

MINUTES  
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD  
OCTOBER 20, 2005  
Souhegan High School – Room A222

**Page 689**

Chairperson John Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: John Walsh, Steve Coughlan, Phyllis Thomas, Janet Phelps, Jeanne Ludt, Janet Gaynor, John Rizzi  
Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Susan Ward, Scott Prescott, Kathy Skoglund  
Finance Committee: Art Faint, Christine Morley  
Community Council: Alex McGuire arrived at 6:37 pm.

Press: Nancy Foster

Public: William Ludt

Minutes Recorder: Phyllis Thomas

**ATTENDANCE**

Steve Coughlan moved to approve the minutes of October 6, 2005 and Janet Phelps seconded. The minutes were accepted as amended: Page 687, sixth paragraph, change spelling from Coughlin to Coughlan. Page 688, paragraph four referenced an email sent by John Rizzi. A copy of the email should be appended to the minutes. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 6, 2005**

Steve Coughlan moved to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2005 Public Meeting, seconded by Jeanne Ludt. The minutes were accepted as amended: Add to attendance section "Public" the names of Eileen Naber and Steve Albano. Page 689: paragraph two, add the word "bond" to last sentence after Annex. Page 689, paragraph three, last sentence should read: "Howard expressed his hope to move forward..."

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 6  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Page 690, paragraph four, sentence should read: "The SHS storage needs, as well as features required for a fitness center..." Page 690, paragraph six, change Nabor to Naber. Page 691, first paragraph, change word "form" to "from". Page 691, paragraph five, sentence should read: "Addie also noted she does not believe this is what the community needs..." Page 691, paragraph six, insert word "are" before phrase "held in the hallway." Page 692, paragraph three, change Nabor to Naber. The motion passed.

Will Ludt of the Amherst Heritage Commission told the board his group is raising funds to repair the front porch of the Brick School. He said the commission expects the cost to be about \$12,000 and

**PUBLIC TIME**

there may be some members who will be able to donate their time. He asked the board for its support as the commission goes forward, and said he would also be speaking with the Amherst School Board and the SAU Board.

**Page 690**

Phyllis Thomas signed the manifest.

**MANIFEST  
APPROVAL**

Jeanne Ludt reported that the Community Council is discussing the 15 minute rule and has created some new language clarifying the procedure which should make it easier to keep track of students.

**COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

Janet Gaynor said she, Jeanne Ludt and John Rizzi met with Chris Drobat, architect, about the proposed fitness center. He gave them information on the square footage, cost and appearance. He expects the size of the fitness area, training room, small office and a wellness classroom to be about 4,300 square feet. He gave the committee a price of \$110/sq.ft, including equipment. Janet said she and Chris met with Gary of Fulcrum Associates to talk about the construction, and Gary said he would come up with some better figures.

**BUSINESS AND  
INSTRUCTION  
Fitness Center/  
Storage Facility**

Janet also reported that she met with Steve Albano and Dan Roberts last week about mounting a fundraising campaign for the fitness facility. They are planning to print a brochure explaining the plan and asking for sponsors to donate money in exchange for naming rights to the center, classroom space and equipment pieces. Dan Roberts is donating the printing costs, the Souhegan Football Booster club has pledged \$11,000, the Lacrosse Club has promised a donation and NH Steel Fabricators has pledged to donate material. Janet said the committee made a list of other potential donors to contact, and discussed other ways to raise money.

Janet said the entire cost of the fitness facility would be \$500,000. If the project is eligible, state aid would contribute \$111,600. The committee is anticipating raising \$100,000, and the board would ask the voters to apply the \$100,000 left over from the annex bond to this project. That would leave \$188,400 for either a warrant article or a bond. She said it would amount to \$40.80 per taxpayer, on average, for Amherst and \$30.80 per taxpayer, on average, for Mont Vernon. She said she is passionately in favor of building this center and asked the board if it wants her to continue working on the project.

Susan Ward said she would check with the state to see if this facility

would qualify for state building aid.

**Page 691**

Janet Phelps said she had seen the current weight room and thought it was in poor shape, but she was concerned about asking the voters for money when there is the possibility of a budget deficit due to higher gas and electricity costs. She asked what use is being made of the gymnasiums. John Walsh noted SHS would not deficit spend, but would find the money somewhere.

Scott Prescott said the gyms are used concurrently for 4 wellness classes for about 2/3 of the day due to scheduling. He said the students also go outdoors for physical education.

Steve Coughlan said the population in Amherst and Mont Vernon is economically diverse, running the gamut from disadvantaged to very wealthy.

Phyllis Thomas said she thought it was unreasonable to ask the taxpayers for money for this project at this time of high energy prices.

Jeanne Ludt said there still is a problem with the inadequate weight room. It is too small, has poor ventilation, and the equipment is not appropriate for both boys and girls. She also pointed out that there is money in the Supplemental Building Revenue Fund. She said the board could ask the voters if it could use that money.

Art Faint asked what the board would do if the voters do not approve use of the surplus from the annex bond.

John Walsh asked Art Faint if he thought it is unreasonable to ask voters for \$40.00, and Art said no, he did not think it unreasonable, but he also does not yet know what the school budget will be.

John Walsh asked the board for a straw vote on going ahead with the planning of the fitness facility. The vote was five members in favor and two against, so the plans will continue.

Susan Ward presented a budget update, including a budget variance analysis which identifies which accounts are in deficit and which are carrying surplus. She pointed out that the natural gas and electricity and legal services accounts reflect projected increases and that the severity of the winter could make a difference, but she recommends finding ways to save on energy. She will be meeting with the custodial staff to discuss this.

Susan Ward also presented an account status report for the annex

bond fund, projecting a balance of \$107,655.63 after all outstanding invoices are paid. Steve Coughlan asked if all of the equipment that was included in the annex funding had been purchased. He asked Susan to find out what had been bought.

Howard Colter said he and Janet Gaynor met with Fulcrum Associates about their acting as construction management on the fitness facility. Fulcrum followed up with a letter stating they would not bill for their services until March, and if the bond or warrant fails, they will expect no fee and will bill for their preconstruction direct costs only.

There followed a discussion on the merits of design build, resulting in asking John Walsh to contact Anne Dodd who had been clerk of the works for the annex project for advice.

On the second reading of Policy GCG, Steve Coughlan moved that the wording be modified in accordance with the change made by the Amherst School Board. Policy GCG, as an amendment, 1<sup>st</sup> reading to include: When a supervisory teacher is absent for the delay, the student teacher/intern, if qualified, may serve as the substitute teacher and be paid at the prevailing substitute rate. It was also noted this was a 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy GCG and a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading would take place at the next Board meeting.

**Substitute Policy  
Modification – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading**

Janet Phelps seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

John Rizzi left at 7:40 pm.

Scott Prescott nominated Pam Parker to the position of special educational paraprofessional. Janet Phelps moved to approve the nomination. Janet Gaynor seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

**NOMINATION**

Scott Prescott reported that John Young and SRO John Smith were working on the emergency safety program. Also, the school received a grant to pay for substitute teachers to come in and allow teachers to take time out of their day to observe other teachers in their classes as a learning experience. He said IEP online training is being conducted for the newly instituted web-based IEP system. Also, the Rebirth Jazz Band from New Orleans performed and was well received.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S  
REPORT**

Scott said they had a speaker from the Food Systems Project come to talk about food, gardening and sustainability. He said there is a possibility that she will come here and act as an advisor for a while at no cost. Howard Colter said it was very impressive to watch all the

teachers from kindergarten through grade 12 listen to this speaker and brainstorm how to weave her ideas into the curriculum of math, science, geography, history and world economics. **Page 693**

Scott also reported that the senior hike was cancelled due to rain. Progress reports went home, and though they are very time consuming for the teachers to write, they are very well received by parents because they are so informative. Also, parent conferences were being held, and the school was hosting exchange students from Germany. They spent 3 days shadowing in the school, and the remainder of their two weeks visiting others places in New England. The coordination for this visit was done by Kim Vitchkoski.

Scott reported that Souhegan successfully made Adequate Yearly Progress according to the federal No Child Left Behind program.

Regarding curriculum mapping, Scott said he believes the teachers are doing what they have been asked to do, but they are finding the software is cumbersome and not user friendly.

Scott also presented a staffing change for the info center and the board said that since there is no change to the budget, Scott has the authority to handle it without the board getting involved. Steve Coughlan asked that the table with the staffing changes be included with the minutes for the record

Steve Coughlan moved to go into nonpublic session according to RSA 91:A-3 at 8:10 pm. Janet Phelps seconded. John Walsh: yes; John Rizzi: yes; Steve Coughlan: yes; Janet Phelps: yes; Phyllis Thomas: yes; Janet Gaynor: yes; Jeanne Ludt: yes. Motion passed.

**NON-PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Board discussed possible litigation issue and payroll issue.

Steve Coughlan moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:30 pm Janet Gaynor seconded. John Walsh: yes; John Rizzi: yes; Steve Coughlan: yes; Janet Phelps: yes; Phyllis Thomas: yes; Janet Gaynor: yes; Jeanne Ludt: yes. Motion passed.

Janet Gaynor moved to adjourn. Steve Coughlan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Staff	Current Level	Proposed Level for 06-07	Current Days (185 work days + 5 holiday days)	Proposed Days – Same with the addition of a pool of 18 days for summer work	Current Salaries 05-06	Adjusted Salaries 05-06
Assistant I	II	II	190	190	24,950.80	24,950.80
Assistant II	II	II	190	190	19,271.70	19,271.70
Assistant III	II	III	190	190	14,643.00	14,643.00
Assistant IV	II	--	190	0	12,511.50	0.00
Shared Days				18 @ \$125/day		2,250.00
Total			760	588	71,377.00	61,115.50

Notes:

- ⇒ The current and proposed salaries are based on currently negotiated figures.
- ⇒ There will be a modest increase in salaries next year when adjustments in levels are made (\$.37/hr increase from level II to level III).
- ⇒ Distribution of 18 additional days will be determined by Information Center Coordinator and principal.