

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
February 2, 2006
Souhegan High School – Info Center

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

Present: **ATTENDANCE**
Souhegan Cooperative School Board: John Walsh, Janet Gaynor, Jeanne Ludt, Jan Phelps, Phyllis Thomas, John Rizzi, and Steve Coughlan
Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Scott Prescott, Susan Ward, and Kathy Skoglund
Finance Advisory Committee: Art Faint
Minutes Recorder: Terri Connolly (left at 8:03 p.m.)

Steve Coughlan invited comments from the public, but none were forthcoming. **PUBLIC TIME**

Jeanne Ludt reported she had presented a Wellness Facility update to Community Council that included a \$1,000.00 contribution request to cover the cost of printing and distributing a Wellness Facility communication flyer; the Council will vote on the request at the next meeting. The Council also discussed a proposal which would allow students, who arrive back to school after 11:00 p.m. from student activities, to be excused from the first two periods of school the following day. There was a question as to whether that proposal would go before the school board, to which the board agreed it would. It was noted the Council can make a policy recommendation, but the board would make the final decision. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Scott Prescott presented an administrator's report on current events at SHS and noted SHS has made the necessary adjustments to accommodate the State mandated health requirement, which increases the health from ¼ to a ½ credit. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Howard Colter encouraged the board to review the unhealthy snacks in the vending machines and to ask Franceen Lupa for updates on what Food Service is doing to address the nutritional needs of students. Howard noted there are increased national and international concerns regarding healthy food programs for students, which has resulted in an increase in vegetarian alternatives and a decrease in serving whole milk products. It was agreed that Franceen should present an update to the board sometime in Spring '06.

Scott reported the Organizational Youth Venture funds up to \$1,000 for community service projects for high school students, and there is interest within SHS to get involved in the program. United Way also commits an approximate \$3,000.00 for a teacher stipend to oversee the program.

Scott presented a list of coaching stipends for the upcoming Spring assignments, including John Coughlin for Freshman Baseball, Mike Blake for Assistant Girls' Lacrosse, Christopher Rheault for Boys' Tennis, Kristie Sanfacon for Girls' Tennis, and Cathy Merra for Assistant Track.

Howard Colter recommended the board approve the slate of coaching nominations, as presented by Scott Prescott, for the Spring sports programs.

Phyllis Thomas moved to approve the recommendation of the superintendent. John Walsh seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Phyllis Thomas approved and signed the manifest.

**MANIFEST
APPROVAL
COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Jan Phelps reported the committee was waiting on candidate applications, which are due March 1st.

**Superintendent
Search Status Update**

Phyllis Thomas reported the committee had met and brainstormed possible issues. The committee has a copy of the RSA and Pam Dudoff and Phyllis will be contacting districts that have undergone this study and transition within the past ten years. Dwight Brew has been in contact with the attorney to address the issues that have compiled. The committee is planning on presenting information to the SAU-board in mid-March.

**K-12 Cooperative
Study Status Update**

There was a question as to how much the attorney's fees would be and if they would come out of the SAU budget, to which Howard replied he did not know.

Janet Gaynor presented a PTSA liaison status update and noted she has been attending the PTSA meetings and believes it provides a good link between the PTSA and board, as it allows the board to be updated on issues the PTSA thinks are important. There was a question as to whether the PTSA keeps minutes, to which Janet reported they do keep extensive minutes.

**PTSA Liaison Status
Update**

John Walsh requested that Scott Prescott or Ted Houlihan present a discipline update report at a future meeting, particularly regarding the increase in thefts and how the SRO is fairing within SHS. It was agreed both items would be presented at the next board meeting.

Janet also reported Sue Finney is spearheading Project Graduation as a safe alternative in terms of how and where students spend graduation night. A brief discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of offering such a program.

Jan Phelps moved to accept the minutes of January 5, 2006 and John Walsh seconded. The minutes were amended as follows: Page 723, under Attendance, Finance Committee, change "David Sturm" to "Dan Foley"
The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
JANUARY 5, 2005**

John Walsh moved to accept the minutes of January 19, 2006 and Jan Phelps seconded. The minutes were amended as follows: Page 738, 5th paragraph, change 2nd line to read: "...read some of the Points of Pride, which Alex McGuire..."
The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES OF
JANUARY 19, 2006**

Steve Coughlan reported June 14th is the board-staff follow up dialogue meeting; work will begin in May regarding the format for the meeting.

UPCOMING DATES

The Board discussed preparation for the FY'07 budget deliberative session. Janet Gaynor reported some contributions have been secured for the Wellness Facility, whereas many granting agencies have not responded and may not until after the warrant passes or fails. The alternative to private fundraising would be to put the full amount on the ballot. The Board discussed alternative funding measures for the Wellness Facility warrant article, as there was concern that the gifts and donations would not be available in a timely manner that may result in a possible impact on the operating budget. There was additional discussion as to how to present the full funding amendment and it was noted an amendment to the warrant could come from the board and be seconded by the board. Susan Ward suggested striking wording in the old warrant and presenting new wording for the warrant, to which the board agreed that would be the best approach in presenting the proposed warrant article revisions.

WORKSESSION

Howard Colter reported there are a couple of advantages in holding off on the proposed project for one more year, which include gaining a better understanding within the community for the project, increasing community support and having more people explaining the

needs for the facility. Howard added that if the full amount is approved through taxation, the project will not be subject to unsecured fundraising and would increase state aid by an additional \$40,000.00.

Jeanne Ludt noted she believed community members are willing to give money, but will not do so until the warrant passes. Jeanne added there is great momentum for this project that she does not want to abandon. Jeanne also noted she supports the project being fully funded by the taxpayer, with gifts and contributions being used for equipment.

Janet Gaynor presented some funding information, including a possible \$37,000.00 in grant funds that are contingent on the warrant passing. There is a committed \$6,500.00 with an additional \$11,000.00 from the Booster Club; \$7,000.00 from the Junior Women, a projected Lacrosse donation of \$7000 to \$10,000.00, and a fundraising target of \$30,000.00 after the March vote.

There were additional comments regarding the possibility of moving forward with the project and whether the warrant should raise the full amount through taxation, with contributions and gifts being raised to cover the equipment. Phyllis Thomas noted the committee had done a fabulous job with the groundwork, but suggested putting off the project for one more year in order to gain stronger support.

Steve Coughlan noted he could not support taxing for the full amount and was concerned about paying for the project with contributions, which may impact the operating budget.

Art Faint suggested there would be less risk if the project was fully funded by taxation and that any donations could be used for equipment and instructional materials.

It was noted if the full amount of \$475,048 was raised through taxation, rather than donations, the one-time tax impact for Amherst residents would be \$87.43 and \$73.37 for Mont Vernon residents (both tax estimates were based on a \$300,000.00 house valuation).

John Walsh moved to amend Warrant Article #3 to fully fund the Wellness Facility project, in an amount of \$475,048.00, through taxation. John Rizzi seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-yes, 1-no.

Steve Coughlan reported the deliberative session would be televised, which will offer Amherst residents the opportunity to view

it several times before the March vote.

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The board discussed the format for the upcoming deliberative session.

Phyllis Thomas moved to adjourn. John Walsh seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**