

**MINUTES**  
**SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD**  
**May 4, 2006**  
**Souhegan High School – Info Center**

**Page 762**

Vice-Chair Janet Gaynor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present:

**ATTENDANCE**

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Janet Gaynor, Phyllis Thomas, Jan Phelps, John Walsh, and Steve Coughlan (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Scott Prescott, Susan Ward, and Colleen Meaney

Minutes Recorder: Terri Connolly

Kim Parrett, community member for Community Council, addressed the board concerning the camera proposal. Kim expressed concern that the proposal was being marketed too much as a resolution to the theft issue and should be framed as a security measure for the school campus. Kim questioned who was responsible for the implementation of security parameters for SCHS, to which Steve Coughlan reported the board would have the final decision regarding the camera issue as it pertains to thefts and security measures on campus.

**PUBLIC TIME**

Kim reported Community Council has discussed the matter at length with the student body and the consensus is that teachers and students are against the proposal. The Council would like to gather additional information and may not vote on this issue this year.

Kim also noted lockers are too small and, in some instances, lockers are not available.

The manifest was signed.

**MANIFEST**

Phyllis Thomas moved to accept the minutes of March 16, 2006 and Janet Gaynor seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted without amendment. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
MARCH 16, 2006  
MINUTES**

John Walsh moved to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2006 Organizational Meeting and Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted without amendment. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
MARCH 16, 2006  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

John Walsh moved to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2006 Goal Setting Work Session and Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted without amendment. 4-yes, 0-no, 1-abstention. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
MARCH 30, 2006  
GOAL SETTING  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES**

John Walsh moved to accept the minutes of April 20, 2006 and Janet Gaynor seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted without amendment. 2-yes, 0-no, 3-abstentions. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF  
APRIL 20, 2006  
MINUTES**

The board opted to defer the wellness facility discussion until the next board meeting.

**BUSINESS &  
INSTRUCTION  
Wellness Facility  
Discussion**

Phyllis Thomas reported there have not been any additional K-12 Cooperative Study Committee meetings. The board discussed the possibility of a K-12 district, to which Jan Phelps suggested the concept be tested with a grade 5-12 district. The board took a straw poll and it was agreed to move forward with a study.

**K-12 Cooperative  
Study Committee  
Commitment**

Kathleen Huffman presented her Senior Project: Sleep Deprivation for High School Students to the board. Kathleen highlighted factors leading to sleep deprivation and proposed an 8:00 a.m. start time for high school students with the possible following changes implemented:

- Switch AMS/SCHS start time with Clark and Wilkins elementary schools
- Eliminate the 10 minute break
- Shorten class periods by 3-5 minutes

**ADMINISTRATORS'  
REPORT  
Senior Project  
Presentation**

Steve Coughlan questioned if Kathleen had surveyed any parents, to which Kathleen noted she had not. The board thanked Kathleen for her presentation and Steve added his primary reservation concerning a later start time is how the parents would react to a

change.

Alex McGuire presented an update on Community Council and noted a new moderator and school board representative had been elected. Council members want to do more research on the camera proposal so the matter would not likely be voted on this year.

**COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

Janet Gaynor questioned if any grants, associated with the camera proposal, would be lost if the issue is not presented in time, to which Alex reported grants have not been initiated at this time.

Howard Colter nominated Kristen Gallo for position of Dean of Faculty, effective July 1, 2006 for the upcoming year.

**NOMINATION  
Dean of Faculty**

Jan Phelps moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion.

Scott Prescott shared the process for selecting Kris Gallo for the Dean of Faculty position.

Jan Phelps moved, Phyllis Thomas seconded, to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3,II(b). By a roll call vote, all members voted in favor: Gaynor-yes, Coughlan-yes, Thomas-yes, Phelps-yes, and Walsh-yes. The Board went into non-public session at 7:12 p.m.

**NON-PUBLIC  
SESSION**

The board discussed a personnel matter.

John Walsh moved, Phyllis Thomas seconded, to come out of non-public session. By a roll call vote, all members voted in favor: Gaynor-yes, Coughlan-yes, Thomas-yes, Phelps-yes, and Walsh-yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 7:55 p.m.

Howard Colter recommended the board approve Kristen Gallo for the Dean of Faculty position at a salary of \$72,783.00. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Howard distributed an assessment letter concerning Scott Prescott. The board reviewed the letter and Howard highlighted excerpts of Scott's performance. Howard noted Scott has the right priorities, thinks broadly and deeply on issues, focuses on children, wrestles with how one becomes a really effective school leader as opposed to a school manager. Howard added he has high hopes for SCHS

because Scott is at SCHS and the school will not remain stagnant under his leadership. Howard recommended Scott take time to visit other high schools and to assess the administrative team in the area of delegation so that he could do more thinking.

Steve thanked Howard for his evaluation and the board thanked Scott for his effort and performance.

Steve briefly reviewed highlights from the goal setting work session and reviewed the goals as stated. There was a discussion regarding administrative goals and how those were communicated and assessed, to which Scott suggested it would be helpful to have a calendar, set up with a meeting cycle, for department heads, building and grounds, the athletic department head, etc.

### School Board Goals

There was additional discussion regarding the goals, which are:  
*GOAL 1: We expect a culture of accountability and responsibility.*

The board agreed the accountability and responsibility applied to both teachers and students. Teachers should be visible and every adult, within the school, has a responsibility to mold every student who attends SCHS.

*GOAL 2: We will develop a long-range facilities plan.*

*GOAL 3: We will engage community resources.*

The board noted engaging community resources entailed an outreach to the elderly, and opportunities for internships outside of the school.

Jan Phelps moved to accept the board goals for the upcoming year. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

It was noted board members could pick up scholarship books at the SAU office.

### OTHER

Scott Prescott reported Julie Wright and Heidi Huntley are leaving SCHS at the end of the school year, and Mary Moore has requested a one-year leave of absence.

John Walsh moved to approve a one-year leave of absence for Mary Moore. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion.

The board reviewed the leave of absence request from Mary Moore. Scott Prescott reported Ms. Moore is an outstanding SPED educator and presented the factors related to this request. Upon review, all the board members voted to oppose the motion. The motion failed.

Susan Ward noted a public hearing was needed to accept the Amherst Soccer Club funds. The board agreed to conduct the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2006 and that the regular school board meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m.

John Walsh moved to adjourn. Janet Gaynor seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**