

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 18, 2007
Souhegan High School - Annex Room 222

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlan, Jeanne Ludt, Dan Foley, Christine Morley, John Walsh, Janet Gaynor (arrived 5.42 pm), Dana Redmond (arrived 5.43 pm)
Administrative Team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Scott Prescott
Minutes Recorder: Christine Morley

I. CALL TO ORDER

Steve Coughlan called the board meeting to order at 5.36 pm.

II. APPEAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION

SHS senior Nicholas Sumski and his father Lawrence Sumski waived their right to a non-public hearing and presented their case regarding Nick's expulsion from the National Honors Society (NHS) for under-age alcohol consumption.

The Sumskis presented the facts of the infraction and decision of the administration as consequences. In addition to other consequences accepted by the Sumskis, the five-faculty member committee governing the Souhegan chapter of the NHS had dismissed Nick from the NHS. The Sumskis requested that this be reversed, after unsuccessful appeals to the Principal and Superintendent, on the grounds that treatment had not been meted out fairly and Nick's punishment was in excess of Souhegan's policies.

Connor Foley and John Griffin spoke in support of the Sumskis' request.

Vanessa Foley asked if others involved in the incident would have a chance to speak.

Scott Prescott confirmed the facts as presented by the Sumskis were accurate. Mary Jennings reported that she had upheld the decision of the NHS Faculty committee as neither the Superintendent nor the School Board have any role in the selection of members of the Souhegan NHS chapter and thus should not have a role in dismissals.

III. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA91-A:3, II. (c)

The Board went in to non-public session at 6.15 pm by roll call vote: John Walsh, Yes; Janet Gaynor, Yes; Steve Coughlan, Yes; Jeanne Ludt, Yes; Christine Morley, Yes; Dan Foley, Yes; Dana Redmond, Yes. The board deliberated on the request to overturn the Superintendent's decision to uphold Nick's dismissal from NHS. A roll call vote to

reverse the decision was in favor of reversing the decision of the Superintendent: John Walsh, No; Janet Gaynor, Yes; Steve Coughlan, Abstained; Jeanne Ludt, Yes; Dan Foley, Yes; Dana Redmond, Yes; Christine Morley, Yes.

The Non-Public Session was adjourned at 6.34 pm by roll call vote: John Walsh, Yes; Janet Gaynor, Yes; Steve Coughlan, Yes; Jeanne Ludt, Yes; Christine Morley, Yes; Dan Foley, Yes; Dana Redmond, Yes.

Public session resumed at 6.35 pm. Steve reported the Board had voted to overturn the Superintendent's decision to uphold Nick Sumski's dismissal from the NHS, based on the absence of explicit bylaws governing alcohol consumption at the local chapter level of the NHS. However, Steve asked Scott to report to the faculty committee that the Board takes under-age drinking very seriously and that the Board recommends the faculty committee enact appropriate bylaws and ensure all new members are aware of the consequences of alcohol consumption.

The Board entered in to public session at 6:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlan, Dan Foley
Jeanne Ludt, Dana Redmond, John Walsh, Janet Gaynor and
Christine Morley

Administrative Team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Scott Prescott, Colleen
Meaney, Betty Shankel and Kathy Skoglund

Finance Committee: Pete Stearns

Community Council: Frank Cinque

Minutes Recorder: Karyn Camplin

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Board members were given a copy of Scott Prescott's School Board Report. There were no questions regarding this report.

B. COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT:

Board members were given a copy of the Community Council

Report. There were no questions regarding this report.

IV. PUBLIC TIME

Steve Coughlan asked for comments from the public but none were forthcoming.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Steve Coughlan asked if there were any withdrawals from the Consent Agenda.

Christine Morley discussed concerns regarding late fees paid to date for invoices. Betty Shankel has introduced a routine schedule for payment, which should eliminate late fees.

Christine Morley would like to have the number of directory assistance calls investigated. It is estimated that there are 80-90 calls per month.

Steve Coughlan pulled Consent Agenda Item A. Minutes

1. September 19, 2007. Steve clarified on page 15 regarding the appeal committee that it should consist of two residents from the district and not specifically two Mt. Vernon residents. Also on page 15 Pam Dudoff's name was spelled incorrectly.

The Board adopted Consent Agenda Items A. Minutes as amended; B. Budget.

1. Treasurer's report; 2. Manifest; C. Donations to Student Activity Fund; D. Student Activity Fund Report.

Moved by John Walsh to approve Consent Agenda Items. Jeanne Ludt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (7-0)

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Athletic Budget - Bill Dod

Board members received a copy of the Athletic spending by Team. Bill told the Board that all of the fall teams are in play off contention. Bill encouraged Board members to attend events.

Bill summarized the Athletic Spending by Team as follows:

- There are 984 participants. His goal is 1,000.
- Last year a 3% increase for coaches was requested. There were 2 assistant coaches added.
- There was a dance program added.
- Bill broke down the game expenses. The cost for officials is \$56.00 for a sub varsity game and \$76.00 for a varsity game. There are approximately 2 officials per game. In addition to the officials, there are also timers, announcers and police.
- Transportation to events costs on average \$275.00 per trip. There are times when transportation is provided only to the event.
- Bill purchased girls ice hockey white shirts, new soccer goals, boys and girls cross country shorts and shirts, a new wrestling mat, sub varsity boys and girls basketball uniforms, sets of cheerleading uniforms, field hockey uniforms and football uniforms.
- The budget provides for awards, letters and pins. Trophies and/or plaques are purchased by the individual teams.
- Bill explained the money collected through user and gate fees is not in the Athletic Spending by Team Chart. The money collected is turned over to the SAU and goes into the general fund. Last year there was approximately \$54,000 collected.
- Bill budgeted approximately \$1,800 for rental of indoor space to practice due to inclement weather
- Souhegan was awarded a 2nd place certificate in sportsmanship for Class I.
- Bill explained that our large football team is a compliment to the staff.
- -For away games there are 2 buses provided for the varsity team. There is only one bus used for the freshmen and junior varsity team.
- Intramural sports do not charge a user fee. They have a separate budget.
- There are only 4 participants in the gymnastics program, therefore, Souhegan High School will not host any home meets. The participants will be transported to away meets by parents.
- Bill explained with the exception of football helmets, all purchases are put out to bid by 20 companies.
- Bill said he is doing his best to make sure the fields and stadium are not Damaged.
- Bill explained he was replacing uniforms on a schedule.

Dana Redmond suggested a policy to explain in detail what is and is not supplied for each sports team.

B. EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. **LEEP PROGRAM:** Dan Bisaccio was not present to discuss the LEEP program.

2. **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:** Colleen Meaney provided Board members with a copy of the Souhegan High School Extended Learning Opportunity hand out, Extended Learning Opportunity Proposal, proposed policy for Extended Learning Opportunities and Policy IHBH. The policy that is submitted for review is the version recommended by the NH School Board.

Colleen explained that the Policy IHBH is in response to the new requirements the district has for extended learning opportunities. Souhegan has already implemented this with independent study, student internship program, work-study program, lifelong educational experience (LEEP), courses taken outside of SHS, language immersion programs, and community service learning.

Colleen summarized the Extended Learning Opportunities as follows:

- The LEEP program is designed for students that demonstrate a passion to learn and not a credit recovery process.
- All students have access to Extended Learning Opportunities.
- Kris Gallo and Colleen Meaney are the coordinators of Extended Learning Opportunities.
- Students still need to meet graduation requirements.
- The parents are responsible for any transportation costs.
- Extended Learning Opportunities allow students a number of ways to earn credits.
- Extended Learning Opportunities have been screened and approved and are equal to a Souhegan High School credit.

Scott explained the system that is currently in place to ensure all students equal access to Extended Learning Opportunities. If the student is signed up by the deadline, students in the highest grade have access first. If this does not provide enough of a tool then there will be a lottery.

Christine Morley would like the transportation costs specifically included in Policy IHBH.

There was discussion among Board members as to whether the number of ELO's should be limited.

Mary Jennings is strongly against strict guidelines that limit the number of ELO's a student may take. Mary suggested having assessments in place to ensure ELO's were to SAU standards and truly earned. Mary said ELO's allow students to learn as fast as possible. Mary also suggested to make the policy as vague as possible to allow the Board discretion if there is an appeal.

Steve Coughlan suggested putting more thought into SAU graduation requirements.

Jeanne Ludt suggested a change in the sentence that reads "All such opportunities must be consistent with the high school's mission and Academic Learner Expectations". Instead of "high school's" she would like it to read Souhegan's and asked to include graduation requirements. Jeanne would also like the policy to spell out that parents are responsible for transportation.

Steve Coughlan did not have a chance to look up Policy IMBC.

There will be a second reading November 15, 2007.

3. POLICY IHBH: Extended Learning Opportunities.

This handout is the NH School Board Association's model policy.

C. FY09 BUDGET - MARY JENNINGS

1. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS: Mary provided Board members with a hand out of the assumptions the administration is using to come up with the proposed budget. There will be a draft 1 of the budget November 15, 2007. The budget assumptions are based on enrollments, class size/student load, staffing , operations, initiatives, revenues and expendable trusts. Mary invited input from the Board.

Mary reviewed the Budget Assumptions as follows:

- The incoming 8th grade fit the enrollment trend. For FY09 there are 947 projected. For FY09 budgeted 945.
- 80 students per team. Average class size 20/1.
- Estimated 8% increase in health care benefits.
- Non-union staff: ECI (August 2007) 3.4%.
- Build into budget NH Retirement plus PPC agreement on sick day buy back.
- Delivery and shipping costs 10-15% additional cost per order .
- Increases balanced by District utility usage practices 0%.
- Transportation cannot be changed based on 3rd year of 3-year extension.
- Move to Self-supporting food service except for cost of capital equipment.
- Projected deficit.
- Year two strategic plan.
- Actuarial Study GASB45.
- Staid Aid FY09 same as FY08 \$1,825,104

Dana Redmond suggested pursuing lease/purchase options for equipment such as computers and copiers.

Betty Shankel explained the new requirement for the Actuarial Study GASB45. It is a federally mandated requirement. If SAU does not comply there is a potential to lose federal grants and/or loans. The estimated cost of this study is \$20,000.

Janet Gaynor suggested looking back at previous budgets to get a better target and reduce the surplus.

2. BUDGET COMMUNICATION: Jeanne Ludt provided Board members with a Communication Strategy and Goals handout. Last meeting Jeanne asked Board members for biographies so the public can start to know them and build a case that the budget is worth voting in favor of. Jeanne would also like to take a fun approach by using quiz questions. Biographies of Board members would be available online.

In addition to articles in the newspapers, Mary suggested the Board create new ways to get budget information to the voters such as pamphlets, newsletters and mailings. Mary also suggested a ½-hour budget presentation on public TV by Board members.

Steve Coughlan said previous deliberative sessions on the cable channel have not been optimal.

Scott asked if the Board could ask the paper to collaborate on the budget articles.

D. QUARTERLY REPORT: Betty Shankel said the revenues for the first quarter were as expected. Special Education is anticipating a deficit but it needs to be reviewed before the Board is given numbers. There are projected savings for benefits because not all employees take advantage.

The Board decided to discuss action items at the next Board meeting.

VII. OTHER

Steve Coughlan asked if there were any other comments and none were forthcoming.

A motion was made by John Walsh and seconded by Dan Foley to adjourn the meeting. Board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (7-0) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.