

1 **Souhegan Cooperative School Board**
2 **Thursday, September 2, 2010**
3

4 **Attendance**

Attendance

5
6 **Present**

7 Chairman Steve Coughlan, Mary Lou Mullens, Jeanne Ludt, Chris Janson, Howard
8 Brown, and Pim Grondstra (arrived at 6:18).
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10 **Administrative Team**

11 Jon Ingram, Mary Athey Jennings, Nancy Maguire, and Elizabeth Shankel, Gigi Klipa,
12 Bob Thompson, Colleen Meany, Jim Miner
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14 **Community Council**

15 Scott Doyle, Patrick O'Mara, Jill Parolin, Nathan Castle
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17 **Minutes Taker**

18 Beth Penney
19

20 **Call to Order**

Call to Order

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22 Mr. Coughlan called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
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24 **Announcements**

Announcements

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26 **Principal's Report**
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28 Mr. Ingram added to the principal's report that he was impressed by registration
29 day because there are 872 students enrolled at SHS and only 8 students did not
30 show to register. The first day of school had a good tone.
31

32 Ms. Mullens asked about team 10Y and how they are grading on Learner
33 Expectations. She wanted to know more and how parents were going to be educated
34 about this.
35

36 Ms. Meany stated that team 10Y was going to focus on the academic learner
37 expectations as well as grades. Families will receive feedback on student's progress
38 on each learner expectation and these will accompany the grade reports. The hope
39 is that this will show more in-depth feedback at progress report and grade time. At
40 registration day parents received an article that the whole staff has read and team
41 10Y is doing a more in-depth presentation on Back to School Night.
42

43 Ms. Ludt asked about students receiving grades and if students are receiving poor
44 grades if parents will be contacted prior to progress reports and grades.
45

46 Ms. Meany stated that students will receive grades and parents will be contacted if a
47 student shows signs of struggling prior to progress reports and grades. The
48 feedback provided on the learner expectations is actionable because it will show
49 strengths and weakness rather than a student just receiving a B.

50
51 Ms. Ludt expressed her concern that the language of the learner expectations is
52 difficult. She would like to see more of it translated into layman language to help
53 students be more successful.

54
55 Mr. Brown asked that the board receive a copy of the article that was given to the
56 parents.

57
58 Ms. Meany stated that they are looking to revise the verbiage of the learner
59 expectations.

60
61 Dr. Jennings stated that we opened school in all districts and everything went well.
62 She thanked the board members who came to the opening day.

63
64 Ms. Shankel stated that the food service did well last year and they were only \$600
65 short. They hired a new manager for food service who use to do the food and
66 catering for the Fisher Cats. The new manager has put together a catering menu for
67 advisories to compete with some of the outside options for ordering food. The food
68 director has met with lots of students and done some taste testing and hopes to
69 change the menu to make the cafeteria more appealing and convenient for students
70 and staff.

71
72 Community Council Report

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74 Scott Doyle stated that the executive members had a meeting over the summer to
75 discuss goals for the year. They also looked at how to better live up to Souhegan Six
76 and set the first meeting agenda. They also reviewed the proposal for security. The
77 first full council meeting will be September 13th at night.

78
79 Ms. Mullens stated there was a letter to editor requesting another Mont Vernon and
80 Amherst member for the Community Council. Application letters need to be looked
81 at before the next meeting.

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83 Committee Reports

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85 Ms. Ludt Stated that she and Mr. Brown would like to report out on the possible
86 changes to the yearbook policy at the next meeting.

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88 Dr. Jennings stated the board must appoint someone from the community to the
89 budget committee before the SAU meeting later this month.

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91 **Public Time**

Public Time

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No public present.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Ms. Ludt asked for clarification on which bank the SAU is banking with.

Ms. Shankel stated that the SAU is still with Ocean bank, which was a subsidiary of People’s Bank, but has now been renamed to People’s Bank.

Ms. Shankel and the board discussed how the town of Amherst has switched banks. The SAU has done a great deal of research and feel People’s Bank continues to be the best option.

Mr. Coughlan asked to pull the minutes of August 19th.

The Consent Agenda containing the minutes from July 15th, the treasures report and the manifest was adopted.

Ms. Janson made a motion to approve the August 19th minutes and Ms. Mullens seconded the motion.

Mr. Coughlan asked to change on page 24 the “lin” to “lan” for Mr. Coughlan’s last name.

The minutes were adopted as amended all board members approved, except Mr. Grondstra abstained.

Discussion

Discussion

Security Report

Three members of community council attended the meeting to field questions from the board. They included Nathan Castle a 10th grader, Patrick O’Mara the moderator and Jill Parolin the treasurer.

Ms. Ludt asked the members of the community council to explain why security cameras have been ruled out except in the parking lot.

Patrick stated that the council came up with a list of suggestions that are in the packet but not prioritized. Each idea was presented and voted on. The idea of cameras in the buildings was voted down and the cameras in the parking lots were voted for. The cameras in the parking lots were more valued because this is the space that has the least monitoring. Last year there were lots of events involving cars being damaged and theft.

137 Mr. Thompson stated that the community had raised concerns about the building
138 being used at nights and on weekends and they would like to protect the building on
139 the outside. Having exterior cameras would allow us to monitor the whole campus
140 because the buildings are locked. The cameras would be recordable, but the
141 parameters of the cameras have not been determined yet because we were waiting
142 for school board approval first. A person will not monitor the cameras all the time
143 because we do not have the staffing for that.

144

145 John Smith stated that some cameras have the capability to be set-up and viewed
146 remotely. They can also be connected to the police department and have motion
147 sensors. If the camera detects motion it will send an alert to the police department
148 and there will be quicker response. There is lots of technology available.

149

150 Dr. Jennings stated the cameras are live at AMS and are observed by a secretary in
151 the office.

152

153 Ms. Mullens stated that the council decided not to have cameras at the doors
154 because their discussion was looking at being preventative not reactionary. Cameras
155 at entranceways would be reactionary. There are also a large number of doors that
156 have to be opened, so this does not allow us to have a buzz in system.

157

158 Nathan stated that all of the other schools they had visited that had cameras started
159 with some and then got more until they had cameras that could see everything.
160 These schools have found that having cameras has not solved the issues.

161

162 Mr. Coughlan asked the board if the security report should be built into the budget
163 that will be started at the next meeting or should it be put into the prioritization of
164 the Gale report.

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166 A discussion by the board ensued about the parts of the security proposal and how
167 to accomplish them. Parts of the proposal could be integrated into the Gale report,
168 but those items will not happen this year. John Smith has been looking into grants
169 for the school to help offset some of the cost. If one of the grants is matching than
170 the Expendable Trust committee can view the proposal. Community council
171 members should attend the Expendable Trust meetings to help explain the rationale
172 behind the proposals. The security cameras for the parking lots should be priced
173 out so that the board can look at adding them to this year's budget. Mr. Miner had
174 already completed some of the no cost and low cost items. John Smith's office has
175 already been moved downstairs to the front offices. Signage and continued
176 conversations with the staff and students about security will continue to happen.
177 Some lockers in one of the wings have been replaced with larger lockers. The board
178 thanked the Community Council for all of their hard work. The board will work to
179 prioritize the security proposal and continue to improve the security in the school.

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181 **Action Items**

Action Items

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183 Policy KED

184 Dr. Jennings stated that this policy is exactly as it was two weeks ago.

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186 A break was called and Mr. Coughlan called the meeting back to order at 7:04pm.

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188 **Ms. Mullens made a motion to accept policy KED and Mr. Grondstra seconded**
189 **the motion. The vote was unanimous.**

190

191 **Presentations**

Presentations

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193 Gale Report

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195 Was presented by Bill Seymour, Steve Marshall, Peter Spanos and Don Walter

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197 The presenters reviewed how the data was collected for the Gale Report and each
198 part of the Gale report was highlighted in the presentation including the building
199 envelope, parking lots and driveways, drainage, athletic facilities, dining facilities,
200 academic facilities and the projected demographics for the future.

201

202 The board asked many clarifying questions to which the answers are summarized
203 below. The Gale Report recommends fixing the bricks and gutters before replacing
204 the roof on the main building. The Gale Report recommends adding and fixing
205 external site lighting when doing the security phase of the master plan. The board
206 discussed paving the parking lot next to the Bean Fields when repaving the
207 driveway. Mr. Miner stated he would work on getting approval from the power
208 company since that is technically their land. Both the town and the school widely
209 over use the athletic fields. The town is also being assessed for recommendations
210 for the recreation department and the findings show all of the town's fields are
211 being over used. The bleachers in the football field are not ADA compliant, so if any
212 work is done those will have to be updated to meet ADA standards. The board
213 discussed in depth the recommendation to install two turf fields as indicated in the
214 Gale Report. The Gale Report found a drop in the school's demographics by 111
215 students over the next ten years. Dr. Jennings has other data that shows the
216 demographics may drop as many as 270 students over the next ten years. Dr.
217 Jennings and the Gale associates will look into this discrepancy further.

218

219 The Gale associates stated that they are looking for feedback from the board and
220 plan to have a final draft of the Gale Report to the board in 10- 14 days and will give
221 the board as many copies as they would like of the actual report.

222

223 The board discussed having the Gale associates come back to give a presentation to
224 the town. The board discussed in depth how to best do this and determined the
225 presentation should be given in two parts. Since the town recreation department is
226 also working with the Gale associates then the presentation for the recreation
227 department and the athletic parts for Souhegan should be presented together. The
228 rest of the proposals for Souhegan should be presented prior to the athletic

229 presentation. The two presentations should happen not on the same night but close
230 together. The board determined it would be best if both
231 presentations occurred before Halloween. Mr. Coughlan will
232 follow-up with the recreation department and the Gale associates
233 for the best time to present both reports.

Review of Meeting

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Review of Meeting

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237 Ms. Ludt asked to have the board set their goals for the year.

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239 Dr. Jennings stated that one of the boards wants to focus on major areas. At the next
240 meeting we are presenting the major goals of SHS for this year.

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242 Ms. Ludt stated that she would like to have a goal about communication. The goal
243 should include things we expect as a board, who should communicate with the
244 board, how they should communicate, and what needs clarity. She asked for this
245 discussion to be put on the next agenda. The board is still being left out of loop on
246 some key areas; the board needs to be more informed to have more success.

247

Adjourn

Adjourn

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250 **Ms. Mullens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm and Mr.**

251 **Grondstra seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.**