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Souhegan Cooperative School District

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Annual Report and Guide to Official Ballot Voting on March 8, 2011

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 8, 2011.

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.sprise.com

Officers and Agents of the School District
Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Amherst Representatives

Stephen Coughlan, Chair
Frances J. Harrow
Christine Janson
Jeanne Ludt, Vice Chair
Mary Lou Mullens

Mont Vernon Representatives

Howard Brown
Pim Grondstra

School District Moderator

Cynthia Dokmo

School District Clerk

Nancy Baker

School District Treasurer

Ann Logan

Souhegan Finance Committee

Gail Agans, Chair
 Andrea Baver
 Mary Mahar
 Marilyn Peterman
 John Rizzi
 Peter Stearns

Office of the Superintendent

Mary Jennings, Superintendent of Schools
 Elizabeth Shankel, Business Administrator
 Renea Sparks, Director of Special Instructional Services
 Nicole Heimarck, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development

School Administration

Jon Ingram, Principal
 Robert Thompson, Dean of Students
 Colleen Meaney, Dean of Faculty
 Gigi Klipa, Dean of Faculty

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A Message from the School Board Chairman

As usual, the year which has passed brought lots of changes. On the board, Pam Coughlin (Mont Vernon) and Dana Redmond (Amherst) resigned, and Pim Grondstra (Mont Vernon) and Fran Harrow (Amherst) were appointed. In each case, the appointee fills the seat until the next election. We are grateful for all the volunteers who applied for the vacancies. In the school, Jim Bosman completed his year as interim principal until a new principal could be found, and on July 1 we welcomed Jon Ingram as our fourth principal. Peggy Silva completed her long service to Souhegan as interim Dean of Faculty in her final year, and retired, and we welcomed back former teacher Gigi Klipa as our new Dean of Faculty. At the SAU 39 level, this is Superintendent Mary Athey Jennings' fifth and final year as our educational leader, and she will retire in June. We thank her for her commitment to the children of Amherst and Mont Vernon, and the strong leadership she has shown in improving our K-12 educational system. Since the Deliberative Session, the SAU 39 board has completed the search and selection process, and Peter Warburton has been hired as our new Superintendent. Peter will collaborate with Dr. Jennings over the next few months as he prepares to transition from his current superintendency, and join us officially on July 1st.

The age and status of our facilities was the dominant theme for the board. Our consultants, Gale Associates, completed a comprehensive study of our campus as it approaches 20 years of use, identifying areas that currently or shortly will need attention beyond routine maintenance, as well as recommending changes that will enable our facilities to support current needs and uses. Some expensive repairs can be expected as our oldest systems reach their end of useful life, as well as a myriad of less expensive but still critical items that will need to be addressed. At the same time, the Community Council undertook a review of security-related issues and made a set of recommendations to the board that were consistent with, or extended, the Gale recommendations. Recommendations that could be adopted with little or no cost have been done, such as moving the SRO's office. Others are part of a phased approach in the budget, such as this year's proposed second phase (of four) of locker replacements. A high impact, high cost item, door lock replacement, was considered for a warrant article, but the high cost and subsequent tax impact was determined to be unaffordable at the Deliberative Session, and the proposed article was reduced to \$0. The board will search for alternative implementation options for the locking system, and for other recommended security enhancements which are beyond our normal repair and replacement budget. In other work, the board revised or adopted new policies in the areas of bullying, attendance, use of restraints, and the yearbook.

On the budget side, we are grateful to the voters for supporting our budget last March. Our three year agreement with the staff expires this year, so negotiations for a new agreement began in the fall, culminating in the two year agreement on the warrant. Both the board and the staff recognized the difficult economy that exists today, and the proposed agreement reflects a collaborative negotiation that addresses needs in a very frugal manner.

The budget for next year reflects some significant changes that were beyond the board's control. Retirement System costs were downshifted from the State, and health insurance increased again (8.5%), but less than last year's 22.5% increase. Special Education costs decreased, partially due to continuous improvements in administration, but primarily due to decreased need for services. Student population is forecasted to remain close to level next year, so no changes in staffing outside of Special Education are proposed. The athletic program costs and operations were reviewed by the board, and the user fee structure has been modified for next year to better reflect the relative costs of various sports, while retaining a family cap.

The administration and board are presenting a budget which maintains the services and quality of the Souhegan educational experience for our students, while being mindful of the impact of our programs on the taxpayers of Mont Vernon and Amherst. We ask for your support of the budget at the polls in March.

Steve Coughlan
Chairman, 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 8th Deliberative Session. Final ballot voting on the articles that emerge from the Deliberative Session takes place at the polls on Election Day, March 8th, as shown below.

Voting is a Two-Step Process

Deliberative Session	February 8 th
7:00 p.m.	
SHS Auditorium	

Ballot Vote	March 8 th
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>	

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 8th 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.

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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 8, 2011 and March 8, 2011
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 Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 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 6. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion, as amended.

You are hereby further notified to meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, for official ballot voting on warrant articles numbered 1 through 5, 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, 2011.
- 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 two (2) years.
 - Election of one (1) member of the School Board from Mont Vernon 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 **\$18,358,322?** Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17,982,064**, 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 unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0. The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: The proposed budget is an increase of 0.39% over the budget we are operating with this year. This budget includes placing the support staff on a new salary schedule that will prevent anti-spiking assessments by the NH Retirement System. Controllable costs have been minimized and necessary maintenance

issues are addressed. Increases include significant increases in employee retirement costs mandated by the state, and in medical insurance costs for our employees. Decreases include lower anticipated special education costs.

Article 3 To see if the Souhegan Cooperative School District will vote to approve the costs included in the agreement reached 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:

Year	Estimated Costs
2011 – 2012	\$114,714
2012 – 2013	\$250,273

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$114,714** for the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels? **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 Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.**

Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: This article ratifies the new 2-year agreement following on the current 3-year agreement, now in its final year. This agreement provides a 1% increase in salaries for FY11-12, coupled with significant savings in health care benefits through adoption of a lower-cost prescription plan. These savings greatly reduce the budget impact of the first year salary changes. Costs for FY12-13 include steps and a 1.75% increase in salaries. In addition, the district match for employee retirement contributions, made in lieu of FICA contributions, is increased from 85% to 100% of the FICA match that we would have to pay if the district employees were contributing to Social Security.

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, 2011 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 Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: This article adds to the approximately \$82,000 balance in the maintenance expendable trust. The trust is intended to meet maintenance needs, including unplanned emergencies. Last year the board and administration completed a comprehensive facilities study which reports significant maintenance/replacement needs in the near future. This fund will help level tax impacts as these needs are addressed, as well as prepare us should aging building systems fail more

quickly than planned for. This has no tax impact in the upcoming year, as only surplus funds are used if they are available, which may impact the tax rate in 2012.

Article 5 Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate \$0 to install a computerized lock down system in both the Main Building and the Annex?

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 Advisory Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

Souhegan Cooperative School Board Commentary: This article was amended at the Deliberative Session with the support of the Board and Advisory Finance Committee because the costs for a full system replacement were considered to be too high to go forward in the current economy. The board remains committed to finding an affordable strategy to fund the complete replacement of exterior and interior locks with a modern, centrally controlled system that will improve safety throughout the buildings. The current locking system is older technology which is becoming harder and more expensive to maintain, so the replacement system is expected to control and reduce future facility maintenance costs.

Article 6 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
FY11-12**

2011-2012 budget

Committee Members:

Amherst – Gail Agans (Chair), Mary Mahar, Marilyn Peterman, and Peter Stearns
Mont Vernon – Andrea Baver and John Rizzi

Article 2:

The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee reviewed the expenditures and revenues for the 2011-2012 budget. We have concluded that the proposed budget submitted by the Administration and School Board meets the educational needs of all students and is worthy of taxpayer support. As we did last year, our committee broke out into small groups each joining with a member of the school board and a member from the Administration. We each took on different aspects of the budget: curriculum, administration, special education, transportation and food service, technology and athletics. This gave us a detailed look at every aspect of the budget.

Our district is experiencing lower enrollments but in order to support a full curriculum and meet the needs of our students it is not prudent at this time to make reductions in staff from last year's levels.

Considering the fact that many expenses to the school are increasing, the Souhegan budget is only increasing by 0.39%. The biggest increases to the budget are in regular education, school administration, technology and operations and maintenance.

Regular education includes teacher salaries, health and dental benefits and payments to the NH retirement fund. Health and dental insurance and payments to the NH retirement fund have seen significant increases.

The school administration portion of the budget is increasing due to the need for a new phone system.

The technology portion of the budget is an area that can no longer be ignored. Many of the schools computers are past their useful life.

Operations and maintenance are seeing a large increase due to many areas of the school needing to be upgraded as per the Gale facility study report and the added security from the replacement of locker pods.

Offsetting these increases is a large reduction in special education services, increasing revenue in food service and a reduction in debt service.

The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 2 as presented by the Souhegan School Board.

Article 3:

The first year of the teacher contract gives most teachers and staff a modest 1% pay increase which is balanced out with a decrease in prescription benefits. There is an increase in the retirement match to equate to the social security match. There are also provisions to prevent future costs to the town in retirement outlays. The second year provides a 1.75% pay increase.

The Advisory Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 3.

Article 4:

Warrant article 4 requests funds for the maintenance trust fund. This will provide funds in case of an emergency need for repairs and will keep future repairs at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

The Advisory Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 4.

Article 5:

The current locking security system at Souhegan is antiquated and expensive to fix. In a lock-down situation, the students and the staff would be at risk. We recognize the need for a new computerized system that would instantly lock all the classroom and exterior doors. Due to the high cost, estimated at \$379, 595, the school board amended the original warrant to postpone this work until all security measures have been prioritized. The school board is committed to school security and we are satisfied that the work will be done in the most economical way.

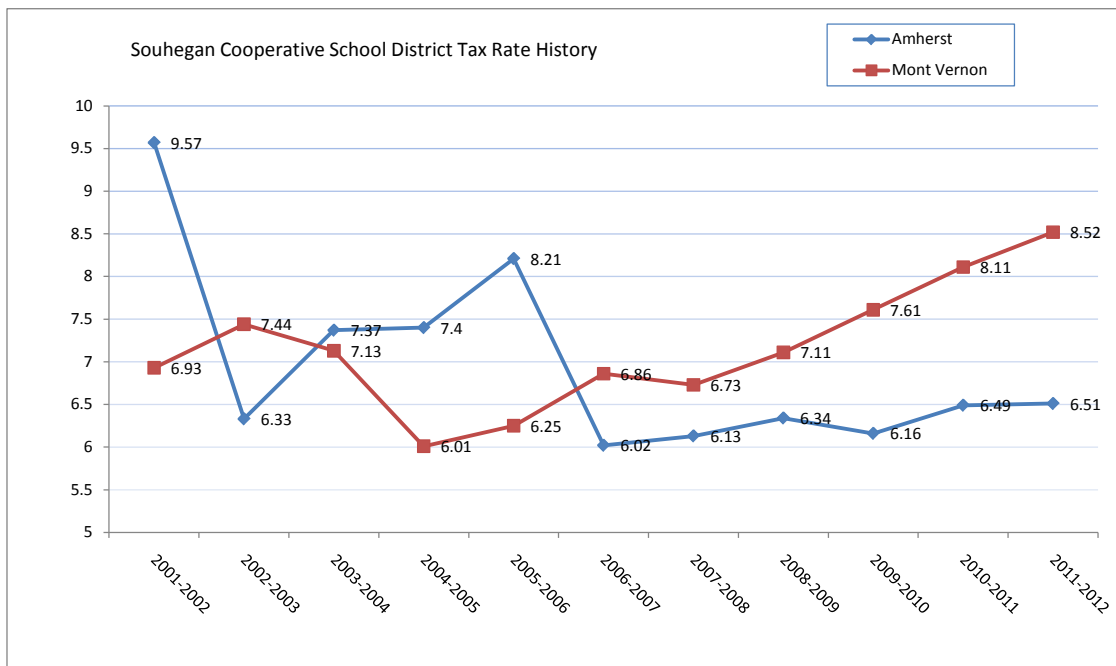
The Advisory Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 5.

This budget reflects many months of careful consideration of all aspects of our high school. We are unanimous in giving it our full support and hope that you will feel the same.

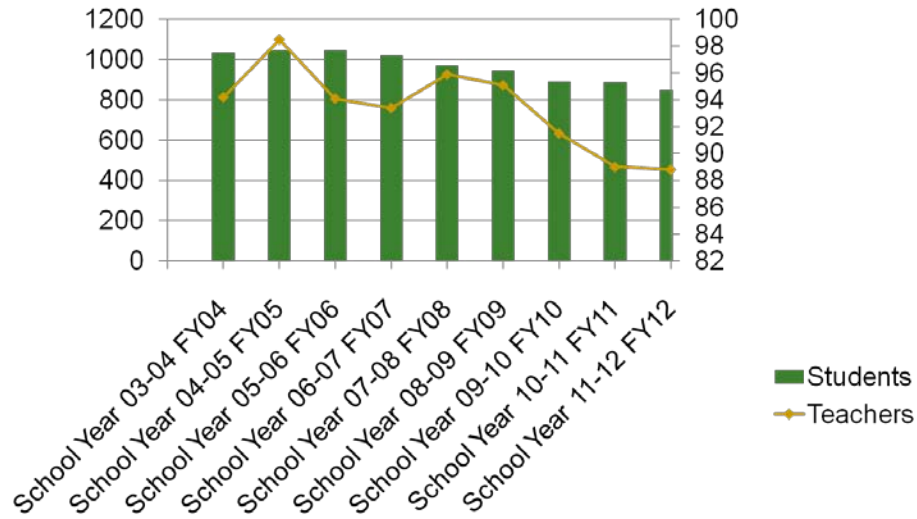
Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Agans, Chairman
Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
FY12 Summary of Warrant Articles and Tax Impact**

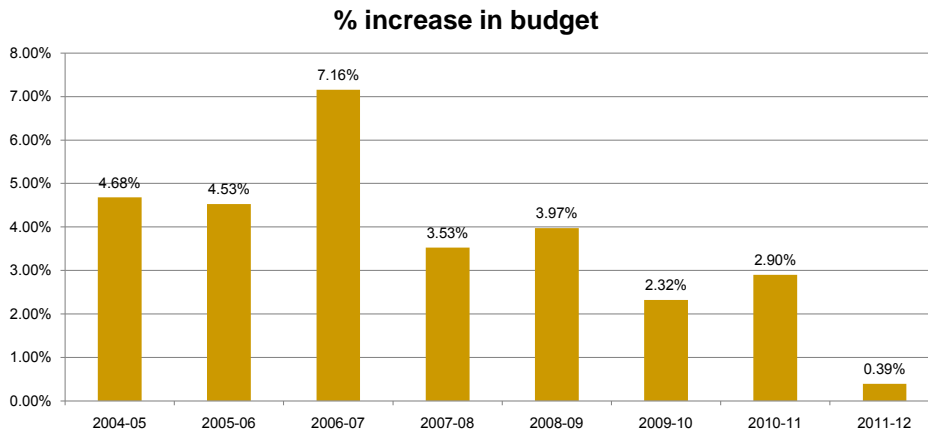
Article #	FY 2010-2011 Budget	Cost	Estimated Tax Impact	
			Amherst	Mont Vernon
		\$18,286,827	\$6.49	\$8.11
2	Budget - Net Increase	\$71,495	\$0.02	\$0.41
	Total FY 2010-2011 Budget	\$18,358,322	\$6.51	\$8.52
	Tax Impact to \$400 K Home - Budget Only		\$8	\$164
3	Teacher & Support Staff Agreement	\$114,714	\$0.06	\$0.07
	Tax Impact to \$400 K Home - Article 3		\$24	\$28
4	School Maintenance Trust	\$65,000	\$0.03	\$0.04
	Tax Impact to \$400 K Home- Article 4		\$12	\$16
5	Computerized Lock Down System	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Tax Impact to \$400 K Home - Article 5		\$0	\$0
Total FY12 Budget and Articles 3, 4 and 5		\$18,538,036	\$0.11	\$0.52
Total Tax Impact to \$400 K Home			\$44	\$208



Souhegan Students and Teachers



Annual Percentage Change from Budget to Budget



Souhegan Cooperative School District
FY12 Budget Proposal By Function

Function	Description	FY10 Actual Expenditures	FY11 Voted Budget	FY12 Proposed Budget	Variance \$	Variance %
1100-1199	Regular Education Programs- Teacher salaries, textbooks, substitutes, supplies	\$6,778,113	\$7,284,578	\$7,492,223	\$207,645	2.85%
1200-1299	Special Education Programs- Teacher salaries, aides, substitutes, evaluators, textbooks, supplies, and items specific to SPED	\$3,565,579	\$3,701,569	\$3,354,455	-\$347,114	-9.38%
1400-1499	Co-Curricular Programs - Interscholastics, intramurals, student body activities	\$407,653	\$420,385	\$450,044	\$29,659	7.06%
1600-1699	Adult Education Programs	\$13,870	\$3,460	\$5,733	\$2,273	65.69%
2000-2199	Student Support Services- Guidance, health, nurses, and SRO salaries	\$960,690	\$1,005,623	\$1,007,585	\$1,962	0.20%
2200-2299	Instruction Support Services- Library salaries, supplies, curriculum coordinators, professional development, consultants	\$466,133	\$505,150	\$515,254	\$10,104	2.00%
2300-2319	School Board- Treasurer, moderator, SB stipends, SB minute taker	\$71,775	\$47,460	\$54,939	\$7,479	15.76%
2320-311	District Assessment - SAU 39 Souhegan portion of the SAU budget	\$645,142	\$654,307	\$685,464	\$31,157	4.76%
2400-2499	School Administrative Services- Principal salary, Deans' salaries	\$758,076	\$768,795	\$845,203	\$76,408	9.94%
2500-2599	Business- Printing costs	\$3,082	\$4,500	\$4,000	-\$500	-11.11%
2600-2699	Operation and Plant Maintenance- Custodial salaries, electricity, natural gas, water, trash, loss and liability insurance premiums, building maintenance	\$1,229,221	\$1,189,080	\$1,310,979	\$121,899	10.25%
2700-2799	Student Transportation- Bus contract, fuel	\$443,313	\$513,691	\$531,463	\$17,772	3.46%
2800-2899	Support Service - Technology Technology staff salaries, local and wide area network costs	\$272,766	\$274,569	\$320,502	\$45,933	16.73%
5110	Debt Service - Principal	\$713,718	\$692,670	\$672,846	-\$19,824	-2.86%
5120	Debt Service - Interest	\$502,267	\$444,105	\$380,219	-\$63,886	-14.39%
5200	Fund Transfer	\$52,000	\$90,000	\$15,000	-\$75,000	-83.33%
	Total Fund 10	\$16,883,397	\$17,599,942	\$17,645,909	\$45,967	0.26%
	Fund 21 - Food Service	\$419,594	\$462,095	\$517,623	\$55,528	12.02%
	Fund 22 - Title Grants/IDEA Grant	\$362,747	\$224,790	\$194,790	-\$30,000	-13.35%
	Total Budget	\$17,665,738	\$18,286,827	\$18,358,322	\$71,495	0.39%

**Souhegan Cooperative School District
FY12 Proposed Revenue Summary**

<i>Acct #</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY11 DRA</i>	<i>FY12 Proposed</i>	<i>Change</i>
	General Fund Expenditures	\$17,599,942	\$17,645,909	\$45,967
	Special Revenue and Food Service	\$686,885	\$712,413	\$25,528
	Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)	\$18,286,827	\$18,358,322	\$71,495
770	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$262,590	\$183,534	(\$79,056)
	State Aid			
3210	School Building Aid	\$311,580	\$269,138	(\$42,442)
3230	Catastrophic Aid	\$522,000	\$480,000	(\$42,000)
3270	Driver Education	\$24,000	\$20,000	(\$4,000)
3280	Medicaid	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
3290	Other	\$0	\$78,805	\$78,805
	Subtotal: State Aid	\$957,580	\$947,943	(\$9,637)
	Federal Aid			
4500	Grants In Aid	\$222,790	\$194,790	(\$28,000)
	Subtotal: Federal Aid	\$222,790	\$194,790	(\$28,000)
	Other Revenue			
5100	Sale Of Bonds / Notes			
5230	Transfer From Cap. Pr. Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Subtotal: Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Local Revenue			
1300	Tuition - Parents, Summer School, Adult Ed	\$25,000	\$31,000	\$6,000
1400	State AV 1 Transportation Reimbursement	\$7,500	\$2,500	(\$5,000)
1510	Interest Income	\$20,000	\$10,000	(\$10,000)
1600	Food Service	\$462,095	\$517,623	\$55,528
1700	Pupil Activities	\$133,550	\$168,500	\$34,950
1910	Rentals	\$25,000	\$10,000	(\$15,000)
1990	Other - Local Grants & Trusts	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
	Subtotal: Local Revenue	\$675,145	\$741,623	\$66,478
	Assessment:			
	Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)	\$18,286,827	\$18,358,322	\$71,495
	Less Unreserved Fund Balance	\$262,590	\$183,534	(\$79,056)
	Less Subtotal: State Aid	\$957,580	\$947,943	(\$9,637)
	Less Subtotal: Federal Aid	\$222,790	\$194,790	(\$28,000)
	Less Subtotal: Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Less Subtotal: Local Revenue	\$675,145	\$741,623	\$66,478
1111	Current Appropriation	\$16,168,722	\$16,290,432	\$121,710
1111	Current Appropriation	\$16,168,722	\$16,290,432	\$121,710
1112	Deficit Appropriation			
	Advance Appropriation			
	Total Appropriation	\$16,168,722	\$16,290,432	\$121,710
	AMHERST SHARE	\$13,567,781	\$13,679,239	\$10,252
	Adequacy Aid Grant	\$1,528,486	\$1,600,683	\$72,197
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$1,349,060	\$1,376,614	\$27,554
	Total Credits- Amherst	\$2,877,546	\$2,977,297	\$99,751
				\$0
	Assessment - Town of Amherst	\$10,690,235	\$10,701,942	\$11,707
				\$0
	Net Assessed Value/\$1000 - Amherst	\$1,859,876	\$1,859,876	\$0
	Tax Rate - Amherst	\$5.75	\$5.75	\$0.00
	Local Assessed Value/\$1000 Less Utilities	\$1,821,319	\$1,821,319	(\$0)
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$0.74	\$0.76	\$0.02
	Total School Tax - Town of Amherst	\$6.49	\$6.51	\$0.02
	MONT VERNON SHARE	\$2,600,941	\$2,611,193	\$10,252
	Adequacy Aid Grant	\$556,958	\$465,489	(\$91,469)
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$215,930	\$209,706	(\$6,224)
	Total Credits- Mont Vernon	\$772,888	\$675,195	(\$97,693)
	Assessment - Town of Mont Vernon	\$1,828,053	\$1,935,998	\$107,945
	Net Assessed Value/\$1000 - Mont Vernon	\$252,196	\$252,196	\$0
	Tax Rate - Mont Vernon	\$7.25	\$7.68	\$0.43
	Local Assessed Value/\$1000 Less Utilities	\$250,686	\$250,686	\$0
	Statewide School Property Tax	\$0.86	\$0.84	(\$0.02)
	Total School Tax - Town of Mont Vernon	\$8.11	\$8.52	\$0.41

Default Budget - Souhegan Cooperative School District FY 2012

1	2	3	4	5	6
Acct #	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 32:3,V)	Prior Year Adopted Operating Budget	Increases/ Decreases	One Time Initiatives	DEFAULT BUDGET
	INSTRUCTION (1000-1999)	\$ 11,409,992	\$ (221,091)	\$ 5,424	\$ 11,183,477
1100-1199	Regular Education Programs	\$ 7,284,578	\$ 131,969	\$ 5,174	\$ 7,411,373
1200-1299	Special Education Programs	\$ 3,701,569	\$ (347,464)	\$ 250	\$ 3,353,855
1400-1499	Co-Curricular Programs	\$ 420,385	\$ (5,596)	\$ -	\$ 414,789
1600-1899	Adult & Community Programs	\$ 3,460	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,460
	SUPPORT SERVICES (2000-2999)	\$ 1,510,773	\$ 2,492	\$ 660	\$ 1,512,605
2000-2199	Student Support Services	\$ 1,005,623	\$ 1,431	\$ -	\$ 1,007,054
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	\$ 505,150	\$ 1,061	\$ 660	\$ 505,551
	General Administration	\$ 47,460	\$ (1,321)	\$ -	\$ 46,139
2300-840	School Board Contingency	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1
2310-2319	Other School Board	\$ 47,459	\$ (1,321)	\$ -	\$ 46,138
	Executive Administration	\$ 3,404,942	\$ 64,233	\$ 750	\$ 3,468,425
2320-311	SAU Management Services	\$ 654,307	\$ 31,157	\$ -	\$ 685,464
2320-2399	All Other Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2400-2499	School Administration Service	\$ 768,795	\$ 1,198	\$ -	\$ 769,993
2500-2599	Business	\$ 4,500	\$ (500)	\$ -	\$ 4,000
2600-2699	Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$ 1,189,080	\$ 34,124	\$ 750	\$ 1,222,454
2700-2799	Student Transportation	\$ 513,691	\$ (4,628)	\$ -	\$ 509,063
2800-2899	Technology	\$ 274,569	\$ 2,882	\$ -	\$ 277,451
4000-4999	Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	OTHER OUTLAYS (5000-5999)	\$ 1,136,775	\$ -	\$ 83,710	\$ 1,053,065
5100-5119	Debt Service - Principal	\$ 692,670	\$ -	\$ 19,824	\$ 672,846
5120-5122	Debt Service - Interest	\$ 444,105	\$ -	\$ 63,886	\$ 380,219
	FUND TRANSFERS	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 15,000
5220-5221	To Food Service	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
5251	To Capital Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5252	To Expendable Trusts	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ -
	FOOD SERVICE FUND	\$ 462,095	\$ 46,468	\$ -	\$ 508,563
	GRANT FUND	\$ 224,790	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 194,790
	SUPPLEMENTAL DEFICIT				
	TOTALS	\$ 18,286,827	\$ (109,219)	\$ 195,544	\$ 17,982,064

**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 8, 2011**

Nancy I. Baker
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
<small>For 3 years</small> <small>Vote for not more than Two</small> ANDREW ROWE <input type="radio"/>	<small>For 2 years</small> <small>Vote for not more than One</small> CHRISTINE JANSON <input type="radio"/>
FRANCES HARROW <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MARY LOU MULLENS <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in)
<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 **\$18,358,322**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17, 982,064**, 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
Majority vote required to pass. NO

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

Article 3 To see if the Souhegan Cooperative School District will vote to approve the costs included in the agreement reached 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:

Year	Estimated Costs
2011 – 2012	\$114,714
2012 – 2013	\$250,273

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$114,714** for the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels? YES
Majority vote required to pass. NO

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

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, 2011 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the School Maintenance Fund previously established in March, 2005? YES
Majority vote required to pass. NO

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

Article 5 Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate **\$0** to install a computerized lock down system in both the Main Building and the Annex? YES
Majority vote required to pass. NO

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

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 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 **\$18,358,322?** Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$17,982,064**, 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 unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 7 to 0. The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

YES NO

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Souhegan Cooperative School District will vote to approve the costs included in the agreement reached 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:

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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 Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

YES NO

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, 2011 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 Advisory Finance Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

YES NO

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate \$0 to install a computerized lock down system in both the Main Building and the Annex?

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 Advisory Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 6 to 0.

YES NO

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Souhegan High School

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Jon Ingram, Principal

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. Student learning is 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. 85% 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.

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.

Success 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 accomplishments of Souhegan High School students in two areas: SAT/ACT scores and Advanced Placement (AP) participation.

SAT and ACT Tests: The following is a comparison of Souhegan scores over the last four years with state averages for 2010. As the SAT format was changed four years ago, the comparison is limited to the past four years. In recent years, Souhegan High School has seen an increasing number of students taking the ACT as an increasing number of schools accept either SAT or ACT scores.

SAT Scores:

Mean Scores	SHS 2007	SHS 2008	SHS 2009	SHS 2010	STATE 2010
Critical Reading	539	539	555	542	520
Writing	523	525	531	527	510
Math	533	537	562	541	524
Overall	1595	1601	1648	1610	1554
Participation	91%	86%	86%	76%	

ACT Tests: An alternative test to the SAT's, Souhegan High School has 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.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Participation Rate	15%	28%	44%	37%	48%
English	24	24	24	24	24
Math	24	23	23	24	24
Reading	23	24	25	25	25
Science	23	23	23	23	23
Composite	23	24	24	24	24

Advanced Placement (AP) and college level courses are two indicators of how Souhegan High School students challenge themselves academically. In 1992, when the school opened, four AP courses were offered and no classes were offered for college credit. Today, we offer eleven AP courses. In addition, we offer two college credit classes and two advanced courses that allow students the opportunity to take the AP exam. In 1992, there were a total of 35 AP exams administered to Souhegan High School students. 252 exams were administered in 2010. The College Board recognized 38 of our students who earned AP Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding performance on the 2010 AP exams given last May.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number AP courses	10	11	11	11	11	11	18
Number of AP exams administered	210	204	185	217	244	290	252

Souhegan High School is proud of its students and staff. 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.

STUDENT SERVICES

Bob Thompson, Dean of Students

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 five years

Post Secondary Plans	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
College or University (4 year)	82%	81%	78%	79%	81%	77%
Community College or Technical School	9.2%	7%	10%	8%	7%	13%
Work	5.7%	7%	4%	9%	8%	5%
Armed Forces	1.8%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Other (prep school, service organization, undecided)	1.7%	4%	6%	3%	2%	4%

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:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Most competitive	7%	9%	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	8%
Highly competitive	14%	10%	14%	15%	6%	12%	15%	12%
Very competitive	15%	20%	14%	27%	36%	25%	25%	22%
Total of three	36%	39%	35%	49%	48%	42%	45%	42%

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.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Colleen L. Meaney, Dean of Faculty

What happens when I ask students to deepen their usage of primary source documents as a means to improve their writing? How do I reconcile students' belief that they can multi-task well with the overwhelming body of research revealing the mythology of successful multi-tasking? Critical Friends Groups, where such questions emerge, contribute significantly to the strength of curriculum and instruction at Souhegan.

What are Critical Friends Groups? Critical Friends Groups (CFGs) are transformational learning communities committed to fostering educational equity and excellence. While our student body sleeps in during district-wide late starts, Souhegan staff meet in mixed discipline CFGs to revise an existing unit of study, grapple with a dilemma, read and discuss the implications of contemporary educational research, and more—all with the express purpose of improving student learning.

Souhegan is an affiliate school with the School Reform Initiative. Each Critical Friends Group is led by a School Reform Initiative (SRI) trained facilitator/coach. Critical Friends Group members, and affiliates of SRI, are committed to making their practice public to one another, to being reflective, and to holding each other accountable for meeting the needs and interests of all students.

What does it mean to be a critical friend? Through critical friendship, Souhegan staff share resources and ideas, support each other in implementing new practices, and build relationships among colleagues characterized by mutual trust and freedom from judgment, while keeping a keen focus on educational excellence. Souhegan staff meets in collaborative groups, CFGs, where staff freely discusses each other's practice with the shared intention of improving student learning.

Essential questions CFG Coaches ask themselves include:

- How do I engage in and facilitate adult dialogue and collaboration that results in higher levels of learning for all students, and especially, for those students who are struggling and/or who are under served?
- How can teacher collaboration reduce/eliminate the predictive value of race and class on student success in school and in life?
- What is the role of risk-taking in adult learning?
- How do adult collaboration, reflective discourse, and de-privatized practice support student achievement?
- What are the collegial conversations that make a difference?
(see www.schoolreforminitiative.com)

CFG Coaches employ various protocols and processes to develop shared norms and values; focus on student learning; make their practice public to one another; engage in reflective dialogue and collaborative work; and inquire into, analyze and reflect upon student learning data. In so doing, staff develops the knowledge, will, skill, perspective, commitment and courage to address the most important dilemmas and questions they have about their practice.

Teaching and working with adolescents is dynamic work. Our young people deserve the best we have to offer. CFGs create the conditions for staff to push their own and each other's work toward greater excellence for students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Gigi Klipa, Dean of Faculty

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 both locally and nationally for their many strengths, and have instructed at the college level in addition to having received many honors and awards. The list below highlights some of this past year's work.

Professional Development

Pat McMullen

- Accepted into the Music Education graduate program at Boston

Sarah Laurent

- Spent two months in Guadalajara, Mexico taking classes to improve her Spanish.
- Will travel to Paris and the Loire Valley with 30 students during April break.
- Has been approved for sabbatical which will take her to South America where she will enroll in, as well as take, classes.

Julie Catauro

- Completing graduate course work focused on motivating struggling students.

Marcia Arndt

- Appointed and then trained as a College Board AP French Consultant in July.
- Will accompany Sarah Laurent to France with our students in April.
- Will complete Career Growth project this spring on the realignment of the SHS AP French Curriculum to meet the demands of the new AP exam.

Jolene Sawyer

- Enrolled in course work including: The Museum in your Classroom, and Teaching Grammar and Culture through the Lens of Social Justice.

Linda Sakellar

- Completed Career Growth project in May – Using movies as curriculum in Advanced Topics in French course: sharing strategies on how to plan and implement a course and how it improves student learning.

Steve Goodwin

- Will lead a month-long SHS Summer Immersion Program in Spain this summer.

Bernie D'Amours

- Recently completed a course at Harvard Extension focusing on Latin American Cinema: examining cultural and political issues through film.
- Courses in French this spring

- Will accompany Steve Goodwin on the SHS Spanish Summer Immersion Program in Spain.

Melissa Chapman

- Completed AP Environmental Institute at St. Johnsbury Academy to offer AP Environmental Science starting in 2011.

Kelli Warecki

- Planning the Latin IV program expected to roll-out next year.

Lisa Kent, Karen Malio, Carrie Smallwood and Bob Thompson

- Engaged in a three part Facilitative Leadership training sponsored by our own staff members, **Aimee Gibbons and Jennifer Deenik**. Aimee and Jennifer are National Facilitators for the School Reform Initiative.

Achievements

Nancy Bannon

- ✓ Will receive Masters of Education degree in Reading and Writing Specialist from Plymouth State.

Susan Carr

- ✓ Worked with State Board of Education as a consultant for Health Curriculum.

Pat McMullen

- ✓ Recent past president of NH Music Educators Association
- ✓ Conductor of Amherst Town Band and Acapella Singers – performed in 250th Town Celebration

Martha Reeves

- ✓ Published in *School Arts* magazine online edition: “Thinking Big Inside a Small Box”

Kim Vitchkoski

- ✓ 20th year as Adjunct Faculty member at University of Massachusetts-Lowell as well as teacher of Spanish online
- ✓ 3rd year on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Germanic Association
- ✓ 7th year of heading up German Exchange program with Mascenic Regional and three high schools in Mannheim, Germany (SHS sponsored a full-year exchange student from one school.)

Christina Len

- ✓ Received Apple Authorized Training Certificate of Achievement for “Leopard 101: Mac OS X Support Essentials.”

Jeff Hall

- ✓ Received Apple Authorized Training Certificate of Achievement for “Leopard 101: Mac OS X Support Essentials.”
- ✓ Certificate of Completion for “Custom Windows 7 Deployment”

Jason Lozzi

- ✓ Certificate of Completion for “Custom Windows 7 Deployment”

Steve Hodgman

- ✓ Published article in *UNH Magazine* regarding his introduction to J.D. Salinger by his father.

Bob Rotier and Paul Schlotman

- ✓ Instructors at UNH Tech Camp – engineering course on airplane flight dynamics
- ✓ Instructed new and seasoned teachers on how to run a “project-based” course at Brown University.

Maureen Greene

- ✓ Hired by Department of Education to facilitate a series of workshops on differentiated instruction for NH educators.
- ✓ Instructor at Keene State College – “Curriculum for a Diverse World.”

Ane Swift and Adam Theriault

- ✓ Guest speakers at Keene State College future teachers’ symposium.

Marcia Arndt

- ✓ Appointed Table Leader for AP Spanish Language exam.
- ✓ Mentored a College Board AP Spanish consultant from Massachusetts as part of the College Board’s National Leadership Growth Initiative.
- ✓ Presented post conference workshop “Strategies in Literary Analysis” in Spanish at the AP National Annual conference in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Participated in College Board consultant training to present workshops on the presentational, interpersonal and interpretative modes of communication in Las Vegas.

Kathleen Desmond

- ✓ Initiated a Chapter of the National Honor Society at SHS and inducted the first group of 25 students. This group has raised funds to help students in Nicaragua, and has supported other Spanish students at SHS.

Julianne Mueller-Northcott

- ✓ Admitted to the prestigious NOAA Teacher at Sea program. Julianne spent two weeks at sea studying living organisms and returned to enthusiastically share her work with her students.

Aimee Gibbons, Sarah Hooper-Barbato, Colleen Meaney, Joann McDeed, Amy McGuigan

- ✓ Invited to present at this year's Coalition of Essential Schools' Fall Forum in San Francisco.

Souhegan High School Staff

- ✓ Motivated by the direct efforts of **Bob Thompson**, the staff collaborated to ensure that 223 of 224 Class of 2010 students graduated.

Awards

Viet Pham

- ❖ Boston College's School of Education *Teacher of the Year*. He was nominated by one of his advisory alum and was selected among teachers nominated nation-wide.

Mike Beliveau

- ❖ New Hampshire Division III football *Coach of the Year*

Richard Wallace

- ❖ *Spirit of New Hampshire Volunteer Award*. "Wally" received this award for his unyielding commitment to community service by engaging students.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

Chris Lavoie, Athletics & Activities Director

The 2010-2011 school year has provided many learning opportunities and accomplishments for our student-athletes and coaches. Although success is often defined by wins and losses, the coaching staff continues to teach life-long lessons that will be valuable to the student-athletes. Mike Beliveau was named the DIII Football Coach of the Year after leading his team to their 3rd consecutive state title. Amy Sparks was named the girls' soccer JV coach of the year after a successful season topped off by winning the JV soccer tournament. John Eastman was named indoor track coach of the year for the 2009-2010 season after leading his team to a state championship.

The Athletic Leadership Council continues to grow and is responsible for several school events. Now consisting of 16 senior athletes who attended last year's state leadership conference, this group has provided many fresh ideas for school and community events. They were responsible for most of the activities and events that were put into Homecoming Week – the Harlem Rockets basketball game, Hoops for Hunger program and Sportsmanship Week to name a few. This council will continue to grow and be positive contributors to school, community and athletic events.

The fall season produced several competitive teams with seven teams being ranked in the top 4 in the state at the conclusion of the regular season. The football team brought home its third consecutive state championship defeating Portsmouth for the third time in as many years. The

girls' soccer team, consisting of several underclassmen, proved that age does not matter as they ventured to the semi-finals losing in an overtime thriller to Lebanon who went on to win the state championship. Both the boys' soccer team and the field hockey teams finished the season ranked in the top 4, but had early exits in the playoffs to tough opponents. The golf team finished the season with a 3rd place finish at the state tournament even though the weather did not cooperate, supplying heavy rain and gusty winds. The cross-country teams both had great individual and team showings at the state tournament and throughout the season, breaking team and school records.

The winter season is well underway and the teams will soon be entering the state tournaments. The indoor track team has had great success with weekly updates of school records that have been broken by individual and team events. The swim team has also broken several records and the boys' team finished in 3rd place in the state tournament. Several individual swimmers broke both school and state records at the state meet. Both basketball teams have winning records and will look to "make some noise" in the tournament. The girls are currently undefeated and have high hopes of hanging a state championship banner in the gymnasium. Both the alpine and Nordic ski teams completed their season with great individual performances in the state meets. The bowling team has qualified for the state tournament and several bowlers have qualified to partake in the individual tournament.

Although winning is a large focus of high school athletics, the coaching staff still makes it a priority to prepare all student-athletes for success after high school. The values of sportsmanship, citizenship, leadership and dedication are consistently taught and reinforced. Success is not defined by the wins and losses during a season, rather the lessons learned and improvements made as individuals and teams.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mary Athey Jennings, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Last fall, not long after opening its doors to 891 students for the new school year, Souhegan Cooperative High School, was shocked and saddened by news of the Cates murder in Mont Vernon and the arrest of two Souhegan students for involvement in that crime. The faculty spent many hours subsequent to this throughout the year in calming and counseling students who were affected by this violent incident. The value of a small school that knows its students well was never before so tested.

Interim Principal Jim Bosman and interim Dean of Students Peggy Silva joined the administrative team in 2009-10. Also new to the school were 10 teachers and interns. The staff of 107 professionals continued to offer a strong academic curriculum, balanced by a commitment to personal and social development. 22,800 hours of community service were logged by students throughout the year, while SAT scores remained well above the state and national average.

2009-10 was the fourth year of the SAU#39 Strategic Plan focusing on literacy in reading and math, 83 percent of SHS students scored at the Proficient/Advanced levels in the NECAP state assessment. With the help of Federal stimulus funding, eight Souhegan teachers became leaders

in differentiated instruction. This staff development furthered the direction of individual attention and progress for students in all subject areas.

The FY10 budget increased over the previous year's by 2.3%, for a total of \$17,770,722. At the end of the year, we were able to return \$262,590 of this amount to the residents of Amherst and Mont Vernon to reduce the tax rate.

At the close of the year, the high school became embroiled in wide-spread controversy about the decision to include pictures in the yearbook of the two students accused in the Cates murder. This controversy aside, the year ended on a positive note for 223 seniors, 99% who graduated with their class. Only one student dropped out of SHS that year. Ninety percent went on to two and four year colleges. We are proud of each of our students and his or her achievements and appreciate the opportunity to work in a school where we know each other very well.

At the end of this year, June 2011, I will retire as Superintendent of SAU#39 and would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents, citizens and staff with whom I have had the pleasure to work. Your commitment to providing the best education possible for your children will be a lasting memory of the final years of my 43 years in education.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES' REPORT

Renea Sparks, Director of Special Instructional Services

The Special Instructional Services Department has been quite busy this school year working on a number of projects. I have written previous annual reports about our implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI). In FY10, Souhegan continued to expand upon its implementation of RTI through increasing their capacity to use and analyze data and assessment for each student. This endeavor requires consistent collaboration with Curriculum and Professional Development as RTI is designed to be a classroom based model of intervention with supplemental supports.

A challenging and exciting project during this school year was implementing the plan for the use of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The Souhegan School District received \$197,765. The expenditure of these funds was focused on purchases that will assist all of our educators in creating more inclusive classrooms. The District has allocated these funds into the categories of Professional Development, Equipment (including specialized software), and Programs designed specifically for Special Education students.

As of November, 2010, the Souhegan School District spent \$70,832 on Professional Development. This investment into the training of the staff includes a significant commitment to the improvement in the area of Differentiated Instruction. Other examples of professional development include retaining the services of Dr. Mahesh Sharma, an expert of mathematics. Special education professionals have also received specific training in the areas of Reading, Math, and Curriculum based measurements. All school personnel participated in consultation

facilitated by Dr. Cheryl Jorgensen, one of the original consultants on inclusion of students with disabilities when Souhegan began 17 years ago.

One of the more significant purchases was the purchase of READ 180. READ 180 is an intensive reading intervention program that helps students with reading difficulties on multiple fronts, using technology and print. The program directly addresses individual needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. Purchased during FY10, we have seen exciting results in the improvement of reading for the majority of the students involved. Computers, video equipment, and specialized instruction software were also purchased. A total of \$88,654 has been allocated toward materials and equipment.

Finally, the District has allocated approximately \$28,691 toward the implementation of specific programs for a targeted population of students. One such program that has been implemented is an Adaptive Physical Education (PE) Program. Required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Adaptive PE is designed to assist students with significant physical or mental impairments to participate in the required physical education curriculum. Another activity in place at Souhegan High School is a vocational program implemented with the assistance of a local vendor. This program is developing vocational job sites and providing job coaching for students who require specialized assistance. Specialized math and social skill programs have also been developed. These two programs are just beginning to be implemented during the FY11 school year.

All professional development activities, equipment, and programs purchased with these funds have little to no residual costs associated with them for the ensuing years, thereby eliminating any “funding cliff” concerns when the ARRA funds are no longer available in September, 2011.

In summary, I am so very proud of the tireless efforts of the Special Instructional Staff of the Souhegan School District. They continue to encourage high expectations from all, go beyond to help students learn, foster working, collaborative educational teams, and facilitate strong family-school partnerships. The expertise of the special education teachers, service providers, support staff, nurses, and guidance counselors helps all students—one at a time. They have taken on leadership roles on their building teams and committees as well as SAU wide initiatives. They are all vital contributors to the successes each student experiences every day!

Respectfully submitted,
Renea A. Sparks
Director of Special Instructional Services

Souhegan Cooperative School District
 Actual Expenditures for Special Education Programs and Services
 FY 2008-2009 and FY 2009-2010 per RSA 32:11a

ITEM	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010
REVENUES		
Catastrophic Aid	\$585,482	\$729,258
IDEA Grant	\$169,802	\$277,382
Medicaid	<u>\$137,108</u>	<u>\$157,968</u>
Total Revenues	\$892,391	\$1,164,608
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	\$1,818,344	\$1,798,807
Employee Benefits	\$526,740	\$596,906
Purchased Services	\$1,495,018	\$1,433,700
Supplies	\$16,608	\$88,876
Equipment	\$13,960	\$12,239
Other	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,870,721	\$3,930,528
Net Cost of Special Education	\$2,978,330	\$2,765,920
Source DOE 25		

Souhegan Cooperative School District
 Report of the Treasurer to the School Board
 Fiscal Year 07/01/2009-06/30/2010

Cash on hand- as of 07/01/2009	339,826.63
Total Receipts- 07/01/2009-06/30/2010	21,127,584.84
Total Payments-07/01/2009-06/30/2010	<u>(21,093,841.54)</u>
Cash Balance- as of 06/30/2010	373,569.93

Note 1: This represents the combined activity of three bank accounts.

 Ann Logan, Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the School Board
Souhegan Cooperative School District

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Souhegan Cooperative School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2010, which collectively comprise the Souhegan Cooperative School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Souhegan Cooperative School District's management. 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our 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, 2010, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 24, 2010 on our consideration of Souhegan Cooperative School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and the schedule of funding progress for other post-employment benefits on pages i-vi and 19-22, respectively, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Souhegan Cooperative School District's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Wachon Clukey & Company PC

November 24, 2010

EXHIBIT D
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2010

	General Fund	Federal Projects Fund	Expendable Trust Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:					
Taxes	\$ 13,318,166				\$ 13,318,166
Intergovernmental	3,534,456	\$ 330,189		\$ 28,048	3,892,693
Charges for services	41,054			374,337	415,391
Interest income	9,966		\$ 17,081		27,047
Miscellaneous	161,664	10,525		23,511	195,700
Total Revenues	<u>17,065,306</u>	<u>340,714</u>	<u>17,081</u>	<u>425,896</u>	<u>17,848,997</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
Instruction	10,927,159	274,277			11,201,436
Supporting services	970,384	17,823			988,207
Instructional staff services	459,023	48,614			507,637
General administration	1,796,991				1,796,991
Operation and maintenance of plant	1,171,419				1,171,419
Pupil transportation	443,719				443,719
Food service				419,327	419,327
Other miscellaneous				18,863	18,863
Capital outlay			47,001		47,001
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	713,718				713,718
Interest and fiscal charges	502,267				502,267
Total Expenditures	<u>16,984,680</u>	<u>340,714</u>	<u>47,001</u>	<u>438,190</u>	<u>17,810,585</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>80,626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(29,920)</u>	<u>(12,294)</u>	<u>38,412</u>
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfers in	3,585		40,000	12,000	55,585
Transfers out	(52,000)		(3,585)		(55,585)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(48,415)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,415</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	32,211	-	6,495	(294)	38,412
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>428,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,606</u>	<u>3,722</u>	<u>696,683</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 460,566</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 271,101</u>	<u>\$ 3,428</u>	<u>\$ 735,095</u>