#### SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

# 2 Thursday, June 6, 2013

### 3 **PRESENT**

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- 4 Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Mary Lou Mullens, Howard Brown, Peter Maresco, Steve
- 5 Coughlan, Chris Janson, and Pim Grondstra
- 6 Administrative Team: Peter Warburton, Jon Ingram, Nicole Heimarck, Renea Sparks, Gigi
- 7 Klipa, Rob Scully, and Kathy White
- 8 <u>Community Council Member</u>: Jonah Foulks
- 9 Minute Taker: Beth Penney

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# 11 CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mullens called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

# 13 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 14 Principal's Report
- 15 Mr. Ingram introduced three students who traveled to Italy with the Jazz band to perform.
- Brad Odner, Jonah Foulks, and Jeff Johanson are part of the 23 student Giant Steps Jazz Band at
- 17 SHS who traveled over February break to Italy for 8 days. They visited many cities including
- Milan, Venice, Florence, and Rome. They performed in Jazz clubs, cafes', and at the
- 19 International School at Florence. American Jazz is more popular in Italy than in the states. They
- 20 had a great tour director and there are plans to do an international trip every four years to
- 21 perform.
- The Board thanked Carl Benevides who could not be here tonight.
- 23 Students from the Ethics Forum presented to the board. They explained what Ethics Forum is
- and what they do. They discussed their big event HYPE, which happened last Wednesday on
- 25 May 29<sup>th</sup>. The group had received a \$5,000 grant from NH Humanities' Council, which paid for
- 26 "personnel costs". The discussion questions were determined with Spaulding High School and
- 27 SHS students. The essential question was what is happiness and there were three sub essential
- 28 questions about happiness. The goals at Hype were to promote collaboration, to deepen
- understanding of Socratic dialog, and to explore the ideas of happiness in an academic setting.

- To prepare for HYPE the Ethics Forum made connections with St. Anslems College, Granite
- 31 State College, UNH, and Hesser College. The students discussed the preparation for the event
- in which 15 other schools participated with 250 students. There were 21 breakout groups and
- each group had 1 facilitator from SHS and 1 from Spaulding High School. The group discussed
- 34 the results of surveys students took at the end of HYPE. Most students would participate again,
- found the day philosophically challenging, a majority of people enjoyed the day and had a good
- experience. This years Juniors are getting started before their Senior year starts. They want to
- expand HYPE, they are hoping to keep the current business relationships and make better
- relationships. They would like to make Ethics Forum and HYPE grow. The goal is to add 5
- schools and 400 people to attend the HYPE event. They would like to do a fundraising concert,
- 40 expand the mentoring programs to all of the school districts. The new HYPE leaders are very
- 41 excited and have large shoes to fill.
- 42 Mr. Warburton stated that he and Mr. Ingram attended the HYPE event and the students were
- very impressive. Another adult told Mr. Warburton after the HYPE event that this type of event
- 44 is truly what SHS is about.
- The board and the students discussed initiatives to ensure the students read the provided book,
- 46 including doing a give away fro questions answered about the book.
- The Board thanked the students for their hard work.
- 48 Mr. Ingram gave the board an update on the master schedule. The proposal to postpone the 8
- 49 period day did not pass. Students have their course selections complete, teaching assignments
- are out and they are beginning to set-up teams.
- Mr. Ingram discussed the administrative survey and the process to develop a new survey. This
- 52 process included the department coordinators. The survey will be delivered using Survey
- Monkey and there is a place for additional comments. Mr. Ingram showed the board the
- categories and prompts on the new survey. In the fall, the full staff will work to make a better
- survey for next year. This years survey will go out in Survey Monkey on Monday and the person
- monitoring the survey is not an administrator. The administration will share the results with the
- staff in the fall and the board in August.
- 58 Mr. Ingram discussed the School Climate Report, which looks at school conduct including
- 59 bullying, physical altercations, drugs and alcohol. This survey goes to the state and is one
- 60 measure of school culture. The administration will present 2 school years worth of the School
- 61 Climate Report in August to the board.
- Ms. Mullens asked for data for years beyond the last 2 school years.
- 63 Mr. Ingram will explain how the reporting has changed when the laws of bullying changed and
- he will discuss that in August.

# 65 <u>Community Council</u>

- Jonah Foulks is the new Community Council (CC) representative. He discussed the appeal to
- have homework over vacation or not and that this will be discussed at Monday's meeting. The
- 68 hand dryers or paper towels proposal will be discussed on Monday also and the CC will make a
- recommendation to the board. The CC will be creating a task force to look at alternative courses
- 70 for AP classes.
- 71 The board and Jonah discussed that the paper towels and hand dryers proposal is discussed every
- year and comes out of a project from Mike Fox's class.
- 73 Jonah invited everyone to Monday's 6pm meeting.
- 74 The board and Jonah discussed the homework proposal and why AP classes are excluded from
- 75 the proposal being that they have to cover a large amount of content before the AP exam. A
- teacher brought the appeal for this proposal forward.
- 77 Ms. Mullens invited Jonah to stay at the board meeting and for his input during the meeting.
- 78 Ms. Mullens read a letter from Christine Redd, who is interested in filling the Amherst
- 79 Community position on the Community Council.
- 80 Ms. Mullens nominated Christine Redd as the Amherst Community Council
- 81 representative. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Redd will start in the fall.
- 83 Committee Report
- 84 Mr. Brown stated that the policy committee is discussing the ability to wear uniforms at
- 85 graduation.
- Mr. Coughlan stated that PPC is going through the personnel policies to ensure they are up to
- 87 date and clear. They will bring the board amendments to clarify the policies in the fall.
- Ms. Mullens stated that the budget committee will meet this summer and will meet with Hollis,
- 89 Bedford, and Milford superintendents to discuss their budgets and budget process.
- 90 Mr. Warburton stated that two members from the Advisory Finance Committee contacted him.
- They are pleased that the board has started a strategic plan and starting the budget process
- earlier. He thanked David Chen and Dan Foley for coming in to speak with him.
- 93 The board discussed that the Athletic Facility committee will be back on track in August and that
- Mr. Ingram will help set up a meeting with the board representatives and Mr. Miller.

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- 96 <u>Facilities Update</u>
- 97 Mr. Miner discussed that the work on the HVAC and Roof is set to begin the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. He
- 98 discussed the end cost compared to the Gale Report estimates. There will be a savings of
- 99 \$725,000 principal and \$73,234 interest. The cost is significantly lower than the original
- estimate. The Bond will be put to sale at the end of June and they have the interest rate then.
- Ms. Mullens thanked Mr. Miner and Ms. Shankel for making costs as low as possible.
- Mr. Miner explained that the roof work will also take a chunk out of the masonry issues because
- of run off from the roof will change.
- Mr. Miner introduced, John Robichaud, the new head of maintenance at SHS, to the board.
- Ms. Mullens thanked Bruce Wasson for all of his hard work over the years and his care and
- dedication to the school.
- Mr. Wasson thanked the board for backing him and for the great relationship. He is sad to leave,
- but it is time. He thanked the SAU and the administration for being wonderful and stated that he
- appreciated everything they had done for him.
- 110 Mike Akillian
- Ms. Mullens introduced Mike Akillian as the new liaison from the Board of Selectman.
- The board and Mr. Akillian discussed how to be collaborative, make connections, and work on
- strategic planning.
- The board will send Mr. Akillian the meeting agendas and minutes and he will try to attend
- meeting as often as possible. Mr. Akillian will send presentations from the Board of Selectman
- meeting to Ms. Mullens.

### 117 **PUBLIC TIME**

118 No public present.

# 119 CONSENT AGENDA

- 120 Mr. Coughlan asked to pull the minutes of May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Maresco asked to pull item G, the Autism Bridges ABA therapy Services.
- Ms. Sparks explained the Occupational Therapy bidding and the policy for bids. If there is a
- potential to spend over \$25,000 for services a request for proposal is needed. She discussed the
- bids, which were similar and stated that she recommends Boothbe because the schools have a
- relationship with them already.

- Mr. Maresco asked what is the purpose of the letter from Autism Bridges.
- Ms. Sparks stated that the purpose of the letter is because the policy requires it. Autism Bridges
- is the sole provider of the required services so this cannot go out for bid.
- Ms. Sparks and Mr. Maresco discussed how the SAU could control what the company charges
- the school for the services. The contracted services are competitive compared to companies in
- other regions of the state.
- Mr. Coughlan asked to change line 131 in the May 9<sup>th</sup> minutes to Mr. Warburton and not Mr.
- 133 Coughlan. Also the RSA citation should be included.
- Mr. Coughlan made a motion to accept the consent agenda including The minutes of May
- 7, 2013, the amended May 9, 2013 minutes, the May 21, 2013 minutes, the Treasurer's
- 136 Report for April 2013, the Unanticipated Revenue including the Donation to Student
- 137 Activities (SHS Robotics Club) from Preforms Plus Inc.- \$2,000, Donation to SHS Student
- 138 Activities \$92.03 from BAE Systems-Matching Gifts Program, Donation to Student
- 139 Activities- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, \$1,500.00, a Resignation letter, and
- 140 Autism Bridges, Inc. ABA Therapy Services. Ms. Janson seconded the motion and the
- vote was unanimous except Mr. Maresco abstained from the May 7th minutes and Mr.
- Maresco and Mr. Grondstra abstained from the May 21st minutes.

### 143 PRESENTATIONS/ REPORTS

- 144 <u>Assessments</u>
- Ms. Heimarck stated that there is a lot of data and it is an ongoing process to examine it. The
- data that is being analyzed includes NECAP, SAT, ACT, AP classes, PSAT, and local common
- performance assessments.
- Ms. Heimarck discussed the reading data first. The profiles of students are not always apples to
- apples from year to year so it is hard to follow a cohort of students. The data shows the 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- assessment and 11th grade assessment in NECAP. SHS saw their highest performance in
- NECAP with 87% of students proficient or above. 3 students in the current 11<sup>th</sup> grade class fell
- in the lowest performance level. Students who were partially proficient missed the cut point by 1
- or 2 points. Compared to other districts SHS still has room for some growth. The highest a
- district could get is 95% of students to proficiency in reading. The highest school in state has
- 155 94% proficiency.
- Karen Chinnis discussed the SAT scores, which are for college application and admissions
- process. She showed the mean scores for SHS, the State, and the Nation. Last year, SHS had an
- 158 80% participation rate. The reading scores for SHS are all higher than state and national scores.
- 159 SHS is very competitive with other districts in the state.

- Ms. Heimarck stated that there are strands of skills that can be compared in the NECAP and
- PSAT tests. Across the board in the SAU the student's strength is in vocabulary and Word ID. In
- the PSAT this was not shown as a strength. In the PSAT students did very well in initial
- understanding of literary text and this was shown in the NECAP results also. The SAU needs to
- look more in depth at the questions and the rigor between the two assessments.
- Ms. Heimarck discussed the NECAP results for Math. There was an increase in the number of
- proficient students, but there is much room for growth and room for digging deeper into the data.
- Many districts are struggling with the level of rigor in the assessment because the SAT and
- PSAT data shows a very different story. In Math, SHS is not as competitive in the state, but the
- whole state is very low in math since the highest district only has 72% of students achieving
- 170 proficiency.
- 171 Ms. Chinnis discussed the SAT Math data. The scores are all higher than the state mean and
- national mean scores. The College Board identifies benchmarks for the three subject tests at 500
- and SHS beats all of these benchmarks. SHS is very competitive compared to other districts in
- the state.
- Ms. Heimarck stated that the SAT scores show a different picture and there is room for growth,
- but the scores are far more competitive than with the NECAP scores.
- Ane Swift stated that the Math department uses the data from the assessments to look at strengths
- and weaknesses. Geometry was a weakness and the staff has looked at what content, the rigor
- and how the content is delivered. The staff has managed to bring those skills up and be
- consistent in the student's performance. Functions and algebra was a strength, but numbers and
- operations is an area of weakness. This shows up in the lower grades as an area that is weak also.
- Every class grades 9-12 do an activity for these skills and the teachers work with each other in
- department meetings to work on curriculum activities. They are also working on literacy in math
- and communication. The school has seen growth in these skills and they are a strength.
- 185 Reasoning questions and synthesis questions were an area that showed growth. This is nice to
- see because they are highly integrated into the Common Core. They will also work with the AP
- scores to look at how to improve the math students are getting.
- 188 Ms. Chinnis discussed the ACT data, which is also used for college admission. This assessment
- is gaining popularity and SHS had 51% participation. This is a curriculum-based assessment and
- score range from 1- 35 in each subject. For all subject areas SHS has increased scores from 5
- 191 years ago.
- Ms. Chinnis discussed that SHS was awarded the AP Honor Role because of the number of
- students receiving high scores. SHS offers 13 courses and the exams are curriculum based. 184
- students are in AP courses and 167 of those took the AP tests. SHS administered over 300
- exams and 75% of students scored between 3 and 5, which are considered passing scores.

- Ms. Chinnis discussed that all of the juniors took the PSAT in October. The PSAT is offered to
- 197 freshman and sophomores (less than half took the test) also, but the scores reflect only the
- iuniors. The students meet with their counselors to review the scores and to discuss how to
- improve. Students have access to a web based prep for SAT based on the scores they get on the
- 200 PSATs.
- Mr. Ingram discussed the Local Common Performance Assessments. He explained the
- background of how local assessment came about. The state has been working with schools to
- 203 develop assessments besides the standardized tests. SHS is in the middle of this work, but these
- assessments will give another data point to show grow and where there is growth needed. The
- work the school has to do is looking at the Learner Expectations and the Common Core
- standards to develop the assessments.
- 207 Ms. Heimarck stated that the Common Core assessment will include performance based items
- 208 tied to the accountably for NO Child Left Behind. They are allowing schools to examine
- 209 performance based assessment and the ability to apply skills to real world scenarios. The district
- 210 has three people working to develop that assessment.
- 211 Ms. Heimarck discussed the Newsweek and World Report rankings, which ranks schools for the
- college readiness of their students. She showed stats from that report. She explained that this
- 213 report is generated by schools self reporting.
- 214 Ms. Chinnis discussed that the graduation rate formula does not include students who complete
- work in summer, GED or 5 year plan students. If those students are included then SHS has a
- 216 100% graduation rate. SHS is very earnest in reporting and there may be a different
- 217 understanding in how to report by other schools.
- 218 Ms. Heimarck discussed the US News and World report, which graphs on a college readiness
- index. SHS has a higher college readiness than other schools many of which are nationally
- ranked. SHS falls out of the report because one of the parts of the index is the closing of the
- achievement gap of minority students. SHS does not have enough minority students to show a
- 222 gap closing and there for SHS is not included in the report.
- 223 Cathy White discussed how the school uses the data including the teachers, counselors, students
- and teams.
- 225 Ms. Heimarck discussed next steps including the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, which the
- SAU is working with this curriculum-based survey to ask teachers to self-report on content and
- skills, rigor, and teaching practices. They are using this as a gap analysis tool to help align with
- the Common Core. 2015 is the first year students will be assessed k-12 on the Common Core
- standards. The SAU has 6 people on a Common Core team to design a plan for implementation.
- They are building capacity to bring learning and professional development back to the schools.
- 231 SHS is already philosophically aligned to many of the new standards.

- 232 Ms. Klipa stated that the school is working really hard to always look at what students know and
- 233 to finding a consistent and systematic way to look at data and work with the weaknesses. The
- school is working on a RTI model and wants to bring more data to the table about how the
- students are responding to the instruction. The school is also looking at professional
- development to better understand what the staff needs to help them improve students learning,
- best practices, and learning styles. They are also building on work for the common performance
- assessments.
- 239 Mr. Maresco stated that he struggles with the number of students in National Honor society,
- 240 which is about 30-35% based on our assessment, and yet the PSAT and SAT scores do not match
- 241 this.
- 242 Ms. Heimarck stated that the Learner Expectations are not a focus on habits over content it is the
- blend of them. The new set of standards focus on perseverance, which is a cultural challenge in
- Americans schools. If a student cannot persevere they will not be successful in challenging
- content. There is a gap between the performance of students in American schools compared to
- 246 foreign students.
- Mr. Ingram stated that National Honors Society has 4 pillars, including scholarship, leadership,
- character, and community service. Students must have a 3.6 GPA. Using one measure of
- student success is not always a good thing.
- The board and Ms. Heimarck discussed teaching kids how to take the tests. Tests are a genre of
- reading and that is a shift in the last 12 months. A district wide discussion needs to happen about
- 252 how we approach that and there is a skill to taking a test. By looking at the question level at these
- assessments there is a trend of students picking the distractor answer in test design. This is tough
- because the SAU feels strongly that they are not a set of districts that teach to the test and instead
- build curriculum from standards.
- The board and Ms. Chinnis discussed the SATs, which is not a test about achievement and
- 257 knowledge but about college readiness for the first year of college.
- Ms. Heimarck stated that the designer of the Common Core standards is now head of the College
- Board and colleges will start to request those scores also.
- The board discussed going to the districts in the state like Hanover who has very high NECAP
- scores to talk with them about their curriculum. This had already happened and the discussion
- was more about the population of students and less about a best practice.
- 263 Ms. Swift discussed pulling together Math heads and leaders from SHS and Hollis-Brookline to
- discuss Common Core, which will help SHS to gather more data also.

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- 266 Tech Plan
- 267 Bruce Chakrin and Jon Ranta presented to the board.
- 268 Mr. Chakrin discussed the background on technology planning in schools. The plans are no
- longer submitted to the state and schools now have rolling technology plans, which will be
- looked at regularly and update constantly.
- Mr. Ranta discussed the task force for technology, which included administration and teachers.
- 272 He discussed the goals for the next 3 years including: every classroom to be digital, one device
- 273 per student, open social media apps, students and teachers have 7x24 access to grades, real time
- collaboration, free software, community of learners that embrace technology, digital portfolios,
- 275 more professional development for technology integration, maintain network, additional courses
- in technology, e-book access, real time broadcast, real time communication, projection in every
- classroom, use a less restrictive web filter, less laptop carts and computer labs and maintaining
- administrative technology. He discussed a wide variety of examples of how technology is used
- in the curriculum. He discussed a Flip classroom, where the teacher's lecture is watched at night
- as a YouTube video and next day students apply what has been learned. This is used in Math a
- lot. He discussed the uses and benefits of technology throughout the school.
- 282 Mr. Brown stated that the technology committee did a great job putting the plan together.
- 283 Mr. Chakrin gave out a projected budget, which keeps line items flat. Although there will be a
- need to increase wireless capacity because of more BYOD, increase band width to internet as use
- 285 more outside services with more devices, improvements with virtual desktops, and the ability to
- deliver the Smarter Balance Assessment.
- The board, Mr. Chakrin and Mr. Ranta discussed the use of people in the school as professional
- development. They also discussed the future of eBooks and licensing fees, which will be coming
- in the future although we are not there yet.
- 290 Mr. Coughlan made a motion to approve the technology plan as presented. Mr. Brown
- seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- 292 Mr. Warburton stated that there are 2 requests for field trips.
- 293 Mr. Scully stated that he has been trying to align compliance for trips that were already in
- 294 planning process before the policy. There is a trip to Spain that has been happening for many
- years with Steve Goodwin and is happening this summer. He has met with coordinators and is
- 296 working to comply to the changes in the policy.
- The board and Mr. Scully discussed the fundraising policy and that money must be raised in the
- year the trip is going. In the future the board will approve of each trip before teachers put the
- possible trip out to students. Therefore no signs for trips can go up before the board approves the

- trip. The board is covered by insurance for all trips. The board will approve all trips every year,
- even if a trip happens every year. A discussion of the number of trips offered and a student who
- cannot afford the trips was also discussed.
- 303 Mr. Warburton stated that policy work is hard and SHS is trying to conform to the policies,
- teachers and all staff will sign off on the policies in the fall.
- 305 Mr. Maresco and Mr. Scully discussed how much class time will be missed and what is the plan
- for the educational impact of the trips. They discussed data that Ms. Nichols is putting together
- from this year and how this will be used for a staff wide discussion. Mr. Scully will bring the
- data to the board when it is completed.
- 309 Ms. Mullens stated that she would put on the August agenda to look at a list of field trips.
- 310 Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the proposal for Spain trip. Mr. Maresco seconded
- 311 the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- 312 Mr. Warburton asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Ms. Shankel to accept the
- 313 Audit bid from Vachon Clukay & Company PC.
- Mr. Grondstra made a motion to accept Ms. Shankel's recommendation for Vachon
- 315 Clukay & Company PC as the districts auditors. Mr. Maresco seconded the motion and the
- 316 vote was unanimous.

#### 317 **INFORMAL**

- 318 Ms. Mullens stated that the board would have a workshop on August 13<sup>th</sup> where they will discuss
- 319 the evaluation, goals, and have a conversation with the administration about their goals. She will
- send a summary of the evaluation to the board.
- 321 Mr. Warburton stated that the whole leadership team should go to the workshop.
- The board discussed the workshop, why they are having the workshop, and the need to have a
- specific agenda and how it will be facilitated.
- Ms. Mullens stated that she would email a focused agenda and asked the board to email her with
- 325 ideas for the agenda.
- 326 Mr. Gronstra made a motion to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II. (c) at 9:26pm.
- 327 Mr. Brown seconded the motion and the role call was all yes.
- 328 **PRESENT:**
- 329 SCSC Board Members: Steve Coughlan, Peter Maresco, Mary Lou Mullens, Christine Janson,
- 330 Howard Brown, Pim Grondstra

331	Administrators: Superintendent Peter Warburton
332	Non-Public Session
333	Entered non-public session, from public session, at 9:27 pm.
334	Personnel matters were discussed.
335	MOTION TO EXIT NON PUBLIC SESSION:
336 337 338	At 10:13 hrs <b>Chris Janson</b> made a motion to exit non public session. Motion seconded by <b>Peter Maresco</b> . Unanimously accepted by roll call vote: Coughlan: yes, Grondstra: yes, Janson: yes, Mullens: yes, Brown: yes, Maresco: yes.
339 340	The board discussed committee meetings, <b>sharepoint</b> updates, <b>HYPE</b> presentations, board attendances.
341	MOTION TO ADJOURN:
342 343	At 10:25 hrs <b>Pim Grondstra</b> made a motion to adjourn the meeting. <b>Steve Coughlan</b> seconded the motion and was unanimously accepted.
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