

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
September 28, 2006
Souhegan High School – Annex Room 222

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Chair Steve Coughlan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlan, Jeanne Ludt, Phyllis Thomas, John Walsh, and Janet Gaynor

Administrative Team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Scott Prescott, and Elizabeth Shankel

Community Council: Brittany Daniels

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Board Members received a copy of Scott Prescott's School Board Report dated September 2006 in their board packets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott informed board members they moved the November late start date from November 14, 2006 to November 7, 2006 to accommodate election voting.

Steve Coughlan invited comments from the public. Gus Christiansen along with his daughter Christine Christiansen came before the board to address an issue. Gus said his daughter attends classes at Nashua South and has been told in order to get the bus back to Souhegan High School; she needs to cut her class short by five minutes each day. Gus said he does not think this is right. He said his daughter should not have to cut her education short each day by five minutes. He said something should be worked out so the bus goes from Nashua North to Nashua South to pick her up. Mr. Christiansen said last year they had bus issues, it took six months to work out the issues, but they were resolved. Mr. Christiansen said he had spoken to Ted Houlihan, but was not able to resolve the issue this year. Scott agreed to look into the issue and said he would get back to the Christiansen's.

**PUBLIC /
PRESENTATIONS**

A. End of Year Report – Board members received a copy of a report dated September 19, 2006, from Betty Shankel. The report highlighted the Souhegan FY06 Budget Variances, which were greater than \$5,000.

Jeanne Ludt asked Betty if it was possible for the Administration to do a better job forecasting in the future. Jeanne said the forecast was way off, and she wants to see if it's possible for the budget to be more realistic in the future.

Betty said she would be happy to try and budget the revenues more realistically. She said you just don't want to run the risk of getting into a deficit.

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B. Community Council – Brittany Daniels provided board members with an update on Community Council.

In the future, Brittany will forward her report to Steve Coughlan so board members will receive the report prior to board meetings.

Brittany told members of the board they had a night meeting on September 18, 2006, and elected their new At-Large members. The additions are: Sam Lowell (9), Ross Glover (10), Will Ksander (10), Dave Brundage (10), Sam Lawrence (12), Kaitlyn Rice (12), Corey Johnson (12), Brittany Leknes (11), Gina Patrizio (11).

The Community Council discussed their By-Laws and it was decided 7 non Community Council people would be attending the Student Summit.

The Community Council held the annual fall retreat at Parkhurst Place on September 25, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Council played icebreaker games, and spent some time getting acquainted as a group.

They broke into two main committees, Fang Fest and Candidate Forum. Brittany said the Fang Fest committee is hard at work, potentially revamping Fang Fest for the better. The Candidate Forum will take place on October 25, 2006 from 7-9 p.m. at SHS. Both committees have set meetings.

Jeanne Ludt invited board members to attend a Community Council meeting. They are on Mondays in Room 127 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A. Board Goal Setting – Mark Joyce from the New Hampshire School Board Association was in attendance to assist the board in their goal setting process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mark said each board had looked at their goals and needs for the 2006-2007 school year and beyond.

Mark outlined the process board members would follow. He said the first step would be a productive thinking exercise where all ideas were counted and none were discounted.

The next part of the process is participants get an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any of the ideas written down.

Once all ideas are clarified and discussed, each participant gets the opportunity to prioritize the ideas, choosing his/her top seven.

Mark said the final step in the process involves pulling out the major themes, which usually ends up being four to five initiatives/goals.

First Step – Goals / Initiatives:

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- 1) Develop a long-range facilities plan.
- 2) Accountability and responsibility.
- 3) Increased personalization.
- 4) More public awareness (of what the board does)
- 5) Streamline the budget process
- 6) Curriculum – differentiated instruction throughout
- 7) Continue to do better job in honors challenge
- 8) Continuous improvement in our advisory program
- 9) Individual student progress in reading, writing and math.
- 10) Develop Voc Tech side of education
- 11) Address lack of adequate wellness space
- 12) Start thinking out of box, bring sparkle back, to Souhegan – culture of innovation
- 13) More uniformed honors track challenges
- 14) Add Chinese as a language
- 15) Become a culture of data driven decision making
- 16) Safe school without guns
- 17) No cameras in school
- 18) Streamline purchasing as a whole
- 19) Rectify storage issues (e.g. athletic equipment, paper)
- 20) Solve food service deficit problem
- 21) Serve healthy food but still be successful financially
- 22) Review policies (update) by an outside agency.
- 23) Create smoother transition between schools / e.g. MS – HS
- 24) Draw in and accommodate community to school
- 25) More connection with guidance and students before older grades
- 26) All students achieve academic excellence to the best of their ability
- 27) All students are encouraged to do their best
- 28) Unify K-12 curriculum
- 29) Individual learning plans for students K-12
- 30) Better forecasting and reporting on our budgets
- 31) Institute “career day/days” to job shadow
- 32) Encouraging positive ways for parents / teachers to communicate
- 33) Improve teacher accountability

Once this list was completed, participants were given the opportunity to discuss and clarify any of the ideas brought forward.

Mark Joyce asked participants to come forward and place their initials in front of their top seven goals / initiatives.

Once completed, Mark identified the goals / initiatives with the most initials, which was seven. Mark asked participants to see what other goals / initiatives they thought could be placed within each.

#1) Develop a long-range facilities plan.
11, 19

Next participants were asked to look at goals / initiatives with six.

#26) All students achieve academic excellence to the best of their ability.

9, 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 29, 31, 28, 23, 8

Mark suggested making number 26 two separate goals because it was so big. Dr. Jennings suggested breaking it out based on K-12 vs. 9-12 initiatives. Mark suggested breaking it out as academics vs. supporting behaviors.

#3) Improve operations and procedures.
5, 30, 18, 22, 20

Board members discussed a goal / initiative which would address communication.

Better communication between and among all parts.
4, 24, 32

Mark told board members he would take the information as presented above, compile the information and set up a template for the administration to work with and then present to the school board.

B. Status of Wellness Center Proposal – Board members received a copy of the balance of funds for the Wellness Center proposal. Steve Coughlan asked the Wellness Committee to comment on the status of the Wellness Center Proposal for 2007-2008. The committee consisted of Jeanne Ludt, Janet Gaynor and John Rizzi.

Janet said she and Jeanne contemplated going forward with the proposal for the 2007-2008 budget year.

Jeanne said the committee was unable to reconvene as a whole; they were unable to meet with John Rizzi.

It was decided; it would be in the best interest of all parties to wait to see what Amherst's plans were in March prior to going forward

with a Wellness Center Proposal for 2007-2008.

Janet said the donations should be returned.

Board members commented on the committee's recommendation.

John Walsh said he respects the decision of the committee, but does not believe the committee was short cited. He said the Wellness Center Proposal would have only had tax implications for this year, had it gone through.

Jeanne Ludt said it doesn't mean the committee is not going to continue to work at this issue this year; they are just going to wait until after the budget season.

Steve Coughlan said he thinks this is the right decision. He said the Annex was built to accommodate 1,700 students. He said they really have the space, and they need to get the students out of the hallway.

Scott Prescott said most of the classes are out of the halls. The only time they are in the hall is when students are trying to access the weight room that only accommodates 6-8 students at a time.

Scott said they are using the Annex and Multi Purpose Room more this year and will continue to do so.

Board members reviewed the Consent Agenda, and it was unanimous consent for items IV A., B., and C.

CONSENT AGENDA

John Walsh moved to approve the August 15, 2006 board meeting minutes. Phyllis Thomas seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of the motion, with the following amendments:

Page 796, 4th paragraph, 5th line, change "when" to "after"

Page 797 under Team Workshop, 2nd paragraph, 3rd line change "has" to "had not" and change "upcoming months" to "next week."

Page 797 under Personnel, 2nd paragraph, 3rd line, change "more frequently during the" to "once a."

Page 798 under Future Agenda Items, 2nd line, remove "7th."

The motion passed.

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Jeanne Ludt said she would like to see "Other" added to the agenda.

**REVIEW OF
MEETING /**

Jeanne said she had several questions and wanted to provide the list

ADJOURNMENT

of questions to be addressed at the next board meeting.

Dr. Jennings said she had answers to many of the questions and would provide the information to all board members in News and Notes. Jeanne's questions were as follows: 1) Finance Committee – have they found volunteers yet? 2) Fee Schedule / Policy Revision 3) Status of User Fee Fund 4) Money for Soccer Club Tournament – have they sent us the money? How much was it? 5) She has heard negative comments about the food service program; kids are going elsewhere, bringing food in, etc. How is this being addressed? 6) Status of Wellness Policy

A motion was made by Steve Coughlan and seconded by Phyllis Thomas to reflect the board's appreciation for all the work Terri Connelly did for the Souhegan School Board. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Board members asked Steve Coughlan about scheduling the Ice Cream Social. It was agreed the Ice Cream Social would take place on October 18, 2006 from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Jennings announced to board members the next SAU Meeting was October 5, 2006. She said it was important for board members to attend; they planned on discussing the Amherst Master Plan as well as other important issues.

Phyllis Thomas moved to adjourn. Janet Gaynor seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.