

NOTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD
April 19, 2007
Souhegan High School – Annex Room 222

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Steve Coughlan called the Public Hearing to order at **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:13 p.m.

Board members were given a copy of a letter addressed to John Schwope, Board Chair SAU 39 regarding the Charlotte Ann Boutelle Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The SAU 39 is the sole designated recipient of grant dollars from the Boutelle Fund.

According to the Boutelle Grant Donation Apportionment for FY 2007, Souhegan Cooperative High School will receive \$7,566.03.

Betty Shankel explained to meeting attendees, the Souhegan High School Football Booster Club was closing their checking account and would be donating \$23,008.17 to the Souhegan High School Football Activity Fund.

Steve Coughlan said the Boutelle Grant is the source of funds they would like to utilize for the television equipment, which is needed for Souhegan and Amherst.

There were no questions or comments from the Public therefore, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:24 pm.

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlan, Christine Morley and Dana Redmond

Administrative Team: Kris Gallo, Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Colleen Meaney, Scott Prescott (arrived 6:25 p.m.) and Elizabeth Shankel.

Community Counsel: Frank Cinque

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Joey Abbis, a member of the Souhegan High School **PUBLIC TIME** Jazz band wanted to speak to members of the School Board regarding the Jazz band playing at venues other than at Souhegan High.

Joey explained there was an issue back in October or November regarding the Jazz band playing at the Pasta Loft. Joey said they were not allowed to play at the Pasta Loft because alcohol is served at the establishment.

Joey said he created a policy through a class project and highlighted the following portions of the revised policy:

- 1) The Jazz band is not allowed to play in any nightclubs.
- 2) Band must be packed up and out of the establishment at 9:00 p.m.
- 3) Receive every parents approval to play at outside venues.

Joey said the Jazz band rehearses 3 times per week and they only hold 3 to 4 concerts per year and would like the opportunity to play at more venues.

Joey asked for the opinions and thoughts of meeting attendees..

Steve Coughlan said they would take the policy recommendation under advisement and the administration would meet with the faculty and consider all sides of the issue.

Dana Redmond asked if the Jazz Band was an actual class at Souhegan High School and Joey said yes, it was a class.

Steve Coughlan asked if he could get a copy of the current policy, which is in place so the board could review it.

Dr. Jennings explained the administration is still working through this issue.

Scott Prescott said Joey has done a great job with this issue as well as presenting a revised policy.

Scott said they need to have some general guidelines since eating places turn into bars, the administration

wants everyone to be on the same page, and they need to have a discussion to make sure everyone is on the same page. They need to agree on what types of venues the band can play at in the future.

Steve Coughlan thanked Joey for his input and comments.

Dr. Jennings said she might come to the board in the near future to request a waiver for one of the school days students missed due to the floods. Dr. Jennings said the Commissioner said he would consider the requests on a case-by-case basis.

- A. Principal's Report – Meeting attendees received a copy of Scott Prescott's School Board Report dated April 2007. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Scott highlighted on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, Chris Brooks received an award, the Souhegan Community Partnership Award at CR Sparks in Manchester. The award is due to Chris's work with Chester College on Western Civilization. Students receive college credit and the program utilizes the resources of colleges in New Hampshire.

Scott said Chris should be recognized for the work done.

Scott highlighted that Chris Brooks and Amy Pham presented their career growth work during the NEASC accreditation visit. There will be three more presentation dates. Scott said he would provide the descriptions of the presentations. The presentations start at 2:45 p.m. and go until 4:00 p.m. Scott said it would be great if board members came to one of the presentations, and the staff appreciates it. The presentation dates are April 18, 2007, May 9, 2007, and May 23, 2007.

- B. Community Council Report – Meeting attendees received a copy of the Community Council Report, which was dated 4/28/07 and submitted by Brittany Daniels.

Meeting attendees were told the Sign In / Sign Out Policy was passed. The policy states whenever a student is leaving the school property, he/she is required to sign out and sign back in upon their return.

The policy goes into effect the week after Spring vacation. There will be a trial period and then the policy will be implemented.

If a student doesn't follow the policy, they will get a warning then they will lose their privilege to leave school property.

A. AYP Math Curriculum – Meeting attendees were given an update by Joann McDeed, Math Coordinator at Souhegan High School. **PRESENTATIONS**

Prior to Joann presenting, Nicole Heimarck made a few comments.

Nicole said NWEA results would also look at the readiness of the students entering the High School.

Nicole said they need to look at the alignment of the curriculum to make sure Integrated Math I and Math II are identical at the Middle School and at the High School.

Nicole said some staff would be involved in some Professional Development work over the summer.

Nicole said there is a clear commitment between Scott Prescott and Porter Dodge to make sure Integrated Math looks the same at the Middle School and High School.

Joann said the committee members included: Kris Gallo, Dean of Faculty; Joanne McDeed, Math Coordinator; Terry Berna, Div 2 Math Teacher; Ane Coughlin, Div 2 Math Teacher; Lesli Rendall, Div 1 Math Teacher; and Pam McGrath, Learning Specialist.

Joann said in September, Kris Gallo took the lead and got a group of Math teachers together to look at the state testing results.

Joann explained the reasons for the NHEIAP Study:

- Special Ed Cohort – AYP
- Whole school cohort trends
- We like data

Joann explained the process:

- Committee met Sept '06 through Nov '06
- Reviewed the 2004, 2005, 2006 tests – Joann said they began looking at the 2006 data but realized it wasn't enough so they looked at trends for three years.
- Whole school vs. special education cohort.
- Cusp kids – Border line between Basic/Proficient.
- Examined where less than 70% of students answered correctly.
- Negative differential with State
- Misconceptions – question analysis
- Revisions/recommendations were made to the curriculum in general and to the Math Department.

Joann said the results for the state testing is based on the whole school and includes the Special Education population. Joann said every student must make progress year to year.

If the school misses AYP for two years in a row, then the school becomes a school in need of improvement. Joann said this is what motivated this study.

Students are only assessed once at the High School level, in grade 11. They take the NECAP exam, which is administered in the Fall.

Joann presented the student's Strengths:

- Linear Functions
- Data Analysis, which includes: Measures of central tendency and mode, Bar graphs, and Circle graphs.

Joann then presented the student's Weaknesses:

- Geometry, which includes: Area of shaded circle problems, Similar triangles & trigonometry, and Quadrilaterals. Joann explained this was the administrations biggest area of concern.
- Vocabulary
- Format of questions, which includes: Multiple choice and Open Ended. Joann said the open-ended questions were scored using a Rubric and students didn't seem to score well across the state.

Joann presented the Committees Recommendations:

- 1) Content Adjustments
- 2) Vocabulary
- 3) Format of Questions

Joann said the committee's recommendations were brought to the Math Department.

Joann presented what has been implemented to date:

- Content adjustments have been made in the 9th grade, which will affect the 10th grade next year.
- Teach test-taking strategies to students, not "teach to the test."
- Incorporate multiple styles of questioning – Multiple Choice, True/False, Open Ended and Application.
- Vocabulary Focus

Meeting attendees received a handout entitled SHS Mathematics Core Curriculum, 2006-2007. The handout detailed what was taught in Math 1, Math 2, and Math 3.

Joann provided the Student Curricular Supports:

- Math Specialist – works directly with students, teachers and learning specialists. Focus has been on the 9th grade this year however, the specialist will work with the 10th grade next year. All

students in grade 9 take a Spiral Competency Assessment whether they are in Math 1, 2 or 3.

- Math Modules Class – Competency based design
- Math Lab and Math Buddies (Div 2) – Math Buddies is when teachers team up and co-teach.
- Technology – Tablet PC's and Angel software.
- Sharepoint – Math Dept. Pilot – Math Teachers share work her, Banks of Questions – NECAP, NHEIAP, as well as a discussion board.

Joann spoke about the Future Work of the Committee:

- Continue to share best practices.
- Continue exam analyses
- Share AYP Recommendations with AMS Teachers
- Share resources with AMS teachers
- Increase summer planning with Learning Specialists
- Focus Group – Geometry

Joann spoke about how the Committee will measure success:

- Analysis of Unit assessments
- Analysis of mid-year and final assessments
- Analysis of future state testing
- Analysis of our own grade-level “Spiral Competency Assessments” in Grades 9-10

Joann said this issue is not just in Grade 10, or Grade 9, or AMS, but everyone owns it K-12.

- B. Activity Fund Quarterly Report – Meeting attendees received a copy of the Job/Project Report dated 7/1/2000 through 12/31/2006. Betty explained this would be a semi-annual report. Betty said if an account shows a negative balance, it would be rectified within days and most likely they needed to expend some money in the account prior to the money coming into the account.

A copy of the School Board Report dated 3/1/2007 through 3/31/2007 was provided. Betty explained this is

a monthly report. Betty said this report shows the different transactions that go through this account on a monthly basis.

- C. Activity Fund Quarterly Report – Meeting attendees received a copy of the Souhegan Cooperative School District Quarterly Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2007 dated 7/1/2006 – 3/31/2007.

Betty Shankel told meeting attendees they are projecting a surplus of approximately \$300,000 in revenue at year-end. Betty said of the \$300,000 surplus, \$260,000 would go back to the taxpayers and \$40,000 will go towards the Expendable Trust Fund.

Betty explained the surplus in revenue was higher than expected due to Interest Income, Student Activities, and Rental Income. Betty said Adult Education was unbudgeted however it was offset by expenditures.

Betty said Expenditures are projected to be under by \$137,082 at year-end.

Betty said the largest savings was in Operations and Plant Maintenance. There was a savings of \$97,221, which included a savings of \$62,000 just in electricity.

Betty said Special Education will end up flat, Adult Education was unbudgeted however; they will offset the expense by revenue.

Steve Coughlan suggested when the District talks about returning money to the taxpayers, they say how much of the funds was Revenue, in this case an estimated \$260,000.

At the next board meeting, on May 17, 2007, six weeks prior to year end, the board will discuss where and if they should spend some of the surplus funds.

Steve said he would like to spend \$5,000 more for the television equipment they will be sharing with the Amherst District. Steve said they could possibly use some of the Boutelle Funds for this expense.

Steve said he would like to provide the new track surface, which Bill Dodd requested last year and is estimated to cost approximately \$17,000.

Scott Prescott said he has spoken to the faculty, asking them to provide him with a list of areas where they would like to expend some of the surplus money.

Scott said since the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget failed, a lot of the uniform monies were cut. Scott said at some point, the state is going to require the district to spend money on uniforms.

Meeting attendees discussed the need for a board meeting prior to May 17, 2007, because of a lot of issues, which needed to be addressed. **OTHER**

It was agreed, if Steve Coughlan could get a quorum, the board would meet on May 2, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT