

SOUHEGAN SCHOOL BOARD
Final Minutes
January 6, 2009

Chairman Steve Coughlan called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**I. CALL TO
ORDER**

Present

Souhegan School Board: Chairman Steve Coughlan, Jeanne Ludt, Mary Lou Mullens, Christine Janson, Dana Redmond, Pam Coughlin, and Dan Foley
Administrative Team: Scott Prescott, Dr. Mary Jennings, Elizabeth Shankel, Renee Sparks and Nicole Heimarck.

Minutes Recorder: Heather Loewy Nichols

ATTENDANCE

A. Public Comments

Chairman Coughlan asked for public comment and heard none.

**II.
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

B. Principal's Report

Mr. Prescott reviewed the written report he had previously submitted to the Board and asked the Board if there were any questions which there were not.

C. Community Council Report

There were no Community Council members present. Ms. Mullens stated that the committee voted to go forward with investigating the cafeteria losses and ways to improve the food service program. Ms. Ludt noted that there are several factors of the project including researching other successful food service programs and possibly integrating culinary education into the program. In response to a question from Mr. Foley, Ms. Mullens stated that each sub committee will bring a proposal to the groups as to how they will perform their investigation.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jennings stated that she will be making a recommendation to the Boards next week regarding making up the missed days. She stated that she has met with the administration and will be meeting with the teacher's representatives tomorrow. In response to a question from Ms. Ludt, Dr. Jennings explained that other options included making up days and getting a waiver and that she has been checking with neighboring communities as to their solutions. Mr. Coughlan clarified that the Superintendent needs to make a recommendation to the Board which has not been done yet and then the Board needs to approve it.

A. Minutes

1. October 20, 2008 (Amherst BOS)
2. November 20, 2008

Mr. Coughlan asked that the minutes of October 20, 2008 be pulled as they have already been approved and that the minutes of November 20, 2008 be pulled.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Foley and SECONDED by Ms. Mullens to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008 as amended.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

B. Transfers

A MOTION was made by Ms. Mullens and SECONDED by Ms. Coughlin to approve Transfers #2009-06, 07, 08, and 09.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

A. FY10 Proposed Budget

Ms. Shankel reviewed the changes to the budget from the last revision including putting \$10,000 back into the technology line as discussed at the last meeting. In response to a question from Ms. Ludt, Ms. Shankel explained that she did not add to the budget in the salary line, rather she moved money from the longevity line to the salary lines to align the budget properly.

1. Revenue projections

Ms. Shankel explained that she received the numbers from the state as to how the revenues would be split for the coop towns and Amherst's share ends up being a reduction in the tax impact and Mont Vernon's share went up \$.34 in tax impact or 4.8%.

Mr. Prescott explained that the school sells between 350 and 380 parking stickers each year at \$75 each or around \$26,000 to \$29,000 in revenue each year. He noted that if the parking fee were raised to \$100 per year it would amount to an increase in revenue of \$8750.

In response to a question from Ms. Coughlin, Mr. Prescott explained that any money that is generated through items like parking fees goes into the general fund to offset the budget.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Ludt and SECONDED by Mr. Foley to increase the athletic fee to \$100 per season and the parking fee to \$100 per year.

**III. CONSENT
AGENDA****IV.
PRESENTATIONS/
DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

In response to concern expressed by Ms. Mullens that she is not comfortable stating that the Board is offsetting educational costs with athletic fees, Mr. Coughlan stated that the Board is raising the fees to reduce taxation.

Voting: 5 ayes; 1 nay; motion carried.

2. Warrant articles

Mr. Coughlan stated that the filing period begins January 21st and ends Friday January 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Shankel reviewed the proposed warrant articles for the Board noting that she is still working with the DRA on the exact wording.

In response to a question from Ms. Ludt, Ms. Shankel explained that creating an expendable trust allows donations to be carried from year to year until enough money is accrued.

In response to a suggestion from Mr. Coughlan, Ms. Shankel explained that no monies raised through taxation can be put in the fund.

In response to a question from Ms. Ludt, Ms. Shankel explained that the Co-Curricular Expendable Trust Fund was created in error and should have been created as a revolving fund which was done the next year.

In response to a question from Ms. Mullens, Ms. Shankel stated that she asked the DRA about noting “no tax impact” on the articles and they said it was not allowed.

Mr. Redmond expressed concern that Article 7 should be postponed until next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Redmond and SECONDED by Ms. Coughlin to place Article 2 on the ballot as written.

Ms. Ludt asked whether any Board members were concerned that the increase for the Amherst School District is 1.99% and the increase for the Souhegan School District is 2.09%. Ms. Shankel noted that even though the Souhegan budget is increasing it is resulting in a negative tax impact.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Redmond and SECONDED by Ms. Ludt to place Article 3 on the ballot as written.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Redmond and SECONDED by Ms. Coughlin to place Article 4 on the ballot as written.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, **a MOTION was made by Mr. Redmond and SECONDED by Ms. Coughlin to place Article 5 on the ballot as written.**

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked Ms. Shankel to investigate whether the Board could create a warrant article that would allow the Board to add “no tax impact” to article language.

After discussion, **A MOTION was made by Ms. Ludt and SECONDED by Ms. Janson to place Article 6 on the ballot as written.**

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made Mr. Foley and SECONDED by Ms. Coughlin to place Article 7 on the ballot as written.

Voting: 5 ayes, 1 nay; motion carried.

3. Adjusted FY10 Budget

Ms. Shankel submitted a realigned budget to the Board and explained that last year the benefits for Special Education were not appropriately distributed so she needed to distribute them appropriately this year.

4. Default Budget

In response to a question from Ms. Coughlin, Mr. Coughlan explained that if the budget does not pass then the default budget will pass and the Board will have to find another \$148,000 in budget cuts which probably will be in the form of staff positions.

Dr. Jennings noted that this default budget does not keep the same number of staffing as last year but does include contractual items such as Special Education costs.

In response to a question from Mr. Foley, Dr. Jennings stated that if a default budget were to pass the Board could not use the Special Education fund for offsetting the loss of funds.

A. Preparation for Public Hearing

The Board discussed their preparation for the upcoming public hearing.

V. DISCUSSION

ITEMS

A MOTION was made by Ms. Mullens and SECONDED by Ms. Ludt to adjourn.

Voting: 6 ayes; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Coughlan declared the meeting adjourned.

**VI. REVIEW OF
MEETING/
ADJOURN**