - Special education uses it for related services and teaching.
 - Athletics uses it for scheduling.
 - Transportation uses it to communicate with the schools and families and to distribute the bus routes.
 - Faculty use it to create their own Sunapee swag such as stickers and t-shirts.
 - SMHS has a digital media lab. A current senior used it to do their Senior Project by creating a podcast and putting it on Spotify.
 - Time clocks, software, cameras, entry access are all done electronically.
 - The SAU uses it for HR, AP and payroll processes.
- Cybersecurity is essential to make sure access points are closed off to outsiders.
- He routinely collects feedback from faculty and staff to enhance services or to fix issues.
- He would be happy to give a more in-depth presentation on any one of the departments and how the technology is used within the department at a future meeting.

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Principal Gordon gave the following report to the Board:

- Winter program has just finished and they are reviewing how it went.
- The spelling bee was held last month. Thomas Correa won.
- The writing portion of the NH SAS was held this month and it went well.
- This Friday is the SPTO Bingo Night.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan and Assistant Principal Reed, gave the Board the following report:

- Guidance Career Day was a success. The keynote speaker was Jeff Johnson; the first employee hired at Nike. Students were surveyed on their interests prior to the day and were able to attend three different sessions depending on their answers. 30 different professions came to speak, plus the trades, military and CCSNH. Then there was a schoolwide lunch.
- Sunapee participated in the Harvard Model Congress again this year.
- Aladdin, Jr. will perform this weekend.
- The middle school participated in the NH SAS yesterday.
- A retirement party was held for Tom Coverdale.
- Eclipse Day activities are being planned for April 8th.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- He commended guidance on a job well-done for the Career Day.
- He noted the Board should become familiar with legislative bill HB1686, which takes excess SWEPT away from towns and gives it to towns who do not have enough. Currently, the excess SWEPT stays within the town it comes from and offsets the school budget. If this gets put into law, Sunapee would lose around \$1M each year. This does not look to pass immediately; it might be a couple of years out.
- The SAU is fully into the hiring process for next year. We are looking for special education staff.
- The vote went well. The projects passed
- Sunapee received \$100,000 NH SAFE School Grant to install access controls at SCES. CIP will be meeting to review turning the vestibule into a lockbox, so that there will be two access points to go through .
- The District has signed an agreement with the town for mowing services, which will save money in the budget.

School Board Topics - Member Recognition:

Superintendent Holden noted that Scott Ritzmann served two terms on the Board and was a staple on the Policy Committee. He thanked him for his time and dedication and noted that he has volunteered to be a member of the School Advisory Budget Committee next year.

Scott Ritzmann thanked the District, Superintendent Holden, and Business Administrator Wessells for their hard work and guidance. He will miss being on the Board.

Approve Proposed Extra Curricula Positions:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the proposed extra curricula positions as presented.

Alysse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Principal Moynihan stated the middle school baseball numbers are low and if they continue to be, students in the 7th and 8th grades will move up to JV and the 6th graders can play recreation baseball. Middle school track is also low, but HS track and MS softball numbers are steady.

Accept Proposed Teacher Resignation:

Andy Nichols moved to approve the proposed teacher resignation as presented.

Alysse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Superintendent Holden stated Joanne Skarin came out of retirement for this year, but has decided to go back.

Field Trips:

Superintendent Holden stated that per policy he is allowed to approve recurring field trips and then inform the Board. This includes the annual Nature's Classroom trip for 6th grade and the baseball/softball trip to Cape Cod. Principal Moynihan noted the nordic ski trip was moved from the North Country to Hanover, so there is no overnight request.

Overview of Croydon Non-Meeting:

The Board decided to wait to discuss until all Board members could be present.

2024-2025 Federal General Assurances NHED:

This is informational only for the Board. This allows the District to receive federal funding.

Voting Results:

Superintendent Holden noted that the budget, capital reserves fund requests and biomass boiler all passed. He thanked the community.

Manifest:

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

Alysse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for April 3, 2024:

- Nominations
- Approval of handbooks
- Reorganization
- Croydon

Adjournment:

Andy Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Alysse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary