

# **Souhegan Cooperative School District**

## **Annual Report and Guide to Official Ballot Voting on March 8, 2016**

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

*Please bring this Guide with you to Ballot Voting on March 8, 2016.*

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](http://www.sau39.org)

**Officers and Agents of the School District**  
**Souhegan Cooperative School Board**

**Amherst Representatives**  
**Mary Lou Mullens, Chair**  
**David Chen**  
**Stephen Coughlan**  
**Christine Janson**  
**Jeanne Ludt**

**Mont Vernon Representatives**  
**Howard Brown, Vice-Chair**  
**Pim Grondstra**

**School District Moderator**  
 Addie Hutchison

**School District Clerk**  
 Catherine Jo Butler

**School District Treasurer**  
 Catherine Jo Butler

**Souhegan Finance Committee**  
 Ken D’Ambrosio, Co-Chair  
 Dwayne Purvis, Co-Chair  
 Suzanne Birchard  
 Ian Corcoran  
 Lisa Eastland  
 Jane King  
 Beth Kuzsma

**Office of the Superintendent**  
 Peter Warburton, Superintendent of Schools  
 Elizabeth Shankel, 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  
 Gigi Klipa, Dean of Faculty  
 Kathy White, Dean of Faculty

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## ***A Message from the School Board Chair***

*What is the process for creating a \$17.5 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. The Souhegan Board also has a Budget Study Committee that meets on a regular basis throughout the year to review various aspects of our budget and make recommendations to the Board. **And ultimately, you the voter, has the final say as to whether it aligns with your ideals.**

Before you cast your vote, please take a look at what we, after much scrutiny, are presenting in this FY17 proposed budget. Below is a summary:

After asking the administration for budget presentations reflecting 3, 4 and 5% reductions, our **FY17 proposed budget is down 3.95% from the current FY16 Default Budget.**

- This reduction equates to a **\$0.10 Tax Rate Decrease in Amherst**, and a **\$0.22 Tax Rate Decrease in Mont Vernon.**
- **6.4 positions have been eliminated, including an administrator.**
- The **addition of a half time speech therapist** was necessary to meet student needs.
- We are in the second year of a two year contract with a negotiated **0% COLA for all staff.**
- We are at, or above, our **goal of 20 students per class and an 80:1 student/teacher facing ratio.**
- This proposed budget is **down 5.14% from FY12**, when we first started this round of targeted reductions.
- **Our Cost Per Pupil (CPP) is down \$1,232 per pupil from FY15**, which is the most current CPP reported by the DOE.
- Souhegan has **one of the slowest growths in Cost Per Pupil** of comparable schools.

While a reduction in taxes is good news, we realize that we are still asking for an investment from you by supporting this budget. *What is the value of your investment?*

- A Program of Studies continuously under review and aimed at engaging all students. These reviews are what led to the addition of STEM classes such as AP computer science, programming and robotics.
- The appropriate supports in place to maintain close to a 100% graduation rate.
- High College Attendance Rates - Typically, over 90+% of our graduates go on to college.
- Competitive College Acceptances - Of the typical 90+% 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 96<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and at the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile in math. Our tenth grade students performed at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and the 95<sup>th</sup> 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.
- A school that is an Innovator and Leader in Educational Practices as evidenced by:
  - Souhegan is one of only four schools invited by the State Department of Education to work on PACE (Performance Assessment of Competency Education). PACE is a first-in-the-nation accountability strategy that offers a reduced level of standardized testing together with locally developed common performance assessments.
  - Two separate visits to Souhegan by the US Department of Education to observe work being done on PACE.
  - Collaborations with universities such as Brown and Stanford.
  - Business partnerships that create extended learning opportunities such as internships, “Women In Technology” program, and “Computer Science Career Exploration Program.”
  - A Teacher/Leader Effectiveness Program that transcends traditional teacher observation models.
  - Student led programs that have regional and national attention and acclaim such as our student-led Ethics Forum which has received a Humanities Award and a Pulitzer Grant, and Community Council whose members presented at a National Conference.
- National Merit Scholar Finalists for the past two years (FY14 & FY15).
- A Well-Maintained Infrastructure that hosts many arts, athletic, academic, and community events for our towns.
- Strong Property Values, and Pride in the place you chose to live.

In addition to asking for your support of our operating budget, we would also like to ask for your support on Articles 3 (no tax impact Revolving Fund) and Article 4 (allows \$65,000 surplus - should there be any - to go into our Maintenance Expendable Trust). More on the Articles in the commentary that follows.

Our board feels privileged to work with an administrative team that is dedicated to ensuring our students are prepared for whatever future they choose. We would like to especially thank our staff for their professionalism and willingness to work with our board to control costs, while maintaining the high level of education our residents expect. We also realize that we cannot do our jobs without your support. We need 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 8, 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Deliberative Session. Final ballot voting on the articles that emerge from the Deliberative Session takes place at the polls on Election Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, as shown below.

### **Voting is a Two-Step Process**

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<b>Deliberative Session</b>	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
9:00 a.m.	
SHS Auditorium	

<b>Ballot Vote</b>	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	
SHS Gymnasium	
<i>for Amherst Voters</i>	

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	
Mont Vernon Village School	
<i>for Mont Vernon Voters</i>	

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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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT  
February 1, 2016 and March 8, 2016  
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 the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at Souhegan High School in said district on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., for Session I (Deliberation), for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot. This session shall consist of the explanation, discussion and debate of warrant articles numbered 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 final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

You are hereby further notified to meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, for official ballot voting on warrant articles numbered 1 through 4, and any other action required to be inserted on the official ballot. 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** To elect all necessary Souhegan Cooperative School District officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot on March 8, 2016.

- Election of two (2) members of the School Board from Amherst for the ensuing three (3) years.
- Election of one (1) member of the School Board from Amherst for the ensuing one (1) year.
- Election of one (1) member of the School Board from Mont Vernon for the ensuing three (3) years.
- Election of one (1) school district moderator for the ensuing three (3) 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 amount 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 **\$17,583,870**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17,160,949** 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 to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 1.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The estimated tax impact of passing this article is a decrease of \$0.10 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst and a decrease of \$0.22 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

**The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is a decrease of \$0.32 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst and a decrease of \$0.48 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

*Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: The proposed budget represents a 3.95% decrease over the current year's default budget.*

### **Article 3**

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District establish a Recreation Revolving Fund under the provisions of RSA 35-B:2,II? The money received from fees and charges for recreation services and facilities in the District shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the general unassigned fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the School Board (no further legislative body approval is required). These funds may be expended only for the recreation purposes, including installation, replacement and maintenance of a synthetic turf field, stated in RSA 35-B and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose.

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**No Tax Impact.**

*Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: Article 3 has no tax impact. It asks that you allow the Board to set up a fund to accumulate monies collected from fees and charges for recreation services and facilities. These monies are to be expended only for recreation purposes, including the installation, replacement and maintenance of a synthetic turf field.*

### **Article 4**

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$65,000** from the year-end undesignated fund balance (surplus) if available on July 1, 2016 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the School Maintenance Fund previously established in March, 2005?

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The estimated tax impact of this article is an increase of \$0.03 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst.**

**The estimated tax impact of this article is an increase of \$0.04 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

*Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: This article asks for \$65,000 of surplus (should there be any) to be added to the maintenance expendable trust fund. The trust is intended to meet maintenance needs, including unplanned emergencies. It is prudent for any district to have these reserves. Part of our desire to add to the fund this year is for paving projects that are long overdue.*

**Article 5** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.



**Souhegan Cooperative High School Advisory Finance Committee  
Report to the Souhegan Cooperative School District  
FY17 Budget Deliberative Session**

**Advisory Finance Committee Members**

**Mont Vernon:** Jane King, Ian Corcoran.

**Amherst:** Beth Kuzsma, Suzanne Birchard, Lisa Eastland, Ken D'Ambrosio, Dwayne Purvis

**Article #2**

**Advisory Finance Committee Vote: Supported 7-0**

**Commentary:** The Advisory Finance Committee unanimously supports this article because they believe that the School Board and Administration have proposed a budget that is fiscally responsible while meeting their educational objectives. The following points underscore this opinion:

- 1) The budget is \$723,388 less than the adopted default FY2016 budget.
- 2) The budget decrease of 3.95% further improves upon the FY14 decrease of 3.70%.
- 3) The budget allows for class sizes of approximately 20 students, and a Student/Teacher ratio of approximately 80:1, which is the school target.
- 4) The budget keeps student support to maintain a zero dropout rate.
- 5) The budget maintains an Incentivized Salary Structure.
- 6) The budget includes enough maintenance expenditure to keep the facilities in good order.

We appreciate the transparency of the Souhegan officials who met with committee members and the opportunity to have both comparative and zero-based discussions about individual line items within the budget. We applaud the administration for reducing the overall costs of educating Souhegan students by 3.95% in this budget while maintaining the high quality of an education which is recognized on both the state and federal level as an example for other districts to follow.

**Article #3**

**Advisory Finance Committee Vote: Supported Unanimously 7-0**

**Commentary:** The Advisory Finance Committee unanimously supports this article because it represents the commitment that the Souhegan Cooperative School District shall not be responsible for the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the artificial turf field as a result of non Souhegan related uses.

**Article #4**

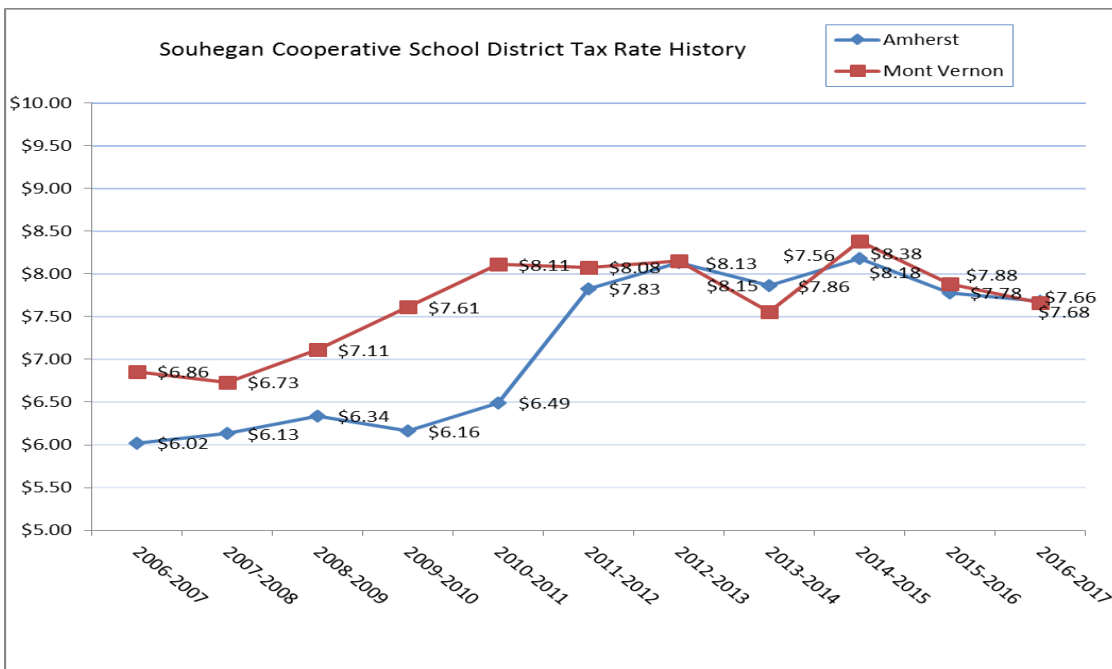
**Advisory Finance Committee Vote: Supported Unanimously 7-0**

**Commentary:** The Advisory Finance Committee 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.

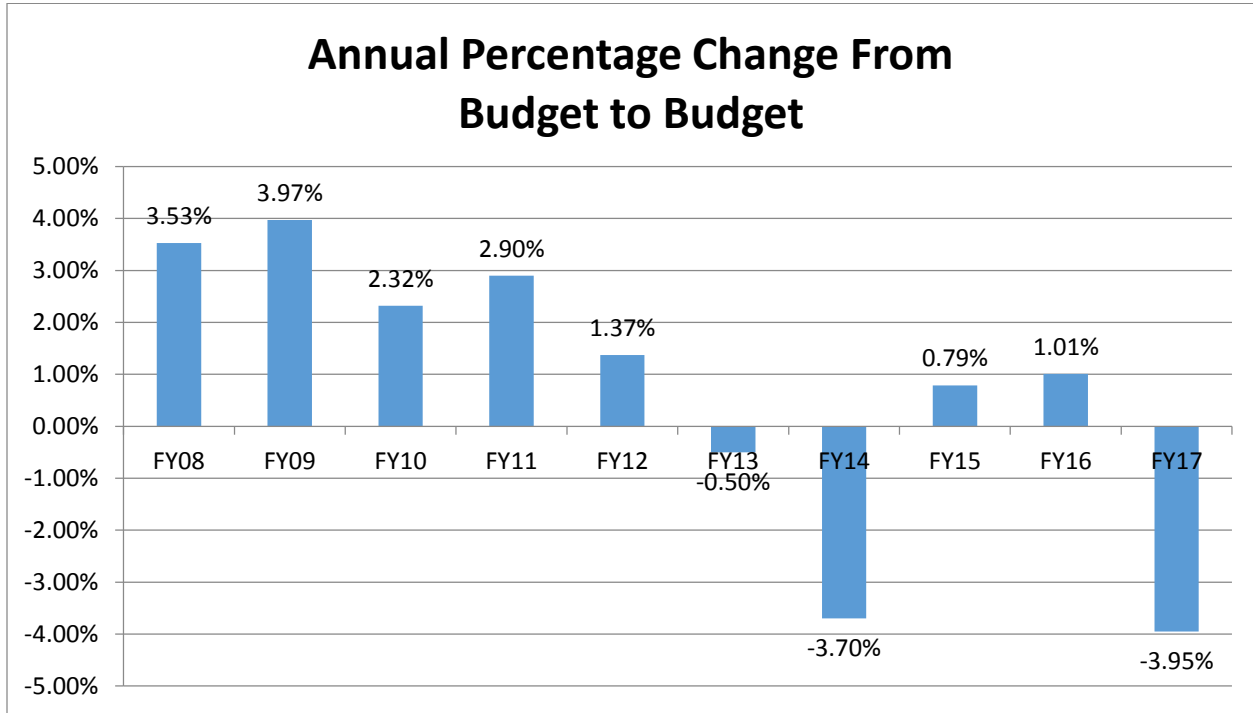
Respectfully submitted,  
Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee

**Souhegan Cooperative School District  
FY17 Summary of Warrant Articles and Tax Impact**

Article #	Typical Home Value	Cost	Estimated Tax Impact	
			Amherst \$330,000	Mont Vernon \$300,000
2	FY 2015-2016 Budget	\$18,307,258	\$7.78	\$7.88
	Budget - Net Decrease	(\$723,388)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.22)
	Total FY 2016-2017 Budget	\$17,583,870	\$7.68	\$7.66
	Tax Impact to Typical Home - Article 2		(\$33.00)	(\$66.00)
4	Maintenance Fund	\$65,000	\$0.03	\$0.04
	Tax Impact to Typical Home- Article 4		\$9.90	\$12.00
Total FY17 Budget and Articles 2 and 4		\$17,648,870	\$7.71	\$7.70
Total Tax Impact to Typical Home			(\$23.10)	(\$54.00)



**Souhegan Cooperative School District  
Budget % Changes and Student Population History**



Souhegan Cooperative School District Enrollment History								
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Projected	907	889	848	860	813	839	815	813
Actual	891	876	859	811	828	842	829	

**SCSD FY17 Proposed Budget Summary**

	FY15 Actual Expenditures	FY16 Voted Budget	FY17 Proposed Budget	Budget to Budget \$ Increase (Decrease)	Budget to Budget % Increase (Decrease)
<b>Fund 10</b>					
1100 Regular Education Programs-					
Teacher salaries, textbooks, substitutes, supplies	\$7,331,220	\$7,510,384	\$7,237,342	(\$273,042)	-3.64%
1200 Special Education Programs-					
Teacher salaries, aides, substitutes, evaluators, textbooks, supplies, and items specific to Special Services	\$2,823,481	\$2,869,394	\$2,437,367	(\$432,027)	-15.06%
1300 Vocational Programs - Tuition	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	#DIV/0!
1400 Co-Curricular Programs - Interscholastics, intramurals, student body activities	\$449,354	\$489,285	\$661,776	\$172,491	35.25%
1600 Adult Education Programs-	\$5,092	\$10,281	\$6,617	(\$3,664)	-35.64%
2100 Student Support Services- Guidance, health, nurses, and SRO salaries	\$1,615,818	\$1,827,105	\$1,650,029	(\$177,076)	-9.69%
2200 Instructional Support Services- Library salaries, supplies, curriculum coordinators, professional development, consultants	\$494,594	\$555,540	\$569,562	\$14,022	2.52%
2300 School Board- Treasurer, moderator, SB stipends, SB minute taker, legal, audit, actuarial, medicaid billing	\$61,095	\$73,878	\$72,561	(\$1,317)	-1.78%
2300 District Assessment - SAU 39 SCSD portion of the SAU budget	\$740,731	\$779,158	\$778,923	(\$235)	-0.03%
2400 School Administrative Services- Principal salaries, office staff, office equipment	\$733,594	\$746,498	\$773,451	\$26,953	3.61%
2500 Business- Printing costs	\$3,032	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
2600 Operation and Plant Maintenance- Custodial salaries, electricity, heating oil, water, trash, loss and liability insurance premiums, building maintenance	\$1,176,904	\$1,195,244	\$1,220,871	\$25,627	2.14%
2700 Student Transportation- Bus contract, fuel	\$670,840	\$719,450	\$734,678	\$15,228	2.12%
2800 Support Service - Technology Technology staff salaries, local and wide area network costs	\$350,443	\$348,281	\$355,362	\$7,081	2.03%
4200 Site Improvements	\$0	\$220,000	\$225,000	\$5,000	2.27%
5100 Debt Service	\$214,223	\$201,190	\$192,898	(\$8,292)	-4.12%
5200 Fund Transfers	\$75,029	\$80,000	\$15,000	(\$65,000)	-81.25%
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,745,451</b>	<b>\$17,629,188</b>	<b>\$16,939,937</b>	<b>(\$689,251)</b>	<b>-3.91%</b>
Fund 21 Food Service Fund	\$372,762	\$452,070	\$406,933	(\$45,137)	-9.98%
Fund 22 Grant Fund	\$245,668	\$226,000	\$237,000	\$11,000	4.87%
<b>Total of All Funds</b>	<b>\$17,363,881</b>	<b>\$18,307,258</b>	<b>\$17,583,870</b>	<b>(\$723,388)</b>	<b>-3.95%</b>

**Souhegan Cooperative School District  
Projected Revenue Estimate  
FY17 Proposed Budget**

<b>Acct #</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>FY15 DRA</b>	<b>FY16 DRA</b>	<b>FY17 Estimate</b>	<b>Change</b>
	General Fund Expenditures	\$17,430,799	\$17,629,188	\$16,939,937	(\$689,251)
	Special Revenue and Food Service	\$692,703	\$678,070	\$643,933	(\$34,137)
	Roof & HVAC Bond	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)</b>	<b>\$18,123,502</b>	<b>\$18,307,258</b>	<b>\$17,583,870</b>	<b>(\$723,388)</b>
<b>770</b>	<b>Unreserved Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$250,528</b>	<b>\$723,570</b>	<b>\$276,468</b>	<b>(\$447,102)</b>
	<b>State Aid</b>				
3210	School Building Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3230	Catastrophic Aid	\$273,980	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$0
3290	Other (Child Nutrition & Vocational Aid)	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
	<b>Subtotal: State Aid</b>	<b>\$274,980</b>	<b>\$422,000</b>	<b>\$422,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	<b>Federal Aid</b>				
4500	Grants In Aid	\$224,000	\$224,000	\$235,000	\$11,000
4580	Medicaid	\$90,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$0
4590	Other Federal Sources (Child Nutrition)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
	<b>Subtotal: Federal Aid</b>	<b>\$334,000</b>	<b>\$374,000</b>	<b>\$385,000</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>
	<b>Other Revenue</b>				
5100	Sale Of Bonds / Notes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5230	Transfer From Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5230	Transfer from Expendable Trust Funds	\$0	\$110,000	\$0	(\$110,000)
	<b>Subtotal: Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$110,000)</b>
	<b>Local Revenue</b>				
1300	Tuition - Parents, Summer School, Adult Ed	\$61,500	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$5,000
1400	State AV 1 Transportation Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
1510	Interest Income	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
1600	Food Service	\$445,703	\$430,534	\$384,933	(\$45,601)
1700	Pupil Activities	\$152,000	\$135,000	\$133,000	(\$2,000)
1910	Rentals	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
1990	Other - Local Grants & Trusts	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
	<b>Subtotal: Local Revenue</b>	<b>\$673,203</b>	<b>\$653,534</b>	<b>\$612,933</b>	<b>(\$40,601)</b>
	<b>Assessment:</b>				
	Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)	\$18,123,502	\$18,307,258	\$17,583,870	(\$723,388)
	Less Unreserved Fund Balance	\$250,528	\$723,570	\$276,468	(\$447,102)
	Less Subtotal: State Aid	\$274,980	\$422,000	\$422,000	\$0
	Less Subtotal: Federal Aid	\$334,000	\$374,000	\$385,000	\$11,000
	Less Subtotal: Other Revenue	\$0	\$110,000	\$0	(\$110,000)
	Less Subtotal: Local Revenue	\$673,203	\$653,534	\$612,933	(\$40,601)
<b>1111</b>	<b>Current Appropriation</b>	<b>\$16,590,791</b>	<b>\$16,024,154</b>	<b>\$15,887,469</b>	<b>(\$136,685)</b>
1111	Current Appropriation	\$16,590,791	\$16,024,154	\$15,887,469	(\$136,685)
	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$16,590,791</b>	<b>\$16,024,154</b>	<b>\$15,887,469</b>	<b>(\$136,685)</b>
	<b>AMHERST SHARE</b>	<b>\$14,078,033</b>	<b>\$13,538,888</b>	<b>\$13,437,621</b>	<b>(\$101,267)</b>
	Adequacy Aid Grant	\$1,245,362	\$1,311,283	\$1,228,091	(\$83,192)
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$1,426,453	\$1,415,536	\$1,361,342	(\$54,194)
	Total Credits- Amherst	\$2,671,815	\$2,726,819	\$2,589,433	(\$137,386)
	Assessment - Town of Amherst	\$11,406,218	\$10,812,069	\$10,848,188	\$36,119
	Net Assessed Value/\$1000 - Amherst	\$1,572,808	\$1,577,090	\$1,597,929	\$20,839
	Tax Rate - Amherst	\$7.25	\$6.86	\$6.79	(\$0.07)
	Local Assessed Value/\$1000 Less Utilities	\$1,533,345	\$1,537,637	\$1,533,345	(\$4,292)
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$0.93	\$0.92	\$0.89	(\$0.03)
	<b>Total School Tax - Town of Amherst</b>	<b>\$8.18</b>	<b>\$7.78</b>	<b>\$7.68</b>	<b>(\$0.10)</b>
	<b>MONT VERNON SHARE</b>	<b>\$2,512,758</b>	<b>\$2,485,266</b>	<b>\$2,449,848</b>	<b>(\$35,418)</b>
	Adequacy Aid Grant	\$442,346	\$494,523	\$535,382	\$40,859
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$205,178	\$228,165	\$236,448	\$8,283
	Total Credits- Mont Vernon	\$647,524	\$722,688	\$771,830	\$49,142
	Assessment - Town of Mont Vernon	\$1,865,234	\$1,762,578	\$1,678,018	(\$84,560)
	Net Assessed Value/\$1000 - Mont Vernon	\$247,400	\$252,884	\$250,412	(\$2,472)
	Tax Rate - Mont Vernon	\$7.54	\$6.97	\$6.70	(\$0.27)
	Local Assessed Value/\$1000 Less Utilities	\$245,035	\$250,356	\$245,035	(\$5,321)
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$0.84	\$0.91	\$0.96	\$0.05
	<b>Total School Tax - Town of Mont Vernon</b>	<b>\$8.38</b>	<b>\$7.88</b>	<b>\$7.66</b>	<b>(\$0.22)</b>

**Souhegan Cooperative School District  
FY17 Default Budget**

Acct #	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 32:3,V)	FY16 Adopted Budget	Reductions & Increases	Minus 1-Time Appropriations	FY17 Default Budget
1100-1199	Regular Programs	\$ 7,510,384	\$ (301,420)	\$ (41,820)	\$ 7,167,144
1200-1299	Special Programs	\$ 2,869,394	\$ (432,029)	\$ -	\$ 2,437,367
1300-1399	Vocational	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
1400-1499	Co-curricular Programs	\$ 489,285	\$ 135,965	\$ -	\$ 625,250
1600-1899	Adult & Community Programs	\$ 10,281	\$ (3,664)	\$ -	\$ 6,617
	<b>INSTRUCTION (1000-1999)</b>	<b>\$ 10,879,344</b>	<b>\$ (596,148)</b>	<b>\$ (41,820)</b>	<b>\$ 10,241,378</b>
2000-2199	Student Support Services	\$ 1,827,105	\$ (180,037)	\$ -	\$ 1,647,069
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	\$ 555,540	\$ 3,616	\$ -	\$ 559,156
	<b>SUPPORT SERVICES (2000-2999)</b>	<b>\$ 2,382,645</b>	<b>\$ (176,421)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,206,225</b>
2300-840	School Board Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2310-2319	Other School Board	\$ 63,878	\$ (5,192)	\$ -	\$ 58,686
	<b>General Administration</b>	<b>\$ 63,878</b>	<b>\$ (5,192)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 58,686</b>
2320-311	SAU Management Services	\$ 779,158	\$ (235)	\$ -	\$ 778,923
2320-2332	Special Programs Administration	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
2400-2499	School Administration Service	\$ 746,498	\$ 10,716	\$ -	\$ 757,214
2500-2599	Business	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500
2600-2699	Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$ 1,195,244	\$ (15,759)	\$ -	\$ 1,179,485
2700-2799	Student Transportation	\$ 719,450	\$ 10,460	\$ -	\$ 729,910
2800-2999	Support Service Central & Other	\$ 348,281	\$ (6,484)	\$ -	\$ 341,797
4000-4999	Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	\$ 220,000	\$ -	\$ (220,000)	\$ -
	<b>Executive Administration</b>	<b>\$ 4,022,131</b>	<b>\$ 698</b>	<b>\$ (220,000)</b>	<b>\$ 3,802,829</b>
5111	Debt Service - Principal	\$ 155,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,000
5120-5122	Debt Service - Interest	\$ 46,190	\$ -	\$ (8,292)	\$ 37,898
	<b>OTHER OUTLAYS (5000-5999)</b>	<b>\$ 201,190</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (8,292)</b>	<b>\$ 192,898</b>
5220-5221	To Food Service	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
5252	To Expendable Trust	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ (65,000)	\$ -
	<b>FUND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (65,000)</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
	<b>FOOD SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 452,070</b>	<b>\$ (45,137)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 406,933</b>
	<b>GRANT FUND</b>	<b>\$ 226,000</b>	<b>\$ 11,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 237,000</b>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 18,307,258</b>	<b>\$ (811,200)</b>	<b>\$ (335,112)</b>	<b>\$ 17,160,949</b>

**ABSENTEE  
OFFICIAL BALLOT  
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MARCH 8, 2016**

*C. Butler*  
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 SCHOOL BOARD	FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR
For 3 years Vote for not more than Two	For 1 year Vote for not more than One	For 3 years Vote for not more than One
DWAYNE PURVIS <input type="radio"/>	PETER MARESCO <input type="radio"/>	STACIE KICZUK <input type="radio"/>
BOB BREWSTER <input type="radio"/>	MIKE AKILLIAN <input type="radio"/>	ADDIE HUTCHISON <input type="radio"/>
STEPHEN W. COUGHLAN <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MARGARET McCABE <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>		
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		

**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 amount 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 **\$17,583,870**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17,160,949** 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 to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 1.  
The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The estimated tax impact of passing this article is a decrease of \$0.10 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst and a decrease of \$0.22 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

**The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is a decrease of \$0.32 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst and a decrease of \$0.48 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

**ARTICLE 3**

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District establish a Recreation Revolving Fund under the provisions of RSA 35-B:2,II? The money received from fees and charges for recreation services and facilities in the District shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the general unassigned fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the School Board (no further legislative body approval is required). These funds may be expended only for the recreation purposes, including installation, replacement and maintenance of a synthetic turf field, stated in RSA 35-B and no expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose.

YES   
NO

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**No Tax Impact.**

**ARTICLE 4**

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$65,000** from the year-end undesignated fund balance (surplus) if available on July 1, 2016 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the School Maintenance Fund previously established in March, 2005?

YES   
NO

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**The estimated tax impact of this article is an increase of \$0.03 per \$1000 of assessment for Amherst.**

**The estimated tax impact of this article is an increase of \$0.04 per \$1000 of assessment for Mont Vernon.**

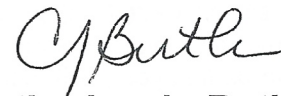
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**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

**SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELECTION**

**MARCH 8, 2016**



**Catherine Jo Butler  
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)

Howard Brown   
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

\*\*\*\*\*

MODERATOR  
(Vote for One)  
(Three Year Term)

Stacie Kiczuk   
Addie Hutchison   
\_\_\_\_\_ (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 amount 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 **\$17,583,870?** Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17,160,949** 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.

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YES  NO

**Article 3**

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**Majority vote required to pass.**

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**The Souhegan Cooperative School District Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0.**

**No Tax Impact.**

YES  NO

**Article 4**

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YES  NO

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## Souhegan High School

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2016-2017 SHS Program of Studies will include Vex Robotics, Programming and AP Computer Science.

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. 80% of students participate in at least one co-curricular or athletic activity in addition to their academic course of studies. Student achievement 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, 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 is one of the original four districts in New Hampshire implementing the Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) option. This year additional districts have joined as the initiative has gained national recognition as an innovative approach to next generation assessments. The recently redesigned Minimum Standards for Public School Approval, as well as the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, supply policy support for local districts to develop new practices of instruction and assessment that promote and assess deeper levels of understanding and applicable, relevant skills. Through our work with the PACE initiative, Souhegan is uniquely positioned ahead of the curve to provide our students with a rigorous, personalized, authentic learning experience.

Inspired by the recommendations of the SAU39 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 the fourth annual Career Panel Day 50 community members, including several SHS alumni, spent 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. Currently, our engineering students are working with outside experts, two civil engineers who are Souhegan graduates, and the Amherst Conservation Commission, to replace a bridge over Joe English Brook. 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. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 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	State 2015
Critical Read	550	530	543	537	525
Writing	535	536	537	525	511
Math	552	532	543	536	530
Overall	1639	1598	1623	1598	1566
Participation	78%	81%	84%		

**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.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	State 2015
Participation	50%	50%	52%	53%	
English	25	23	24	24	24
Math	24	23	23	23	24
Reading	25	23	24	25	25
Science	24	23	23	23	24
Composite	25	23	24	24	24

**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 eight years.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of AP courses	11	11	11	11	13	13	13	13
Number of AP exams administered	244	290	252	273	305	232	254	185

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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
College/University (4 yr)	81%	77%	80%	81%	80%	86%	68%
Community College/ Technical School	7%	13%	11%	11%	12%	6%	18%
Work	8%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	12%
Other (prep school, service, undecided)	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%

In addition to tracking students' plans for after 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
Most competitive	5%	8%	4%	11%	8%	7%	8%
Highly competitive	15%	12%	10%	15%	11%	11%	10%
Very competitive	25%	22%	24%	19%	27%	38%	37%
Total of three	45%	42%	38%	45%	46%	56%	55%

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, nationally and professionally for their many strengths, and have instructed at the college level in addition to having received many honors and awards. We are proud of the countless hours which our teachers put in outside of the classroom to support their excellence in the classroom.

## **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.

### **Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO)**

A group including representatives from CCSSO, Hewlett-Packard, EdWeek and NHDOE visited Souhegan on November 6 to observe performance tasks and academic rigor. The group is concluding a visit to NH for the purpose of observing the work being accomplished in the PACE districts.

*CCSSO is a nationwide, nonpartisan, and nonprofit membership organization coordinating the top education leaders from every state in the nation. Hewlett Foundation is one of the nation's largest charitable foundation committed to investing in innovation in education and EdWeek is a national newspaper covering K-12 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, will be visiting Souhegan on April 1. This visit, likely inspired in part by the recent reauthorization of NCLB, is the second visit to Souhegan consisting of national leaders in education.

### **Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR)**

Our partnership with CSSR has connected us with a district in Springdale, Arkansas involved in redesigning their entire district. After receiving approximately 20 million dollars in a Race to the Top Grant, Springdale school leaders have visited Souhegan to study our practices as a model for the redesign.

### **New Hampshire Department of Education: Performance Assessments for Competency Education (PACE)**

A monumental milestone was achieved last year when the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved New Hampshire's Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) pilot in four school districts. Souhegan was one of only four districts in the country commissioned to engage in this work that has gained national recognition during the past year.

### **Innovative Lab Network Performance Task Bank at Stanford University**

Stanford is supporting the PACE initiative by maintaining a bank of high quality, vetted performance tasks. Several of our teachers have had their work accepted.

Lord of the Flies and Philosophy	Jeanne Sturges
Junior Research Paper	Kathy Maddock
Coming of Age in the Cultural Revolution	Aimee Gibbons
Shark Tank	Kathy Maddock
Car Loans	Kim Theriault

### **AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS**

#### **Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching**

*Jenny Deenik-Science Teacher*

Last summer, Jennifer Deenik, was awarded the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. As a 10th grade biology teacher for 18 years at Souhegan High School Jenny Deenik has led the way in using dynamic inquiry-based science in her classroom to engage students in authentic learning experience.

#### **National Council of Teachers of English Conference**

*Kim Paniagua-English Teacher*

Kim secured an invitation to this exclusive conference for her work around the impact of collaboration and shared responsibility in the secondary ELA classroom. Title: *Collaboration Station: Practice in Collaborative Learning and Shared Responsibility*

#### **National Science Teacher Association**

*Julianne Mueller-Northcott-Science Teacher*

Julianne's article on how to enable high school students to engage with authentic scientific data was published in *The Science Teacher*. As Souhegan continues to align its science curriculum with the Next Generation Science Standards and include ever-more inquiry-based projects that are relevant and challenging to students, Julianne's recent publication is testament to the tremendous amount of dedication, work and expertise such an undertaking requires.

#### **International Association for K-12 Online Learning Conference (iNACOL)**

*Kathy White-Dean of Faculty*

As part of a group assembled by the NHD OE, Kathy White presented New Hampshire's work on competency education and performance assessments to a national audience last November at the iNACOL conference. Kathy has assumed a leadership role in the state in developing a new accountability system based on performance assessments.

#### **National Association of Secondary School Principal Conference (NASSP)**

*Rob Scully-Principal*

In conjunction with the Center for Collaborative Education, Rob presented on creating conditions that allow schools to implement a multiple measures approach for assessments. Locally-created, curriculum-embedded performance assessments—which measure mastery of content at higher cognitive levels, as well as critical thinking, interpersonal, and metacognitive



skills—are becoming an essential component of such a multiple measures assessment system. The presentation emphasized how performance assessments are an important multiple measure of student performance and how New Hampshire education policies promote systemic change.

## **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 freedom of thought. 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 920 slots reserved for this year’s event.

### **Pulitzer Arts Foundation St. Louis, Missouri**

Endorsed by the NH Humanities Group, HYPE was awarded a Pulitzer Grant from the Pulitzer Arts Foundation St. Louis, Missouri. Those funds will go to cover costs of the event as well as produce a documentary highlighting SHS, the Ethics Forum Leadership Team, philosophy education and educational leadership in the state of NH.

### **Academic WorldQuest Competition**

A team of Souhegan High School students, won the Academic WorldQuest Competition. The team was awarded a trip to the national competition in Washington D.C. sponsored by World Affairs Councils of America. Academic WorldQuest is a team competition testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture.

### **New Hampshire Science and Engineering Expo**

At the New Hampshire Science and Engineering Expo (NHSEE) held March 2015, a Souhegan junior, Callie Cinque, took first place in her research category of Behavioral Science and even more impressive, she took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the entire Expo overall out of a field of 30 – 50 students.

### **2015 NH Student Film Festival**

Anna Waldron’s documentary “The Bridge” has been selected as one of the winners of the NH Student Film Festival. The New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival has become one of the marquee film festivals in the state, fostering interest in filmmaking, encouraging media arts education in schools, and rewarding future members of the industry for their craft.

### **State Envirothon Competition**

This year Souhegan fielded two teams of five students each for the NH Envirothon Competition held last May at New England College. This annual environmentally themed academic competition for high school aged students is sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation. It takes place each spring in both the U.S. and Canada on a regional, state, and bi-national level. The competition assesses students’ knowledge in four natural resource topical areas – aquatic ecology, forestry, soils / land use, and wildlife. Teams also prepared a 15 minute presentation for this year’s current issue problem on urban forestry which they presented before a panel of natural resources specialists and scientists.



## **BizGen Competition**

BizGen's mission is to light the spark in the next generation of business developers. BizGen does this through engaging competitions where business ideas are developed by high school students with the help of mentors and coaches and evaluated by qualified judges. Winning ideas will receive both in-kind and financial help to get started. The BizGen competition began two years ago, and Souhegan teams have taken first and second place both years. This year one of our students will serve as the keynote speaker at the competition.

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 839, 717 students have been involved in extra-curricular activities - 439 have participated in one or more sports and another 278 have participated in one or more non-sport activities.

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 performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They are now preparing to present *The Boy Friend* as their spring musical on March 31, April 1 and April 2. In January, the National Honor Society sponsored their annual blood drive, collecting a generous 58 pints of blood and maintaining the school's reputation as high volume donors. The Music Department has had a busy year, in addition to the several concerts and jazz nights that were hosted, Tim Murphy, Naomi Chen, Kate Giannakopoulos and Emily Loose were selected as All-State musicians. In competitions, the Mock Trial team finished second at the state meet, the Granite State Challenge team made it to the televised round of competition, the Ocean Bowl team won the sportsmanship award at their regional and the World Quest team won the state championship that earned them an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the national competition.

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. Both the girls volleyball

and girls basketball teams did breast cancer awareness games. Volleyball did a Dig Pink night and girls basketball had a night for the Play-4-Kay Foundation, a foundation created in honor of former North Carolina State women's basketball coach, Kay Yow, a breast cancer victim. 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 football team used their last home game to recognize military veterans as well as those currently serving in the military. 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 brought home the Division 2 runner-up plaque. Also last spring, the girls lacrosse team and the boys lacrosse team made it to the semifinals of their state tournaments. Last fall, the football team finished 7-1 and hosted a quarterfinal playoff game and the field hockey team played their way to the semifinals before losing to the eventual state champion. This winter, the girls Alpine team brought home the Division 2 runner-up plaque and both basketball teams are looking at hosting first round playoff games.

There have also been numerous individual accolades for both players and coaches, so many that it is impossible to list all of them. In February of this year, twenty-eight senior student-athletes were recognized as scholar athletes by the NHIAA; this recognition is for maintaining a high academic standing while participating in multiple sports. Last spring, Eli Moskowitz set a state record for the 3200 meter run – the record time was also the third fastest ever run by a high school runner; Eli also won the 800, 1600 and 3200 races at the Division 2 state championships. For his spring efforts, Eli was selected as the Gatorade NH Male Track Athlete of the Year for the state of New Hampshire. In soccer, Hannah Chick and Haley Johnson were selected to play in the Twin State Games against Vermont this summer. Last but not least, football coach Mike Lochman was selected as the Coach of the Year for the Division 2 South Conference.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Peter Warburton, Superintendent of Schools**

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

Dear Community Members, Parents and Students of SAU #39,

It is again my pleasure to write this Annual Report for our three school districts.

### ***A Thank You...***

As I complete my fifth year as your Superintendent, I want to take a moment to thank the people of Amherst and Mont Vernon. Thank you for donating your time and talent in our classrooms, in committee work, as a member of your PTA, with our sports and co-curricular programs, for supporting your child and for just lending a hand when you are needed. Your support is noticed and appreciated.

### ***Our SAU #39 Staff...***

The iconic Brick School, located in the Amherst village, is the home of our Supervisory Administrative Unit (SAU) staff who provide services and support to all schools in SAU #39. Working with our district Board members, administration and staff, the SAU staff serves as a resource and provides steerage in the areas of business and finance, technology, facilities and grounds, accounts payable, special education, payroll, human resources, curriculum, professional development, and superintendent services. It is a staff that works diligently, with passion and unparalleled abilities to serve our communities and students. I want to publicly acknowledge them for the work they do for all of our schools.

### ***As an SAU, we have a multi-year Strategic Plan, a compass that focuses our commitment to high quality, cost effective education...***

In last year's report, I mentioned the development and design of a Strategic Plan Process for all our districts. Since then, more than one hundred stake-holders (community members, staff, administration and Board members) 'signed on' to be a part of the future in our schools. This work has now made it possible to shift from planning to execution. It has been an engaging process: a process that supports the day to day operations and initiatives, but also gives us a look over the horizon to chart the future dreams and aspirations of our districts. Over the coming months we will share the Strategic Planning Road Map that documents the initiatives underway and provides a quarterly scorecard of our progress. The first Annual Report of our schools will be in September. A printed copy of the SAU #39 Strategic Plan was an insert in the Amherst Citizen in December. Please take some time to review our plan ([sau39.org](http://sau39.org)) and be in touch with me with any questions, comments or suggestions, or to join us in this work.

### ***Bending the trend...***

And lastly, in line with our 5 year strategy to streamline and reduce costs, our board members and school staff work many hours to present budgets each year for your approval. There is dedication to the task of maintaining quality education while examining, discussing and voting on each and every dollar. Our individual budget committees are instrumental in this work and make recommendations to the public after their committee work is finished.

With the work complete, ALL of the district budget proposals for FY '17 show a decrease from last year's default budgets, with the SAU #39 budget also showing a decrease. Here's a breakdown of each of our FY '17 proposed budgets:

#### **AMHERST**

The Amherst School District FY '17 budget proposal is a decrease of .56% or \$137,352 from last year's default budget. This budget proposal is unanimously supported by the Amherst School Board and the Amherst Ways and Means Committee.

#### **MONT VERNON**

The Mont Vernon School District FY '17 budget proposal is a decrease of 2.21% or \$103, 926 from last year's budget. This budget proposal is unanimously supported by the Mont Vernon School Board and the Mont Vernon Budget Committee.

## **SOUHEGAN**

The Souhegan Cooperative School District FY '17 budget proposal is a decrease of 3.95% or \$723,388 from last year's default budget. This budget proposal is supported 6-1 by the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and is unanimously supported by the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee. The total decrease for all three districts is 6.72% or \$964,666.

## **SAU #39**

The SAU #39 FY'17 budget proposal is a decrease of 2.61% or \$57,881 from last year's budget. This budget proposal is unanimously supported by the SAU #39 Board and is unanimously supported by the SAU #39 Budget Committee.

It is with pride and a strong sense of humility that I work with a distinguished leadership team, school board and teaching corps to provide personalized, high quality education for the students of Amherst and Mont Vernon.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support in our schools.

Sincerely,

Peter Warburton  
Superintendent of Schools

## **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 to 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 has 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 with 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 2013-2014 and FY 2014-2015 per RSA 32:11a**

ITEM	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Catastrophic Aid	\$217,850	\$241,048
IDEA Grant	\$172,364	\$180,311
Medicaid	<u>\$113,718</u>	<u>\$137,032</u>
Total Revenues	\$503,931	\$558,391
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries	\$1,816,573	\$1,797,490
Employee Benefits	\$769,518	\$758,826
Purchased Services	\$1,288,597	\$1,361,475
Supplies	\$9,393	\$10,240
Equipment	\$18,827	\$2,922
Other	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$530</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,902,907	\$3,931,483
Net Cost of Special Education	\$3,398,976	\$3,373,092
Source DOE 25		

**Souhegan Cooperative School District**  
**Report of the Treasurer to the School Board**  
**Fiscal Year 07/01/2014-06/30/2015**

Cash on hand- as of 07/01/2014	\$713,972
Total Receipts- 07/01/2014-06/30/2015	\$17,670,924
Total Payments-07/01/2014-06/30/2015	(\$17,614,534)
Cash Balance- as of 06/30/2015	\$770,362 *

\* Represents the combined activity of three bank accounts.

Ann Logan, Former Treasurer

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL BASED ON  
AN AUDIT OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the School Board  
Souhegan Cooperative School District

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Souhegan Cooperative School District (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the School Board, and others within the organization, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Manchester, New Hampshire  
November 23, 2015

# NOTES