

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
December 1, 2005
Souhegan High School Information Center

Page 708

Board Vice-Chairperson Steve Coughlan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Steve reported John Walsh, Board Chair, had submitted his resignation as Board Chair by email yesterday.

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: John Walsh, Jeanne Ludt, Jan Phelps (arrived at 6:48 p.m.), Phyllis Thomas, John Rizzi (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Janet Gaynor (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), and Steve Coughlan
Administrative Team: Howard Colter (arrived at 6:25 p.m.), Susan Ward, Scott Prescott, Colleen Meaney, and Kathy Skoglund
Finance Committee: Art Faint, Christine Morley, and Mike DeChambeau

Faculty: Kathy White and John Ranta

Community Council: Alex McGuire

Minutes Recorder: Terri Connolly

Art Faint noted the Finance Advisory Committee had submitted a report on April 20, 2005, which contained several suggestions for the budget. The Committee would like to know if the Board found the report helpful, to which Steve Coughlan noted he did find the report helpful. Steve added the Board had intended to cover the report in September, but many of the Finance Advisory Committee Members were not present to discuss it. Jeanne Ludt added she supported the Committee's recommendation to freeze stipends for an additional year. **PUBLIC TIME**

Steve suggested the Board read the report one more time and offer feedback to the Committee. Phyllis Thomas commended the Committee for their efforts.

John Walsh moved to accept the minutes of November 17, 2005 and John Rizzi seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2005**
Page 700, under Attendance, change "Corcoran" to "Corcoran-Schwartz"
Page 701, under School Yard Garden Project Proposal, change "Corcoran" to "Corcoran-Schwartz"
Page 702, 1st line, change "district" to "SAU"

Phyllis Thomas approved and signed the manifest.

**MANIFEST
APPROVAL**

Alex McGuire reported Community Council is working on a GPA proposal. Community Council is planning the semi-formal, which will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2005, and is also planning the next Community Gathering, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2005. The Council is working on an academic honesty initiative.

**COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

John Ranta presented technology integration efforts at SHS, which include the use of 100+ active software packages, computer labs, and the Intranet (souheganonline); John discussed how students are integrating technology within clubs and classes.

**BUSINESS AND
INSTRUCTION
Presentation of
Technology**

Jeanne Ludt reported she had heard about Survey Gold at the Fall Forum, and understood the software can easily create surveys and is relatively inexpensive (approximate cost: \$40.00). Jeanne will get information to John regarding the software.

Jeanne also questioned how the theft situation was at SHS, to which John reported thefts have not been a problem since lockdown and track down procedures have been implemented.

Steve Coughlan reported John Walsh had resigned as School Board Chairman.

**Resignation of School
Board Member as
Chairman**

Janet Gaynor moved to accept the resignation of John Walsh as School Board Chairman, with regret. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-yes, 1-no. The motion passed.

Howard Colter requested nominations for a new School Board Chair, to which John Walsh nominated Steve Coughlan as Board Chair. All Board Members voted in favor of the nomination.

**Appointment of
School Board Chair**

Steve Coughlan requested nominations for School Board Vice-Chair, to which John Rizzi moved to nominate John Walsh as Board Vice-Chair. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Janet Gaynor reported funding efforts were underway, as the Bean Grant application has been submitted (the grant would be for

**Wellness Room
Update**

\$20,000—recipients will be notified in February); there are two other potential grant agencies, the HMH Foundation and the Bertha Rogers Foundation, which will be pursued. In addition, a letter and pledge sheet has been generated and is currently being distributed within the community. The Booster Club will make a presentation on Sunday, to which Jeanne and Janet will attend their meeting to receive the donation. The Committee has also been working on finalizing the website.

Howard reported architectural firms are capable of producing 3D video of a proposed layout, which can be used in promoting and gaining community support for the Wellness Center proposal. There were also suggestions of posting the presentation on the website and on the community access television channel. Janet reported three students have volunteered to create a video to show at the deliberative session.

Jeanne reported the Committee was gathering information to submit to the State for State Building Aid, which is due December 31, 2005. Jeanne also noted an attorney would be needed to put together the warrant article.

Art Faint will advise if it would be helpful to have a wellness staff member meet with the Finance Advisory Committee.

Four Board Members, who attended the Board and Faculty meeting, presented the feedback they had received with their faculty groups. Among the topics discussed were: more experiential sessions as a valuable learning experience, WinterCession for all grades, resources for at-risk student, inequitable teaching loads and compensation, inequality across districts within the SAU, the possibility of consolidating districts and consolidating health plans to get a better discount, appreciation of Howard Colter and Scott Prescott, requests for science equipment, a later school start time, compensation for career growth and monies available for graduate courses, concern regarding parental appreciation within email communications, daycare, disconnect between Annex and main building, not adhering to founding principles, minimizing programs and focusing on existing programs in greater depth, and meeting needs of non-college bound students, as SHS does not have vocational hands-on resources.

**Discussion of
Board/Faculty
Meeting**

The consensus is that the meeting was worthwhile and both Faculty and Board would like to do it again in the springtime with a format for more dialogue. The Board requested Colleen advise of the next date and Steve agreed to send a note, on behalf of the Board, to

the participating teachers.

Howard Colter addressed the Board concerning the principal search and requested direction as to whether there should be a search. Howard added he is not clear if Scott Prescott wishes to remain as Principal, but if Scott is willing to stay on in this capacity, Howard has no interest in conducting a search, as he is extremely happy with Scott's performance. The Board asked Scott to notify the Superintendent of his intentions before the next meeting.

Status of Principal Search

There was additional discussion regarding the Board Members positions on a search, to which Steve Coughlan noted he supported a search and Jeanne and Janet Gaynor agreed the search would be waste of time if Scott wants the job. Jan Phelps questioned the cost of search, to which Howard estimated \$3,000 - \$5,000 would be invested in the process. Jan commented she would rather spend the money on science equipment.

It was agreed Scott would get back to the Superintendent before the next Board meeting and the Board would discuss the principal search at that time.

Kathy White thanked the Board for supporting technology efforts at SHS. Kathy introduced some of the applications at SHS and there was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of placing Community Council minutes on the Internet. Kathy noted her concern would be publishing student names, but noted she would pursue the request if the policy permitted her to so, to which Steve Coughlan noted the Board would look into the web publishing policy and let Kathy know.

Work on FY'07 Budget

Kathy reported SHS has ramped up in terms of computer systems, but is now stumbling in the area of replacing systems. Kathy presented a proposed six-year replacement cycle for the Board to review.

Susan Ward distributed a series of support data for the budget, including comparison charts of items between districts.

Steve Coughlan noted the Special Education budget presentation is scheduled for the December 15, 2005 Board meeting. The Board and Finance Advisory Committee agreed to conduct a budget work session on December 8, 2005 in the Information Center at 5:00 p.m. Items to be reviewed in the budget process include WinterCession and stipends. Jeanne Ludt also questioned the increase for the SRO, to which Susan noted she would look into that matter.

Art Faint questioned if it would be possible to set a bottom line budget, to which Steve noted the Administration has been asked for a no new program budget. Steve also added the meeting would be a good place to start a discussion regarding a target amount. It was also noted there were only new paraprofessional staff required and those requirements would be paid through Catastrophic Aid.

Jan Phelps noted the CIP projections are the lowest next year for the town so this year will be the window opportunity to address high priced items, such as the technology requirements and Wellness Center, for SHS. When asked if the CIP is addressing the Boston Post Road issue, Jan noted she would check into that matter.

Jeanne Ludt moved to have the Administrator's Report at the beginning of the meeting. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There was additional discussion regarding whether it was necessary to have Administrators attend School Board meetings, and if so, would it be possible to require attendance once a month. Jeanne Ludt noted she liked having Scott in attendance because it established a link between the Board and the Administration, but also noted she did not think it was necessary for him to stay for the entire meeting. Jan Phelps suggested the Administrators rotate attendance for School Board meetings.

Colleen Meaney noted the Climbing High with Differential Instruction material is being shared with newcomers and will also be shared during the next in-service day. Colleen reported there are 18 teachers scheduled to attend an upcoming conference regarding this subject; the cost of the conference will be paid for by a grant.

Scott Prescott reported the Fall athletics have ended. Mike Faques resigned as a basketball coach; the Assistant Coach will carry out that work and Scott anticipates that the Board will be required to approve this matter at a future meeting. The play was held last week and was outstanding. Jazz Night will be held on December 8th and the Winter Concert will be coming up soon. The trimester will end tomorrow and report cards should be available online on December 11th. Teachers, who attended the Board and Faculty meeting, were pleased to have the meeting and Colleen will look at a date for the Spring meeting.

John Walsh moved, Jane Phelps seconded, to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A,2. By a roll call vote, all members voted in favor: Jeanne Ludt-yes, John Rizzi-yes, Jan

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Phelps-yes, John Walsh-yes, Steve Coughlan-yes, Janet Gaynor-yes, and Phyllis Thomas-yes. The Board went into non-public session at 8:40 p.m.

The Board discussed negotiations.

Jan Phelps moved, John Walsh seconded, to come out of non-public session. By a roll call vote, all members voted in favor: Jeanne Ludt-yes, John Rizzi-yes, Jan Phelps-yes, John Walsh-yes, Steve Coughlan-yes, Janet Gaynor-yes, and Phyllis Thomas-yes. The Board came at out non-public session at 9:35 p.m.

John Walsh moved to adopt the stipends with amendments to follow. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Jan Phelps moved to request the Administration review the Junior Research Paper with the English Department staff and provide input to the Board, concerning this matter, before the budget is finalized. Jeanne Ludt seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

The Board conducted a straw poll regarding freezing the stipends. The Board voted 5-yes, 1-no, 1-abstention.

Janet Gaynor moved to adjourn. Jeanne Ludt seconded. All Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**