

1 Souhegan Cooperative School Board Meeting

2 Wednesday, January 9, 2019

3 Public Hearing and Meeting- Approved 01 28 19

4

5 Administrative Team: Superintendent- Adam Steel, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, Principal- Rob Scully.

7 Souhegan Cooperative School Board- Jim Manning- Chair, Steve Coughlan- Secretary, Dwayne
8 Purvis (via phone), Howard Brown and Amy Facey.

9 I. Call to Order:

10 **Chair Mr. Jim Manning called the meeting to order at 5:32PM**

11 II. Default Budget Discussion

12 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, asked Mr. Purvis if he was alone and if it was unreasonable for
13 him to be here.

14 Mr. Purvis replied, yes to both questions, and noted that he was traveling on business.

15 Mr. Steel remarked that the last motion has led to some confusion and they will be having a
16 second vote on the default budget.

17 He further explained that the default budget can change, although, must be disclosed at the
18 Public Hearing. It can change up until the ballots are printed. The default budget calculation that
19 was voted on was in the budget spreadsheet for several months now and reflects the similar
20 process that the Board has used in previous years.

21 One-time items have been removed and with annualized contracts, the increases can no longer be
22 carried in the default. They will have to pay those increases regardless with which ever budget
23 they end up with.

24 He will be happy answer any questions.

25 Mr. Chen asked if he changed the regular budget to reflect the increases.

26 Mr. Steel, replied yes, that there is a difference between the two, in the amount of \$27,000.

27 Mr. Chen asked about the current budget in regards to the default.

28 Mr. Steel replied that the default is lower.

29 Mr. Chen asked about the future, with signing multi-year contracts.

30 Superintendent Steel mentioned that the multi-year increases will not be in the default. That is
31 the problem.

32 Ms. Facey agreed that it doesn't make sense.

33

34 Mr. Steel, replied that they cannot put bus transportation on a warrant article. There was
35 testimony in that they want the default budgets to be lower.

36 Mr. Chen commented that the law can be changed.

37 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to accept the default budget as presented in the amount of**
38 **\$18, 070, 534. Ms. Amy Facey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion**
39 **passed. (5-0).**

40 **Mr. Manning Called a Roll call: Manning-Yes, Coughlan-Yes, Chen-Yes, Facey- Yes,**
41 **Brown-Yes and Purvis-Yes.**

42 Mr. Purvis asked if the reduction was solely the bus contract.

43 Mr. Steel replied, no.

44 Mr. Chen asked when will they find out the exact number between now and April, 1st 2019.

45 Superintendent Steel replied that they can do it sooner but would opt not to. He added that there
46 is a process internally.

47 He then noted that he has received several resignations for June 2020. All of them have
48 compensation, and payouts will come out this year FY 18/19 and then next year FY 19/20. It is
49 their sick day payout and a small monetary amount that they are owed due to contract.

50 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to accept the resignations of Ms. Jackie Bower, Ms. Pamela**
51 **Smith, Mr. Mike Beliveau, and Ms. Martha Rives, effective June of 2020. Mr. Howard**
52 **Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

53 **Mr. Manning Called a Roll call: Manning-Yes, Coughlan-Yes, Chen-Yes, Facey- Yes,**
54 **Brown-Yes and Purvis-Yes.**

55 Ms. Facey asked about any interest in looking at early retirement incentive.

56 Mr. Steel replied that they are looking at it and will get back to them.

57 Mr. Manning added that he talked to Chair of the SCSD AFC Committee, Mr. Martin Goulet,
58 today and they may not have a unanimous vote.

59 Mr. Steel asked if they were going to meet after the Public Hearing.

60 Mr. Manning replied, yes.

61 III. Recess of the Regular Meeting

62 **The Board recessed at 5:55PM.**

63 IV. Open Public Hearing

64 **Chairman Mr. Jim Manning opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 PM.**

65 He then introduced Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Adam Steel.

66 Superintendent Steel then introduced the Board.

67 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to go over the budget and let the public know what they
68 intend to bring to the Deliberative Session and then for voting on March 12th 2019. After
69 tonight's hearing and public input, the Board can lower the Budget but not raise it.

70 First, we have a high performing high school. Currently, we are ranked as the #7 Highest High
71 School in the State on NH according to *US News and World Report*. We use the NWEA, which
72 is a globally ranked assessment. Through this chart, you can see where we perform, and the
73 scores are substantially above average.

74 What matters most is how each student grows as an individual student. They rely on growth data
75 as a key metric. This is a chart showing their NWEA Students hitting growth targets.

76 Superintendent Steel then reviewed what attributes employers are looking for from the World
77 Economic Forum. He then emphasized that these are things that are imbedded in their culture at
78 SHS.

79 He then reviewed Strategic Planning, and building blocks of strategies. A lot of what they do on
80 a daily basis revolves around two key concepts, Deeper Learning and the Relationship that they
81 build with their students.

82 Next, he reviewed areas of immediate focus. First, Standards Based Grading Implantation,
83 Advisory redesign (to support other strategies), SAU-wide strategic planning process (with the
84 org. Battelle for Kids starting January 16th 2019) and finally, Joint Facilities Planning. These are
85 the 4 key areas that they will hear about most. The strategic planning process will be complete at
86 the end of the school year.

87 He finalized his comments by adding that he will go into further detail at the Deliberative
88 Session on Monday, February 4th 2019 at 7PM.

89 He then turned the presentation over to Chairman Mr. Jim Manning.

90 Mr. Manning then explained that this is not a strategic budget year, but more of a maintenance
91 budget year. He wants people to be mindful of that. There are a lot of people involved that put
92 this budget together. He then thanked Mr. Martin Goulet and the members of the SCSD Ways
93 and Means Committee to help them put together a fiscally responsible budget for the Amherst
94 and Mont Vernon towns.

95 He then read Article #2, as written, on the March ballot.

96 *"Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget,*
97 *not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted*
98 *separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of*
99 *the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, ninety-eight*
100 *thousand, two hundred and eighty-nine dollars (\$18,098,289)? Should this article be defeated,*
101 *the default budget shall be eighteen million, seventy thousand, five hundred and thirty-four*

102 dollars (\$18,070,534), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by
103 previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body
104 may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of
105 a revised operating budget only?" Majority vote required.

106 He further explained that the overall budget is going down by \$289,000. Special Education is up
107 \$215,000 and there is a net reduction by \$73,000.

108 He then reviewed the budget by AFC Sub-Committee, clarifying that each Board Member gets
109 assigned to a section. If you see, most of the budget is being decreased. The big driver is Special
110 Education at a 6.25% increase. If you look at the ASD side of the SAU #39, they used to
111 outsource some of their Special Education and by bringing them back in-house it reflects the
112 migration of the ASD students to SHS.

113 Additionally, enrollment has been trending steadily down. They were predicted to have 739 and
114 have 740, so they are right on target. Enrollment of 736 is projected for FY20, they will then see
115 decreases until an increase in FY 26/FY 27. They are trying to improve quality and improve
116 fiscal discipline at a time when they will see fluctuations in enrollment. They are thinking about
117 managing those cycles.

118 He then reviewed the Cost Per Pupil. If you look at FY 19/20, they are not yet at the State
119 average due to a lot of fixed costs, teacher salaries and benefits.

120 He then reviewed the Position Changes: Add: Special Education Case Manager, Special
121 Education Behavior Specialist, Special Education Instructional Assistants. They then removed
122 three positions to offset those additions.

123 He then reviewed the Budget Calculation, if the budget does not pass they will have a short fall
124 of \$27,755.

125 He then asked the SCSD Advisory Finance Committee if they had any comments.

126 Mr. Martin Goulet remarked that the SCSD AFC has nothing to add at this time.

127 V. Public Comment

128 No Public Comment

129 VI. Adjourn Public Hearing

130 **Mr. Manning thanked the public for their attendance and closed the Public Hearing at**
131 **6:26PM**

132 VII. Back to Order

133 **The Board resumed Public Session at 6:29PM**

134 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to approve Article #2. "Shall the Souhegan Cooperative**
135 **School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by**
136 **special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on**

137 the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes
138 set forth therein, totaling eighteen million, ninety-eight thousand, two hundred and eighty-
139 nine dollars (\$18,098,289)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be
140 eighteen million, seventy thousand, five hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$18,070,534), which
141 is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Souhegan
142 Cooperative School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in
143 accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget
144 only?" Majority vote required. Ms. Amy Facey seconded the motion. The vote was
145 unanimous, motion passed. (5-0)

146 VIII. Meeting Adjourned

147 Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:31PM. Ms. Amy Facey seconded
148 the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.