

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7, 2015
SOUHEGAN INFO CENTER

PRESENT:

SCSC Board Members: Steve Coughlan, Christine Janson, Mary Lou Mullens, Howard Brown, Pim Grondstra, Peter Maresco, Fran Harrow

Administration: **Superintendent** Peter Warburton, **Business Administrator** Betty Shankel, **Dean of Students** Peter Gagnon, and **Director of Special Education** Meg Beauchamp

Advisory Finance Committee: Jeanne Ludt, Pete Sterns, David Chen, and Tom Silvia

Public: Theresa Burnley

Minutes taken by Howard Brown

Call to order

5:34 pm. Mary Lou Mullens called the meeting to order.

Discussion: Budget Slides and Discussion

The Advisory Finance Committee (AFC) member **Tom Silvia** presented a slide presentation on tax and budget years, from 2003 through 2013. This led to a discussion on various questions and concerns leading up to the FY16 budget. The discussion included student enrollment, Souhegan's cost per pupil in comparison of other high schools and Souhegan's cost per person versus enrollment.

6:05 pm. Chairman **Mary Lou Mullens** recessed meeting to open a Public Hearing to discuss donations from Monarch International, Inc. of \$5,000 and a donation to Student Activities of \$100 from Peter J. Rothschild.

6:07 pm. Chairman **Mullens** closed the Public Hearing and returned to regular meeting.

Discussion: Camera Proposal

Student Resource Officer **John Smith** presented to the board the Community Council camera proposal. **Mary Lou Mullens** stated that the Community Council recommended that up to five cameras be added to the Souhegan's outside areas. **Chris Janson** asked where the money would come from and when would it be available. **Betty Shankel** replied that there are no funds available and would have to forecast the proposal. **Steve Coughlan** confirmed that cameras were needed due to lack of coverage, however, due to lack of funds asked if one camera would be useful. **Officer Smith** replied that any increase of camera coverage would be helpful.

Officer Smith further commented that adding five more cameras would max out our current digital recording system.

Pim Grondstra commented that he has struggled with the idea we need more camera coverage. **Steve Coughlan** stated that there is a majority of time when the facility is in use by the public and since the Community Council recommended the proposal he would be in favor of the increased camera coverage. **Chris Janson** offered that this proposal came from the Community Council and she would have preferred a Community Council student presented the proposal to the board.

Steve Coughlan made a motion to table the discussion until the next month board meeting. **Fran Harrow** seconded the motion and was unanimously accepted by the board.

Discussion: Principal Report

Principal Rob Scully presented his principal report:

- “Thank You” to Bo Dean (Freshman boys Basketball Coach), Peabody Mills Environmental Center and Advisories (Sponsor a Child Program)
- Updates on PACE (Performance Assessment for Competency Education)
- Progress Report to United States Department of Education
- Teacher Leader Effectiveness
- Student/Teacher Ratio
- School Climate
- New Technology Access for SHS Students

Discussion: Committee Reports

Scholarship Applications Committee – **Fran Harrow** complimented **Chris Janson**, and team, for a great job on revising the scholarship forms.

Discussion: Public Comment

Chairman Mullens recognized **Theresa Burnley** (Simeon Wilson Road) for public comment. **Ms. Burnley** presented each board member a binder report outlining the proposed Northeast Natural Gas Pipeline. In this report were:

- Letter to Residents
- Kinder Morgan Accidents and Safety Violations
- Facts about Kinder Morgan
- Newspaper Articles
- 15 Reasons to Oppose Pipeline
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Hollis says “NO”
- Amherst Petition to change Residential to Rural Zoning

Ms. Burnley stated that it would be in the best interest of Amherst citizens to oppose this proposed pipeline and by presenting to this board she had hoped to make more citizens aware. **Chairman Mullens** responded that the board appreciated her comments, however, this item

was not in the purview of the Souhegan School Board. **Chairman Mullens** stated that as Amherst citizens we were interested in the knowledge and being kept abreast, of the situation.

Discussion: Consent Agenda

Pim Grondstra requested to pull the December 4 minutes and **Howard Brown** requested to pull the December 29 minutes, from the Consent Agenda. **Pim** stated that he was not listed in the attendees for the meeting and **Howard** stated he was not at the December 29 meeting.

Fran Harrow made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda (minus the December 29 minutes) with the correction of adding **Pim** to the December 4 minutes. **Pim Grondstra** seconded and was unanimously approved.

Pim Grondstra made a motion to accept the December 29 minutes. **Steve Coughlan** seconded the motion and was unanimously approved with **Howard Brown** abstaining.

Discussion: FY15 2nd Quarter Report and FY16 Budget

Betty Shankel presented the FY15 2nd Quarter report and informed the board the state had miscalculated the Catastrophic Aid, for our district. **Betty** informed the board that **Meg Beauchamp** and herself had caught the wrong figure and notified the state. The state changed the figure but on closer attention had still not supplied the correct number. Because of the incorrect number the unreserved fund balance will end up with approximately \$30,000 instead of \$250,528, the SAU had planned.

Betty requested the **Advisory Finance Committee** have the warrant articles tally vote recommendations completed so the SAU could add the recommendations to the warrant articles.

Discussion: Hockey Fees

In previous board meetings there had been discussion on lowering the Souhegan hockey user fees and dues. **Peter Maresco** stated that the number of students playing hockey is down this year and the board should hold off on this discussion.

Discussion: Field Trips

Peter Gagnon presented two field trips for board approval.

1st Field Trip: Request from Marjorie Hobbs (Library Assistant SHS), Kim Cardozza (Social Studies teacher, Nashua HS) and Kalynda Beal (German teacher, Mascenic Regional HS) to go to Germany, on June 22 through July 8, 2015. Educational objectives: foster students' learning of World Studies and the German language by providing them with a homestay experience. Where applicable, students who hosted a German student in the fall will stay with that student's family during the trip. Discussion.

Peter Maresco made a motion to approve the Germany trip. **Fran Harrow** seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

2nd Field Trip: Request from Kathy Maddock and Aimee Gibbons to go to Costa Rica during April 2015 vacation. Educational objectives: Costa Rica culture, practice Spanish language and service activities. Discussion.

Steve Coughlan made a motion to approve the **Costa Rica** trip. **Fran Harrow** seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Policy

Policy EGA (School District Internet Access for Students) was presented to the school board for a second reading.

Pim Grondstra made a motion to accept policy EGA. **Peter Maresco** seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Policy JKAA (Use of Physical Restraint) was presented to the school board for a second reading. There was discussion and a decision to bring this policy to next month's board meeting, after some changes.

MOTION TO ENTER NON PUBLIC SESSION:

At 8:28 pm **Fran Harrow** made a motion to enter non-public session. Motion seconded by **Peter Maresco**. Unanimously accepted by roll call vote: Coughlan: yes, Grondstra: yes, Janson: yes, Mullens: yes, Brown: yes, Maresco: yes, Harrow: yes.

The board discussed a student matter.

The board discussed retirement requests.

MOTION TO EXIT NON PUBLIC SESSION:

At **9:06** pm. **Steve Coughlan** made a motion to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by **Pim Grondstra**. Unanimously accepted by roll call vote: Coughlan: yes, Grondstra: yes, Janson: yes, Mullens: yes, Brown: yes, Maresco: yes, Harrow: yes.

Fran Harrow made a motion to accept Linda Sakellar's retirement, with regrets. **Peter Maresco** seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 9:15 pm **Fran Harrow** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Pim Grondstra** seconded the motion and was unanimously accepted.