

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
FINAL*THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2008***FINAL**
SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL-ANNEX ROOM A22

Present:

Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Steve Coughlin, Dana Redmond, Jeanne Ludt, Dan Foley

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

Community Council: Julie Arrowsmith

Minutes Recorder: Karyn Camplin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Steve Coughlan called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Board members were given a copy of Scott Prescott's School Board Report dated February 21, 2008. Scott added there are a strong pool of candidates for the positions of Dean of Students and Athletic/Activity Director. He is ready to invite some candidates back for second interviews. The feedback from the committees was positive and he felt the process worked well in obtaining qualified candidates that everyone could support.

B. COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Board members were given a copy of the Community Council Report. Julie informed Board members two students attended the faculty meeting to present a proposal regarding weighted grades. Scott added the faculty thought the proposal was well proposed but did not support it at this time.

Mary announced the preliminary NECAP results would be made public tomorrow. Colleen and Nicole did a press release for the newspapers.

Mary announced Scott was able to find a replacement for John Walter. It is Kim Humphreys who taught at the middle school and has a strong background. She was hired as a long term substitute. The position will be open at the end of the year

Nicole told Board members the results for grade 11 NECAP tests would hit the newspapers tomorrow and over the weekend. This is the first time grade 11 has reported. Nicole presented Board members with a handout which included a copy of the press release and comparisons of results from comparable school districts and state results. Nicole explained the math results are raising the most questions for the state and tri-state.

The tri-state comprises of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The NH Department of Education will release the test questions by type and topic. The questions will help evaluate areas of strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum. At the end of the test, students were given a survey to complete. The survey compared tests between NECAP and the classroom. The results of the survey showed 40% of the students felt the math test for NECAP was more difficult than classroom tests.. Nicole stated she would like to bring a full presentation to the Board next month. The information will help evaluate the curriculum and address both the strengths and weaknesses. It is projected the results of the AYP will be available at the end of April.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Steve asked for comments from the Public.

Howard Brown, a Mt. Vernon school Board member and bus driver stated his concerns regarding the morning bus drop off. He stated parents dropping off children are not stopping at the yield sign. The second problem is busses parking around the circle. Children walk in between the buses posing a safety risk. The only bus that is supposed to be parked is bus #3 which takes Souhegan students to the tech in Milford. The third problem is students driving into the lot are trying to beat the busses.

Mary said her office will handle the issues directly with First Student.

Jeanne asked if there was an emergency plan in place during the afternoon because busses block the entrances. Howard explained that the busses always park so they can move out of the way quickly.

Mary Lou Mullens, a candidate for the School Board was in attendance.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The B.2 Manifest was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made to accept Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1. January 10, 2007, A. 2 Minutes January 14, 2007, B. Budget 1. Treasurer's Report, B. Budget 3. Transfers, C. Personnel 1. Resignation, D. Scoreboard donation from Coca-Cola. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

B. 2. Manifest

Jeanne wanted to follow up regarding her last e-mail. Jeanne feels the check in people at the election polls should be volunteers and not paid. Betty said she looked back to 2002 and they have always been paid. Betty suggested it could be a discussion for the future but currently the extra people expect to be paid.

It was clarified the administration fee for the police bill is their workers compensation.

In regards to the “autistic program”, Kathy explained it is not a program but a person who works in support of the children who are on the spectrum of autism. This is a full time person who serves as an in house resource. There are some outside consultants for students on an as needed basis.

Steve said the manifest did not need to be approved because it was already signed by two Board members.

Jeanne pointed out Sabers was spelled wrong in the packet provided to the Board regarding the scoreboard from Coca-Cola.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. PROPOSAL-SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR

Melissa Chapman, Rebecca Martusewicz , Ken Boisselle and a Souhegan senior student presented Board members with an overview of the program and a proposal to construct a self sustaining solar power greenhouse. The program was initiated last fall with an EPA grant for sustainability education. The enrollment increased this fall to 45 students. They built raised beds with lumber donated from Wilkins Lumber Company and the soil was supplied by a former student. There were a variety of vegetable and green crops planted. The greens were provided to the salad bar and also a harvest lunch. The students worked in conjunction with Regina for food preservation. Kevin provided Board members with a hand out of the proposed greenhouse. It is a 14x16 structure mounted with pillars that could be easily removed. The structure would be on ground level. The placement of the greenhouse would be behind the annex. He is researching donations and grants. The projected cost would be \$2,000.00

There was concern among Board members regarding vandalism. Kevin stated the plastic was bullet proof.

Melissa would like more community involvement by inviting local farmers to the public forum and expo in June. They would also like to get information for local food kitchens.

Dana asked if there was a better location for the gardens. Melissa explained it is a benefit to have the gardens on site to avoid transporting students. There was discussion regarding space behind the middle school.

There were no objections from the Board members. They would like to see more community involvement.

B. PARENT E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

Scott explained there are a variety of systems available. Souhegan currently uses a variety of different software programs. The current programs are Angel, MMS and Grade Quick. He is in the process of looking at different options. Angel is not a mature software system. It hasn't upgraded to meet all the needs of grade books. Scott has set a date for teachers to have data on Angel. Teachers would not be required to use everything on the Angel software. Scott clarified that attendance is taken the first period of the day and teachers are required to take attendance for each class. Scott said it is still in the learning phase.

C. BUDGET COMMUNICATIONS

Mary provided Board members with the Preview to Voter's Guide. The goal is to have the handout to all households during school vacation. The voters guide will be in the mail by February 29th. Mary will get the voters guide to the Board members before it is mailed out. By law, the voters guide has to be out seven days in advance. Mary had the attorney review the handout and made appropriate adjustments.

There was concern regarding misinformation leading yes voters to no. Steve suggested running a video on the TV channel that would rebut any false rumors. The website could also be used for this purpose.

There was discussion about community council members calling parents to vote. Mary thinks it might backfire. There is a lawsuit pending regarding a school using children to advocate for an election.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPT. OF BOARD MEMBER TO MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST

Dana was appointed the Amherst member. Dan was appointed the Mt. Vernon member. Dana and Dan have some suggestions for nominations of citizens. Steve will ask Marilyn to appoint a member of the Advisory Finance Committee.

B. EXPENDABLE TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board members decided it was part of the discussion of the expendable trust.

C. POLICIES 2ND READING

KA-School, Community and Home Relations

JH-Student Absences and Excuses

JI-Student Rights and Responsibilities

JLBDA-Behavior Management and Intervention

JLCF-Wellness

In regards to policy JLCF, Jeanne pointed out a typo on page one under Goals #4. - it reads “20011” and should read “2011“. Also, on page 3 under F. it says “will 1” it should read “will”. Mary said as a result of this policy the food cost will increase 6% per year as opposed to 3%. Under E. Food Sales, Board members changed the sentence to read “all food items available through schools and school functions **during the school day** should meet or exceed nutritional standards established by the NH Healthy School Best Coalition. Under Middle/Junior High and High Schools, Board members changed the sentence to read “In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte (snack) lines, vending machines, school stores, concessions, fundraising etc.) to students during the school day or through **educational** programs for students after the school day, will meet the following nutrition and portion size standards.

A motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Dana to adopt policy JLCF as amended. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

A motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Dan to adopt policies KA, JH, JI, and JLDBA as printed in the packet. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. POLICIES KF-R AND KF FOR DISCUSSION

Mary stated no action was required on these policies and it was added to the agenda by mistake.

B. POLICIES - 1ST READING

AC-Non-Discrimination

ACE-Rights of Disabled/Handicapped Persons

GBAA/JBAA-Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy

JICFA-Hazing

EGA-School District Internet Access for Students

EGAD-Copyright Compliance

Mary pulled policy ACE because the attorney is reviewing it.

In regards to policy ACA Mary explained that it is in compliance with federal recommendations on sexual harassment. The complaint managers are typically a male and female faculty members. The managers would be trained. Colleen Meaney is currently the female faculty member. There is not a male faculty member appointed at this time. Jeanne said the names should be posted to make sure the school complies with the policy.

VIII. OTHER

Jeanne sent out an e-mail regarding Bob Schaumann resigning as community council member due to scheduling conflicts. Jeanne nominated Carol Gravel.

A motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Dana to appoint Carol Gravel as the community council rep. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Steve would like the administration to propose planting trees with any additional funds at the end of the year.

IX. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN

Steve said the meeting went over the time limit due to waiting to start the meeting until 4 Board members were present. Also, the sustainability seminar went over its time limit by 15 minutes.

A motion was made by Jeanne and seconded by Dan to adjourn the Board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by a unanimous vote (4-0).