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Souhegan Cooperative School District

Annual Report and Guide to Official Ballot Voting on March 14, 2017

TIME	PLACE
6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Souhegan High School 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH <i>FOR AMHERST VOTERS</i>
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Mont Vernon Village School 1 Kittredge Road, Mont Vernon, NH <i>FOR MONT VERNON VOTERS</i>

Please bring this Guide with you to Ballot Voting on March 14, 2017.

The Voters' Guide has been paid for by the Souhegan Cooperative School District,
c/o SAU 39, P.O. Box 849, Amherst, NH 03031
www.sau39.org

Officers and Agents of the School District
Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Amherst Representatives

Mary Lou Mullens, Chair
David Chen
Stephen Coughlan
Peter Maresco
Dwayne Purvis

Mont Vernon Representatives

Howard Brown, Vice-Chair
Pim Grondstra

School District Moderator

Addie Hutchison

School District Clerk

Christine A. Janson

School District Treasurer

Catherine Jo Butler

Souhegan Finance Committee

Lisa Eastland, Chair
Ken D’Ambrosio
Suzanne Birchard
Ian Corcoran
Martin Goulet
Ellen Grudzien
Jane King

Office of the Superintendent

Peter Warburton, Superintendent of Schools
Adam Steel, Business Administrator
Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services
Christine Landwehrle, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development

School Administration

Rob Scully, Principal
Peter Gagnon, Dean of Students
Kathy White, Dean of Faculty

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A Message from the School Board Chair

What is the process for creating an \$18 million budget? What is it based on, and how do we ensure it is fiscally responsible? Our Souhegan budget utilizes a zero based budgeting approach. Souhegan department heads submit their budgetary needs to building administrators who review each section and make adjustments. SAU 39 and Souhegan administrators scrutinize together for additional reductions. Once finalized, three different presentations are made to the School Board, Advisory Finance Committee (AFC) and public. During that time, school board members meet with members of the AFC as well as SAU 39 and Souhegan administrators to review each section of the proposed budget, in order to report out on it. Additionally, the Board has at least one work session with administrators, outside of our regular board meeting, to discuss each warrant. **And ultimately, you the voter, has the final say as to whether it aligns with your ideals.**

As with a household budget, some years you are able to save on your expenses (as was the case with last year's Souhegan budget), and other years you have unforeseen or higher than expected costs, and it seems, no matter how much you cut, you are unable to save. That latter scenario is what our Board faced this year with our FY18 proposed budget. We started our budget process facing almost \$1M (5.44%) in mandatory increases. **Below is a summary of those increases:**

Health Insurance	\$265,519
Special Education Tuition	\$254,178
Transportation	\$186,318
NH Retirement	\$162,490
PPC Contract	\$59,719
SAU Apportionment	\$32,268

Through the scrutiny described above, we were able to cut \$594,710 of that increase to get it to the 2% overall increase we are proposing. Those cuts, along with some small increases, brought us to our FY18 proposed number of \$18,014,652. **The reductions/additions are as follows:**

Staffing Reductions (6.5)	(\$607,976)
Paving Moved to Warrant	(\$150,000)
Technology Infrastructure	\$80,165
All Other Impacts	\$83,101
Net	(\$594,710)

We understand that budget increases equate to tax dollars, and we work very hard with the administration to thoughtfully control costs, without impacting student education. We wish every year could be like last year, with a decrease in our tax bills. However, before you cast your vote, **please consider what you get for your tax dollars:**

- The appropriate supports in place to maintain close to a 100% graduation rate.
- A Program of Studies continuously under review and aimed at engaging all students.
- High College Attendance Rates - Typically, over 90+% of our graduates go on to college.
- Competitive College Acceptances - Of those who choose to attend college, well over half attend "very competitive" to "most competitive" schools.
- High Scores on a Meaningful Test - Our ninth and tenth grade students take the NWEA MAP assessment each year in math and reading. This is a Common Core aligned assessment that nearly 10 million students across the country take. Our ninth grade students performed at the

96th percentile in reading and at the 93rd percentile in math. Our tenth grade students performed at the 97th percentile in reading and the 95th percentile in math.

- College Readiness Index - Souhegan is always ranked in the top 10% of 88 high schools in the State as ranked by US News & Report.
- A Salary Structure that encourages our staff to earn their increases by keeping current in their field.
- Our School Climate Report shows that our students engage in less negative and risky behaviors than state averages.
- A school that is an Innovator and Leader in Educational Practices as evidenced by:
 - o The number of state, national, and federal agencies and policy makers who have recently come to Souhegan to observe our “best practices” Some of those agencies include the Hewlett Foundation, Nellie Mae Foundation, Center for American Progress, Council of Chief State School Officers, NH Department of Education, and the US Department of Education.
 - o The schools locally and nationally who have visited Souhegan to observe our work with Performance Assessments, Student Centered Learning, and our Special Education approach. Some of these schools include Oyster River School District, School of Innovation, Arkansas, and Addison-Rutland School District, Vermont.
 - o Lastly, and most recently, when Senator Maggie Hassan was recently appointed to an important Senate committee (Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee) which will guide the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act, she chose to visit Souhegan High School - just last week - in order to view Souhegan’s work, specifically with regards to Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE).

In addition to our Operating Budget, our board also has three additional Articles on the ballot, which will be explained further in the commentary that follows.

The Board realizes that we cannot do our jobs without your support. Your vote matters! Schools are one of the biggest investments in any town, and in our children’s lives. **Please take the time to vote on March 14, at Souhegan High School, 6:00 am - 8:00 pm for Amherst residents. Mont Vernon residents vote at Mont Vernon Village School, 7 am - 7 pm.**

On a personal note, as I end my 9-year term on the Souhegan Cooperative School Board, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to work alongside some of the most respected educational professionals, with some wonderful fellow board members, for a school I wholeheartedly believe has the best interests of ALL students, and for community members who gave me this opportunity. Thank you!!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mullens
Chair, Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Two-Part Voting Procedure for Souhegan Cooperative School District Annual Meeting

The Senate Bill 2 official ballot voting procedure is in effect for the Souhegan Cooperative School District.

Voting to adopt or amend Souhegan Cooperative School District warrant articles took place at the February 6th Deliberative Session. Final ballot voting on the articles that emerge from the Deliberative Session takes place at the polls on Election Day, March 14th, as shown below.

Voting is a Two-Step Process

Deliberative Session February 6th
7:00 p.m.
SHS Auditorium

Ballot Vote March 14th
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
SHS Gymnasium
for Amherst Voters

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mont Vernon Village School *for Mont Vernon Voters*

In many ways the Deliberative Session resembles District Meetings of years past, but with one fundamental difference. Discussion and voting at this meeting will focus on the *wording* of the questions to be placed on the March 14th ballot, *not* on voting whether the budget, bond, or other warrant articles pass or fail. The wording of a warrant can be amended to change the dollar amount and/or the wording; this is important to know. In recent years towns and school districts have seen warrant articles amended at the Deliberative Session to \$0.00, thereby defeating the original intent of the article. In other instances, the wording of an article has been amended to completely reverse the petitioner's intent. Simply stated, it is important to attend the Deliberative Session and vote on Election Day for the full effect of your vote to be felt.

◇◇◇◇◇◇

The following pages contain the wording of the warrant articles, including any and all amendments made at the Deliberative Session, plus school board commentary (noted in italics). A detailed report of recommendations by the Advisory Finance Committee follows these articles and commentaries.

**SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT
February 6, 2017 and March 14, 2017
AMHERST AND MONT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the Souhegan Cooperative School District, consisting of the towns of Amherst and Mont Vernon, in the County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified of the following Annual School District Meeting schedule:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)

You are hereby notified to meet at the Souhegan High School in said District on the 6th day of February, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles 2 through 5. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

You are hereby notified to meet on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 for official ballot voting on warrant articles numbered 1 through 5. The polls for official ballot voting will be open as follows:

- Voting for Amherst residents: Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Voting for Mont Vernon residents: Village School from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Article 1. Election of Officers (voting by official ballot March 14, 2017)

To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose two (2) school board members from Amherst for the ensuing three (3) years; and,
- b. To choose one (1) school board member from Mont Vernon for the ensuing three years.

Article 2. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, fourteen thousand, six hundred and fifty-two dollars (\$18,014,652)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be seventeen million, eight hundred ninety-two thousand, one hundred and twelve dollars (\$17,892,112), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?" **Majority vote required.**

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (5-2).
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance
Committee (7-0).**

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$ 0.34 per thousand for Amherst and \$ \$0.84 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$ 0.28 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.77 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

*NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

Article 3. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to approve the costs included in the agreement between the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and the professional and support staff of Souhegan Cooperative High School which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2017-2018	\$94,534

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety four thousand, five hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$94,534) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? **Majority vote required.**

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance
Committee (6-1).**

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.05 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.06 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Article 4. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate up to sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2017, to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the School Maintenance Fund, previously established in March 2005?" **Majority vote required.**

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0)
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance
Committee (7-0)**

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Article 5. Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of paving part of the Souhegan driveways and parking spaces?" **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0)

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.07 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.09 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

**Souhegan Cooperative High School Advisory Finance Committee
Report to the Souhegan Cooperative School District
FY18 Budget Deliberative Session**

Advisory Finance Committee Members: Sue Birchard, Ian Corcoran (MV), Ken D'Ambrosio, Lisa Eastland, Martin Goulet, Ellen Grudzien, Jane King (MV)

Article # 2

Raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, fourteen thousand, six hundred and fifty-two dollars (**\$18,014,652**)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be seventeen million, eight hundred ninety-two thousand, one hundred and twelve dollars (**\$17,892,112**), which is the same as last year.

AFC Vote: Supported Unanimously 7-0

AFC Commentary: The Souhegan Financial Advisory Committee unanimously recommends the budget as presented. We believe this budget responsibly balances the Souhegan commitment to a high standard of education with the containment of costs impacting Amherst and Mont Vernon tax payers. We appreciate the transparency of the Souhegan officials who met with committee members as we reviewed and recommended changes and we applaud those officials for identifying savings to offset over 60% of the \$960,000 in obligatory increases they faced at the start of the budgeting process.

Article #3

Raise and appropriate the funds of \$94,534 for 2017-2018, which represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

AFC Vote: The vote was 6 For and 1 Against.

Article #4

Raise and appropriate \$65,000 from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus), if available, on June 30, 2017, to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the School Maintenance Fund established in March 2005.

AFC Vote: Supported Unanimously 7-0

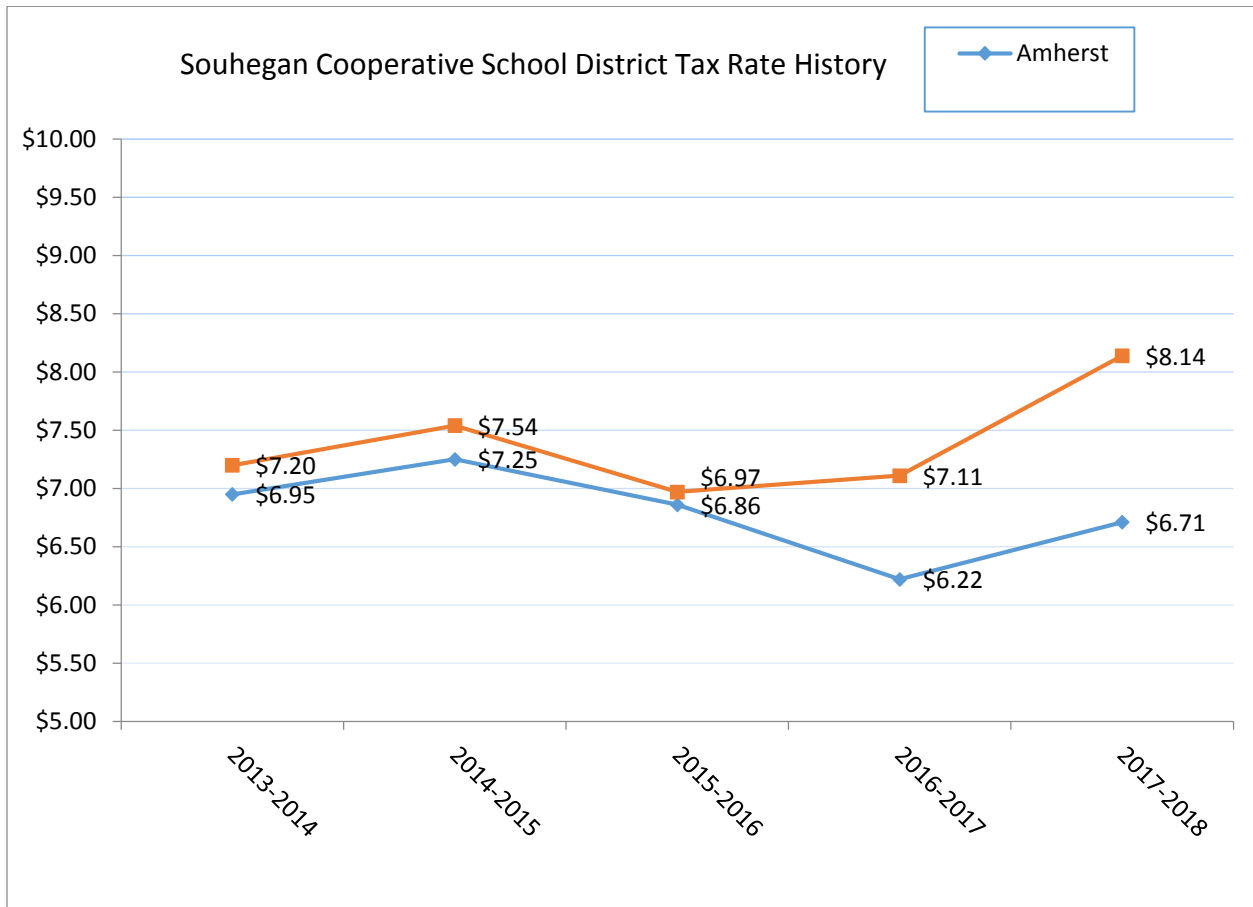
AFC Commentary: The AFC unanimously supports this article because it is prudent and good practice to direct surplus funds to an Expendable Trust Fund dedicated to unforeseen maintenance or repair of the facility.

Article #5

Raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the purpose of paving part of the SHS driveways and parking spaces.

AFC Vote: Supported Unanimously 7-0

AFC Commentary: While we discussed the merit of not paving, the issue of safety for our students and community, a continued drainage problem at the end of Davis Witty Lane, and the idea that things only get more expensive, we voted unanimously to support the warrant article. We applaud the initiative to have the parking lot paving be a separate warrant article, rather than have it in the regular budget. We believe the tax payers have the right to have a say on this project outside of the educational budget.



Estimated Tax Impact of the FY18 SCSD Budget

Item	AMHERST		MONT VERNON	
	Tax Impact	Average Home	Tax Impact	Average Home
Budget	\$0.34	\$119.68	\$0.84	\$252.00
PPC Contract	\$0.05	\$17.60	\$0.06	\$18.00
Facilities	\$0.00 - \$0.03	\$10.56	\$0.00 - \$0.04	\$12.00
Paving	\$0.07	\$24.64	\$0.09	\$27.00
Total	\$0.49	\$172.48	\$1.03	\$309.00

FY 18 SCSD PROPOSED BUDGET
Budget Overview by Function

Function	FY17 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	FY18 Budget
Regular Education	\$7,572,699	-\$140,386	\$7,432,313
Special Education	\$2,632,367	\$384,895	\$3,017,262
Vocational Education	\$5,000	\$13,000	\$18,000
Interscholastic & Athletics	\$661,776	\$11,614	\$673,390
Miscellaneous	\$36,153	\$2,648	\$38,801
Student Related Services	\$1,650,029	\$102,346	\$1,752,375
Staff Professional Development	\$284,737	\$6,844	\$291,581
Services	\$34,425	-\$2,700	\$31,725
SAU	\$778,923	\$32,268	\$811,191
Administration	\$785,551	-\$17,369	\$768,182
Facilities & Grounds	\$1,445,871	-\$234,074	\$1,211,797
Student Transportation	\$734,678	\$185,318	\$919,996
Information Technology	\$346,830	\$80,165	\$426,995
Food Service	\$406,933	\$14,893	\$421,826
Debt Service	\$192,898	-\$8,680	\$184,218
Transfers	\$80,000	-\$65,000	\$15,000
Total	\$17,648,870	\$365,782	\$18,014,652

Souhegan Cooperative School District Enrollment History

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Projected	907	889	848	860	813	839	815	813	775
Actual	891	876	859	811	828	842	829	831	

FY18 SCSD Projected Revenues – Adequacy

	FY17			FY18			Increase (Decrease)
	SWEPT	Adequacy	Total	SWEPT	Adequacy	Total	
Amherst	\$1,363,544	\$1,220,432	\$2,583,976	\$1,398,616	\$1,245,752	\$2,644,368	\$60,391
Mont Vernon	\$232,842	\$525,653	\$758,495	\$241,956	\$500,307	\$742,263	-\$16,231

FY18 SCSD Default Budget Analysis

	Salaries & Benefits	Services, PD, Dues, Travel	Supplies & Materials	Technology, Furniture, & Equipment	Debt & Other	Total
Administration	\$11,268	\$1,242	-\$8,956	\$10,000	\$4,775	\$18,329
Athletics	-\$3,973	-\$11,028	-\$7,485	\$4,480	\$3,790	-\$14,216
Curriculum	\$424	-\$1,533	-\$9,218	-\$5,000	-\$99	-\$15,426
Facilities	-\$839	\$28,680	\$26,040	\$25,202	\$0	\$79,083
Food/Transportation	\$0	\$0	-\$1,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,000
Special Education	\$437	-\$3,000	\$4,314	-\$5,879	\$0	-\$4,128
Technology	\$0	\$907	-\$2,744	\$61,735	\$0	\$59,898
Total	\$7,317	\$15,268	\$951	\$90,538	\$8,466	\$122,540

**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 14, 2017**

Christine Jensen
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

For 3 years Vote for not more than Two

AMY FACEY

JAMES P. MANNING

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

SAMPLE

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 2

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, fourteen thousand, six hundred and fifty-two dollars (\$18,014,652)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be seventeen million, eight hundred and ninety-two thousand, one hundred and twelve dollars (\$17,892,112), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?

YES
NO

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (5-2).

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.34 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.84 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$0.28 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.75 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 3

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to approve the costs included in the agreement between the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and the professional and support staff of Souhegan Cooperative High School which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2017-2018	\$94,534

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety four thousand, five hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$94,534) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

YES
NO

Majority vote required.

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-1).
Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.05 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.06 per thousand for Mont Vernon.**

SAMPLE

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate up to sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2017, to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the School Maintenance Fund, previously established in March 2005?

YES
NO

Majority vote required.

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).
Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.**

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of paving part of the Souhegan driveways and parking spaces?

YES
NO

Majority vote required.

**Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).
Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).
Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.07 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.09 per thousand for Mont Vernon.**

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

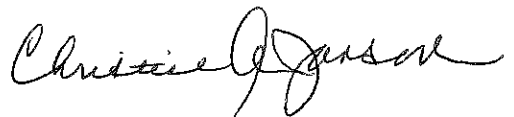
ABSENTEE BALLOT

**SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SAMPLE

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELECTION**

MARCH 14, 2017



**Christine A. Janson
School District Clerk**

For use by Mont Vernon Voters

Instructions to Voters

To vote by Write-in: If you wish to vote for a candidate whose name does not appear on the ballot for a particular office, write in the name on the blank write-in line provided for that office.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
(Vote for One)
(Three Year Term)

Pim Grondstra

_____ (Write-in)

Instructions to Voters

Vote Yes or No on questions by making a cross (X) in the box next to your choice.

SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRANT ARTICLES



Article 2

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, fourteen thousand, six hundred and fifty-two dollars (\$18,014,652)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be seventeen million, eight hundred and ninety-two thousand, one hundred and twelve dollars (\$17,892,112), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (5-2).

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$ 0.34 per thousand for Amherst and \$ 0.84 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$ 0.28 per thousand for Amherst and \$ 0.75 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

YES NO

Article 3

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to approve the costs included in the agreement between the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and the professional and support staff of Souhegan Cooperative

High School which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2017-2018	\$94,534

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety four thousand, five hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$94,534) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (6-1).

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.05 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.06 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

YES NO

Article 4

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate up to sixty-five thousand dollars (~~\$65,000~~) from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2017, to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the School Maintenance Fund, previously established in March 2005?

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.03 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.04 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

YES NO

Article 5

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of paving part of the Souhegan driveways and parking spaces?

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board (7-0).

Recommended by the Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee (7-0).

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.07 per thousand for Amherst and \$0.09 per thousand for Mont Vernon.

YES NO

2016 ANNUAL REPORT Souhegan High School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Peter Warburton, Superintendent of Schools

Our Mission: "To Engage, Challenge and Support all learners."

Happy New Year, everyone!

For my report this year, I chose to 'highlight' our SAU #39 Strategic Plan. The plan has been and will continue to be our guide in the short term and it will lay the groundwork for future goals, strategies and outcomes. I want to thank our School Board, community members, students and staff for their continued commitment to our Plan. You can find the entire Strategic Plan at <http://sau39.org/Page/987>.

Our Core Values:

Continuously Improving – We are dedicated to improving student achievement.

High Expectations for Learning – We are focused on high academic, civic and social learning expectations for students and educators.

Always Striving – We challenge students and educators to grapple with serious questions and thought provoking ideas.

Caring Surroundings – We surround our children with caring adults and world class educators.

Celebrating Success – We celebrate effort and achievement.

Preparing for Life – We prepare students to be successful in an ever changing world.

Collaborating and Connecting – We partner with our communities.

Stewardship – We foster a culture of responsible fiscal management.

Focus on Outcomes – We measure our progress with a robust set of indicators.

Our Strategic direction will focus on three major areas: Internal Resources, External Environment, and Needs of our Communities.

Internal Resources:

- Passionate, experienced staff
- Focusing on 21st Century Learning
- Upgrading our Aging Facilities
- Increasing Technology Requirements
- Streamlining Operations
-

External Environment:

- Aging NH Population

- Increasing competition for a smaller number of young families in NH
- Expanding opportunities for collaboration among school systems, businesses and government

Communities' Needs:

- 21st Century Learners
- Resources for Parents
- Sustainable, cost effective educational model
- Education system that attracts young families

The five Pillars of the Plan and Pillar Goals –

ADVANCE: Prepare our students to compete and thrive in a continuously changing, technologically connected global marketplace.

CONNECT: Connect learning opportunities that extend beyond the walls of our schools, and engage our citizenry, civic organizations, local businesses and alumni in supporting and promoting our educational system.

INVEST: Attract, develop and retain quality educators and staff who share our commitment to excellence in teaching, and modernize our facilities and infrastructure to support the academic, athletic, arts and wellness needs of the 21st century learner.

STREAMLINE: Consolidate processes and resources across the districts and SAU to become a more efficient and effective school system.

UNITE: Adopt a SAU-wide, unified philosophy that allows all students to reach their full potential.

What's next with Strategic Planning?

This winter and spring our Boards and our Pillar 'Teams' will be working to finalize strategic outcomes, and we will be reporting out using our SAU 39 digital magazine, "One School Street," which will debut in late February.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools, and please be in touch with any questions or great ideas. I can be reached at 673-2690 or pwarburton@sprise.com.

Sincerely,

Peter Warburton
Superintendent of Schools

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Rob Scully, Principal

Souhegan High School Mission Statement

Souhegan High School aspires to be a community of learners born of respect, trust and courage.

We consciously commit ourselves:

To support and engage an individual's unique gifts, passions, and intentions.

To develop and empower the mind, body, and heart.

To challenge and expand the comfortable limits of thought, tolerance, and performance.

To inspire and honor the active stewardship of family, nation, and globe.

The school's Mission Statement guides our daily practices. The Common Principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools, the Academic Learner Expectations, and the Souhegan Six establish standards of community support, instruction, and student behavior that ensure that Souhegan High School is held to the highest standards. The learning environment is engaging and personalized encouraging students to be active learners immersed in interdisciplinary curriculum, heterogeneous classes, and a global perspective that shapes a sense of stewardship and community service. These founding ideals are a unifying force for the entire school community.

Souhegan High School continues to offer students a rigorous course of studies in the core subjects of mathematics, science, English, social studies, world languages as well as in the arts, health, and wellness. Additionally, in order to respond to the emerging needs of the 21st century student, Souhegan continues to broaden the scope of the student experience by continuously reviewing and redesigning its program of studies. For example, in order to expand our STEM curriculum, the 2017-2018 SHS Program of Studies will include AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A. Additionally, Writing Workshop, a course designed to improve participants writing abilities, while simultaneously training them to qualify as peer tutors, as well as Intermediate Conversational French and Intermediate Conversational Spanish have been added to the student experience.

As a school that values authentic learning, student understanding and skill development are demonstrated through a variety of exhibition requirements including Division I Exhibition, Junior Research Paper, Post Graduate Plan, and Senior Project. All students are challenged to achieve and perform at the highest level. Most students exceed the minimum requirements. As of January, 78% of students participate in at least one co-curricular or athletic activity in addition to their academic course of studies, a figure that increases during the spring season. Providing opportunities for the whole student continues to be a great source of pride for Souhegan High School.

Curriculum at Souhegan is designed to be interdisciplinary, involve authentic work, and provide assessments for students to demonstrate their new knowledge, skills and learning. Each full year course administers a common performance assessment in the fall and spring. These tasks are aligned to standards, cognitively rigorous, engaging for students, and integral to the discipline. For instance, social studies' task is researched writing, science's is inquiry, English is critical analysis, and math is extended problem solving. The performance data from these tasks is analyzed to inform instruction and benchmark progress.

Our teaching and learning continues to be enhanced by our involvement in a groundbreaking initiative. The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) has partnered with the

Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) and the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA) to develop a state-wide performance assessment system that will balance local control with state-wide accountability and comparability. Souhegan High School, a vanguard member of the Performance Assessments for Competency Education (PACE) initiative, is proud of our role in researching, developing and promoting a more thoughtful, relevant accountability system. Our work with education change agencies, research organizations and policy makers has resulted in increased implementation of performance based instruction and assessments.

Inspired by the recommendations of the SAU 39 Strategic Plan, we continue to enhance the student learning experience by establishing partnerships with the Amherst and Mont Vernon communities, local businesses and higher education. Experts in fields of study are an important part of our curriculum design and program of study redesign. We continue to enjoy some of our traditional connections. Adults from the community meet with students in the Community Read Program discussing books and sharing the joy of reading. Our band and choir groups perform with members of the community creating a wonderful synergy in the musical performances. The groups prepare for multiple public events throughout the year including the holiday concerts, visits to elementary schools, Parkhurst Place, and the Memorial Day Parade. At our fifth annual Career Panel Day, 50 community members, including several SHS alumni, will spend time with the sophomore class sharing their career experiences. Community members are part of the senior project panels which help guide students in their projects.

Aside from the aforementioned, conventional extended learning experiences, Souhegan continues to develop partnerships that connect our students with expertise and experiences beyond our school walls.

For example, Students in Anatomy and Physiology enhance their honors credit by participating in a job shadow with a professional in the health field or with a veterinarian. The exposure to career focused alumni stimulates student ambition. Working with local organizations introduces students to the value of service to community. Innovative curriculum provides our students with authentic learning experiences this year students from Ethics Forum facilitated discussions at the Amherst Library. Additionally, several local organizations participated in our first Transition Support Program, connecting students with opportunities after graduation. As we have mentioned, relevant curriculum, engaging instruction and performance assessments are critical to next generation learning. Souhegan High School has valued this approach since our inception. We have reached a point in education when these are not simply values but necessities to a meaningful learning experience. We are proud of our ability to develop a student experience that will prepare students for the 21st century.

Assessment

Aside from our fall and spring performance assessments, student progress at Souhegan High School is measured by examining student work, standardized assessments, and annual surveys of students, parents, alumni and staff. Common assessments and statistical information also help to identify to what degree the needs of students are being met. The scores below, reported by College Board, are based on senior student participation. Highlighted below are the scores of Souhegan High School students in two areas: SAT/ACT scores and Advanced Placement (AP) participation.

SAT and ACT Tests

SAT Scores

Mean Score	SHS 2012	SHS 2013	SHS 2014	SHS 2015	SHS 2016	State
Critical Read	550	530	543	537	547	527
Writing	535	536	537	525	527	510
Math	552	532	543	536	532	531
Overall	1639	1598	1623	1598	1606	1568

ACT Tests

An alternative test to the SAT's, Souhegan High School has gradually seen an increase in the number of students taking the ACT's. A test which was once primarily used in the Mid-West is now accepted at more and more schools nationwide. The following shows how the participation rate has grown amongst Souhegan students. ACT score ranges are between 1- 36 for each subject.

	SHS				State
	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Participation	50%	52%	53%	52%	
English	23	24	24	23.5	24
Math	23	23	23	22.2	24.4
Reading	23	24	25	24.1	25.1
Science	23	23	23	23	24.1
Composite	23	24	24	23.3	24.5

Advanced Placement (AP) and college level courses are two indicators of how Souhegan High School students challenge themselves academically. We offer thirteen AP courses. In addition, we offer two college credit classes and one advanced course that allow students the opportunity to take the AP exam.

The following outlines information regarding student participation in AP courses over the past seven years.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of AP courses	11	11	11	13	13	13	13	14
Number of AP exams administered	290	252	273	305	232	254	185	250

Students achieve a high degree of success as they complete a challenging program of studies. Staff continually seeks avenues to improve their practice and strengthen student learning. The pursuit of continued excellence drives the school community to explore new and proven practices that will improve student learning while remaining focused on the Mission Statement. The support of the communities and the school community's commitment assure that Souhegan High School will continue to be a high achieving school that places student needs first.

The faculty and staff of Souhegan High School are proud to represent the communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon. We take seriously our responsibility to provide an unparalleled learning experience for our students. Teaching and learning in the 21st century demands new methods of instruction, increasing levels of rigor and diverse program offerings to serve student need. Souhegan is committed to continuing passionate efforts to provide the best education possible for the students of Amherst and Mont Vernon.

STUDENT SERVICES

College Plans

While there are some students who choose to go to work or join the military after high school, most of our students do go on to post-secondary education. The following information shows what our graduates have done once leaving Souhegan for the past six years.

Post-Secondary Plans	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
College/University (4 yr)	81%	77%	80%	81%	80%	86%	68%	77%
Community College/Technical School	7%	13%	11%	11%	12%	6%	18%	13%
Work	8%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	12%	7%
Other (prep school, service, undecided)	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%

In addition to tracking students' plans following high school, we keep track of the colleges our students attend. The Barron's Guide rates all colleges by how competitive they are in their acceptance rates. In the chart below, the last six years are summarized:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Most competitive	5%	8%	4%	11%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Highly competitive	15%	12%	10%	15%	11%	11%	10%	10%
Very competitive	25%	22%	24%	19%	27%	38%	37%	28%
Total of three	45%	42%	38%	45%	46%	56%	55%	43%

Our guidance staff works continuously with students and their families in order to help them apply to the colleges that are the best match for what they need.

Professional Development

The educators of Souhegan High School are life-long learners committed to gaining new knowledge and skills in order to benefit students. Every year our staff clocks hundreds of hours in improving their craft. In addition, our teachers create many experiences that take our students outside the classroom and out into the world to enhance their learning experience. Our staff is recognized locally and nationally for their many strengths, receiving honors and awards for their curriculum development and teaching skills. We are proud of the countless hours teachers invest outside of the classroom to enhance their abilities.

Partnerships

Aside from our focus at the local level, Souhegan High School takes pride in contributing to the state and national dialogue on education. Our teachers are sought after contributors to

conferences and education journals. Our students participate in seminars and facilitate workshops for their peers as well as adults.

We consider this level of interest in our work a measurement of the value of our teaching and learning experience. Highlighted below are some of the organizations supporting and recognizing our work as well as contributions our teachers and students have made to the larger education community.

- New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) - Performance Assessments for Competency Education (PACE): Souhegan has assumed a leadership role in the continued work on the PACE initiative. Souhegan was one of the original four school districts in the country commissioned to engage in this work that has gained national recognition during the past year. In January, Senator Maggie Hassan visited Souhegan High School to observe the progress of PACE.
- New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI), recently formed agency committed to accelerating innovation in K-12 education. Souhegan had partnered with NHLI to receive professional development as well as to host an Innovative Design Studio, inviting teachers from throughout the state to observe our work with student agency and performance assessments.
- 2 Revolutions, an education design lab providing Souhegan with professional development opportunities.
- Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO), a nationwide, nonpartisan, and nonprofit membership organization coordinating the top education leaders from every state in the nation. For the second year in a row, CCSSO chose Souhegan for a site visit in order to expose their partner, Hewlett Foundation, to next generation learning.
- Hewlett Foundation, one of the nation's largest charitable foundation committed to investing in innovation in education.
- US Department of Education
- Ann Whalen, the acting Assistant Secretary of Elementary/Secondary Education and Emma Vadehra, the Chief of Staff for the Secretary of Education visited Souhegan last spring. The visit, likely inspired in part by the recent reauthorization of NCLB, is the second visit to Souhegan consisting of national leaders in education.
- Senator Hassan, recently appointed to the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Senate Committee (HELP), Senator Hassan visited Souhegan to observe the progress of PACE as well as competency based education. After her visit, Senator Hassan shared the following thoughts on the Senate floor, "A foundation of our democracy is that all children deserve access to a quality public education. I spent yesterday at Souhega High School in Amherst, NH where I saw a superb public school helping students engage in project based, 21st century learning."
- Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR): Our partnership with CSSR has connected us with districts throughout the region and country. As a result of these partnerships, Souhegan was asked to design and hold a national conference this summer, modeled after High Tech High Deep Dive Conference, on student agency, performance assessments and competency education.
- Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE): Stanford is supporting the PACE initiative by maintaining a bank of high quality, vetted performance tasks. This year, two Souhegan teachers, Jenny Deenik and Jeanne Sturgis were accepted to the prestigious SCALE training program designed to increase teacher capacity in developing quality curriculum and assessments.
- Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME) and School Librarians Advancing STEM Learning (SLASL), three faculty members, Nathan Carle, Charlie Swift, and Lisa Petri participated in a project to develop STEM curriculum. The result of their efforts was the Power Grid Unit which was recognized as the exemplar of the project. The group was funded to attend the Big Ideas Fest in San Diego where they presented their work.
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, a group encouraging, supporting and promoting innovation and change in education. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative requested a site visit to observe SHS.

Awards/Recognitions

- Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers Conference (ECET2), Ane Swift and Adam Theriault, nominated for their lead teacher roles, were accepted to attend the ECET2 Conference. The VT and NH chapters of the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, are provides participants with a day of learning, networking and leadership training.
- Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum 2016: Year of Demonstration in Providence, R.I., Andy Emerson and Barb Brunelle gave a STEM-focused presentation titled "The Zombie Apocalypse is Upon Us! How to Use Mathematical Models to Save the World".
- New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies (NHCSS) Conference:
- Chris Brooks and Kelli Braley presented on HYPE and the Ethics Forum. The pair will also be presenting in June at the University of Chicago.
- Jenn Huard, Kim Theriault, and Matt MacDonald presented an interdisciplinary "How Can I Afford Me?"

Other Recognitions/Committees

Souhegan teachers were invited to participate on:

- The NH DOE's Standards Committee for English Language Arts Teacher Certification and Higher Education
- NH Council for the Humanities Poetry Out Loud Advisory Committee
- ELA Assessment Coach, Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) Performance
- Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA)
- NH DOE PACE Institute on Quality Performance Assessment

Student Achievement

- Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts (Hype)
HYPE is a high school student philosophy conference centered on student-led socratic dialogues hosted at UNH Durham. The principles behind HYPE are directly connected to the mission of Souhegan high school. This year the topic is responsible citizenship. Former Governor John Lynch will be the keynote speaker. Souhegan students conceived this initiative in 2009. Today—our students continue to design and run it. We started with 150 students in attendance; we currently have 1000 slots reserved for this year's event.
- Academic WorldQuest Competition
A group of Souhegan students competed at the Academic WorldQuest competition the past two years, won the NH competition, and traveled to Washington DC for the national competition. This program is put on by the World Affairs Council of NH. We'll be competing again March 2017.
- NH Scholastic Art Awards
 - Sienna Langone – Gold Key Portfolio, and winner of the NHAEA Presidents' Scholarship.
 - Danny Mendola – Gold Key Portfolio, and winner of an American Visions Award for one of the top 5 individual pieces in the show.
 - Maddy Colby – Gold Key Portfolio
- Reaching Higher New Hampshire, Get Schooled NH video contest, Reaching Higher New Hampshire, a publication promoting public education sponsored a project asking students to create a video demonstrating collaborative learning and competency based education. Two students, Kyle Gibson and Sam Henry placed second in the state wide contest.
- The Joseph Adams Senior Scholarship Award through the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH), Hannah Beaudry, a senior at Souhegan High School, is a recipient of this national scholarship which

honors outstanding senior members of the SHH. Through the application process Hannah was judged on her ability and performance in both written and spoken Spanish. Hannah's essay and video helped her stand out from other applicants.

- Poetry Out Loud, Evmorfia Alton, a freshman won the regional semi-finals and will continue on to the state championship on March 10.

We hope this information clearly and genuinely illustrates our unabashed dedication to the students of Souhegan High School. Additionally, we hope this information indicates our unwavering commitment to the entire community. We take great pride in providing a day to day educational experience for every student. We also pride ourselves in being a great value to the community.

In a time when education is experiencing exciting, transformative change, please be assured that the faculty, staff, and administration of Souhegan High School is responding with an energy and enthusiasm unparalleled in the state.

We are very proud to be your high school--however, the best is yet to come.

Thank you for supporting our efforts.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Dick Miller, Athletics & Activities Director

Our students continue to be very involved in extra-curricular activities with many students participating in multiple activities. So far, during the current school year, out of our total student population of 833, 652 students have been involved in extra-curricular activities - 432 have participated in one or more sports and another 220 have participated in one or more non-sport activity.

This overwhelming participation has resulted in outstanding work and accomplishments in the area of activities at Souhegan High School. Last fall, the Theater Department did an outstanding job as they entertained the community with four One Act comedies. They are now preparing to present Footloose as their spring musical. In January, the National Honor Society sponsored their annual blood drive, collecting a generous 77 pints of blood and maintaining the school's reputation as high volume donors. The Music Department has had a busy year to go along with several concerts and the jazz nights that were hosted, Tim Murphy, Rebecca Hall, and Andrew Goyette were selected to perform at the All-State Music Festival. The Mock Trial team will be competing in the final four on February 20th as they strive to become state champions. The Claw, the school's news magazine, has been very active in reporting local, state, and national happenings that included an all expense included invitation to cover the Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C.

Through the generosity of the Calvetti family and the fundraising efforts of community members, an artificial turf field was installed in the stadium last summer. The dedication of the Calvetti Family Field took place on September 9th as the school hosted a varsity boys' soccer game and a varsity football game. The new field saw steady use by the school's boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey and football teams last fall. We look forward to the boys and girls lacrosse teams using the field this spring.

Our student-athletes continue to be impressive in their efforts to give to the community as well as their performance on the playing field. The girls' soccer team again contributed time to preparing gift bags for the participants in the Make-A-Wish Triathlon fundraiser. The girls' volleyball team did a Dig Pink night for breast cancer awareness. The boys' soccer team participated in the Penny Pickers fundraiser sponsored by the The Front Door, a Nashua area organization that helps families in transition. The Ethics Forum and the football team had a Hope for Gus night to raise funds for the battle against Duchenes Muscular Dystrophy. There were several teams that ran skills programs such as Little Tots soccer for young athletes and clinics for basketball and lacrosse. On the field, every team represented SHS to the highest level through their efforts and respect for their opponents. Several teams highlighted the on field exploits of the athletic program. Last spring, the boys outdoor track team and the baseball team brought home the Division 2 championship plaques. Also last spring, the girls' lacrosse team and the boys' lacrosse team made it to the semifinals of their state tournaments. Last fall, the girls' cross-country team led by Madeleine Hunt's first place finish won the Division 2 championship. This team went on to finish first in the Meet of Champions and then brought home the second place trophy from the New England Championships. Also in the fall, the field hockey team played their way to the semifinals before losing to the eventual state champion. This winter, the girls indoor track team won the Division 2 championship.

There have also been numerous individual accolades for both players and coaches, so many that it is impossible to list all of them. In March of this year, 32 senior student-athletes will be recognized as scholar athletes by the NHADA/NHIAA; this recognition is for maintaining a high academic standing while participating in multiple sports. Sebastian Eaton was selected as the Gatorade NH Male Track and Field Athlete of the Year for both indoor and outdoor track. Kaylin Forest and Elizabeth Silvia-Chandley were selected to play in the Make-a-Wish hockey game against Vermont. Hannah Chick was selected to play in the Senior All-Star basketball games at NHTI. The girls' cross-country team was selected as the NH girls' team of the year and Madeleine Hunt, Jane Leighton and Arielle Zlotnick were named to the Division 2 All-State team. In golf, Ryan Stankewicz was selected for the 2016 Spirit of the Game Award for the state of New Hampshire. On the coaching front, Bill Dod became the all-time winningest baseball coach in New Hampshire history, Kelli Braley was named the NH Girls Ice Hockey Coach of the Year, and Jeff Wilson was named the NH Girls' Cross-Country Coach of the Year.

STUDENT SERVICES' REPORT

Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services

It is once more a pleasure to address the Amherst and Mont Vernon communities as the Director of Student Services for SAU 39. During the past year I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Souhegan Leadership Team to help support new and continuing initiatives and best practices at Souhegan High School designed to enhance learning opportunities for all of our students.

The State of New Hampshire has adopted the utilization of SATs as a replacement measure for our former state assessments. With that change, collaborative work has been done with Souhegan's Guidance Department to ensure that all students are cleared with the College Board to receive the test accommodations that they are entitled to. It is our hope that this assessment will be a more meaningful assessment opportunity for our students.

As a particular focus for the Student Services Department this year, we have been auditing the transition planning practices for our students as they prepare for life after high school. Student

post-secondary outcomes, education, independent living skills, community opportunities and connections to community-based related services have been the focus of our team of educators. Coordinating our efforts with community-based agencies, as well as with the New Hampshire Department of Education, has been informative for both staff and families. Our department is looking forward to continued collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Education in March to review our current policies and procedures with regard to transition planning and post-secondary outcomes. We are very proud of our students and the accomplishments they have made, both as a part of the Souhegan community, as well as the accomplishments they have made once they leave Souhegan and pursue their individual goals. We remain dedicated to the individualized needs of all of our students, and will continue to support them as they learn and grow into amazing young adults.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret A. Beauchamp
Director of Student Services

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
Actual Expenditures for Special Education Programs and Services
FY 2014-2015 and FY 2015-2016 per RSA 32:11a**

ITEM	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
REVENUES		
Catastrophic Aid	\$241,048	\$458,384
IDEA Grant	\$180,311	\$135,011
Medicaid	<u>\$137,032</u>	<u>\$127,193</u>
Total Revenues	\$558,391	\$720,588
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	\$1,797,490	\$1,695,712
Employee Benefits	\$758,826	\$711,050
Purchased Services	\$1,361,475	\$1,291,821
Supplies	\$10,240	\$12,620
Equipment	\$2,922	\$3,274
Other	<u>\$530</u>	<u>\$150</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,931,483	\$3,714,626
Net Cost of Special Education	\$3,373,092	\$2,994,039
Source DOE 25		

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
Report of the Treasurer to the School Board
Fiscal Year 07/01/2015-06/30/2016**

Cash on hand- as of 07/01/2015	\$770,361.64
Total Receipts- 07/01/2015-06/30/2016	\$17,525,863.31
Total Payments-07/01/2015-06/30/2016	<u>(\$17,470,235.48)</u>
Cash Balance- as of 06/30/2016	\$825,989.47 *

* Represents the combined activity of three bank accounts

Catherine Jo Butler, Treasurer



PLODZIK & SANDERSON

Professional Association/Accountants & Auditors

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the School Board
Souhegan Cooperative School District
Amherst, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Souhegan Cooperative School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Souhegan Cooperative School District, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and, the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund and the grants fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information - Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Schedule of Funding Progress for Other Postemployment Benefit Plan, the Schedule of School District's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability, and the Schedule of School District Contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have

*Souhegan Cooperative School District
Independent Auditor's Report*

applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information – Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Souhegan Cooperative School District's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

November 29, 2016

*Plodzik & Sanderson
Professional Association*