

1 Souhegan Cooperative School Board

2 Tuesday, May 28th 2019

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 06 17 19

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, Rob Scully- Principal SHS, Kathy White- Dean of Faculty, and Karen Chininis-
7 Director of Guidance.

8 Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Chair- Jim Manning, Vice Chair- Pim Grondstra,
9 Secretary- Laura Taylor, Amy Facey, George Torres, and Steve Coughlan.

10 Board Minutes: Danae Marotta

11 SHS Student Videographer: Shannon Hargreaves

12 Public: Lisa Eastland, 19 River Road, Amherst NH- PTSA

13 I. Public Hearing

14 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to open the Public Hearing at 6:00PM. Mr. Pim Grondstra**
15 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

16 Mr. Manning then asked for any public comments.

17 There were no public comments.

18 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, explained that they received a Donation from the Oleanda
19 Jameson Trust for HYPE and are very fortunate.

20 Mr. Chen asked how much was the total cost and asked about other grant funding.

21 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Pim Grondstra seconded**
22 **the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

23 II. Superintendent's Report

24 Superintendent Steel noted that Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, has a brief
25 update for the Board regarding Mental Health Supports in place for students.

26 Ms. Beauchamp started her discussion by stating that Mr. Manning had asked about the
27 significant burden on their school counselors and how they are responding.

28 She then explained that they are at critical mass among their youth. The CDC states that 1 in 5
29 children, between the ages of 3-17, have a diagnosable mental health condition. Of that number,
30 80% of them go untreated. Additionally, there are about 17 trained counselors for every 100,000
31 children and unfortunately a lot of them are in the more populated areas. They have been
32 working hard to try to react and they are doing a lot of work over the summer to focus at the
33 Souhegan level.

34 The first thing in the fall is to follow up with Souhegan.

35 Mr. Manning noted that Mr. Chen had questions as well. He then asked him if he had any
36 questions.

37 Mr. Chen asked about the characterization of the behavior, he then added that out of their school
38 population there are about 200 students. He then noted his concern.

39 Ms. Beauchamp added that they are very worried as well and have taken some solid steps to
40 increase the capacity. She added that she is making sure that there is a high level of continuity
41 from ASD to SCSD. They have highly trained clinicians and are very lucky to have them.

42 Mr. Manning asked about some type of data repository for the types of mental health challenges.

43 Ms. Beauchamp noted that they do have some data and will share with the Board in the Fall. She
44 concluded that this is a national crisis right now. The information that is out there is startling.

45 Mr. Manning asked about the types of clinicians that are needed.

46 Ms. Beauchamp replied that it is all of the above.

47 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to approve Ms. Peg Bennett as Deputy Treasurer of the**
48 **SCSD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pim Grondstra. The vote was unanimous, motion**
49 **passed.**

50 Superintendent Steel added that Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, has an
51 update on transcript development.

52 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they are working on having firm details about the Mastery Based
53 Transcript and to get it in front of the staff and nearly completed to the Board soon. The
54 transcript would not be utilized until the end of next school year.

55 Ms. Taylor asked about holding public forums.

56 Ms. Landwehrle added that they had a tentative date set for May and there was a conflict at
57 AMS. They are looking at the fall.

58 Mr. Manning added that this is a top concern to what a CBE based transcript looks like. He then
59 added that the faster and sooner that they get it out to the public the better. He then noted that the
60 Board would appreciate that.

61 Ms. Landwehrle added that they may be able to share something electronically, to gather
62 feedback in some way. She noted that they can update them at the June meeting.

63 Mr. Steel noted that SHS Graduation is on Friday, June 7th at 5pm, and they are hoping to be out
64 on the field and the stadium. He added that this is a culminating event and encouraged the Board
65 to attend and to welcome other past Board Members to attend as well.

66 He then turned it over to Principal Scully.

67 Principal Scully then discussed that he has decided to move on from Souhegan High School and
68 SAU 39. He added that he has been commuting from Maine from 10 years and it is time that he

69 focuses on his family full time. He cannot thank the leadership team and staff and faculty enough
70 and he will always keep Souhegan in his heart.

71 Superintendent Steel then noted that Principal Scully had come to Souhegan at a time when they
72 needed a visionary and thanked him immensely for all of this efforts, drive and vision for the
73 school. It is with a heavy heart that the Board and Leadership Team accept his resignation.

74 He then gave the Board time to share their sentiments.

75 Mr. Manning commented that Principal Scully came at a time when the school needed stability
76 and an understanding of the unique culture. He further added that he will be greatly missed.

77 Mr. Chen added that no one has poured more time into this school other than Principal Scully.

78 Mr. Grondstra echoed the sentiments of Mr. Steel, Mr. Manning and Mr. Chen. He added that he
79 admires his quick wit in stressful situations.

80 Mr. Torres remarked that he had just joined the Board, yet has always heard great things about
81 Principal Scully.

82 Mr. Coughlan also added that Principal Scully will be greatly missed. He then wished him well
83 with his family.

84 Superintendent Steel thanked the Board Members for their kind sentiments.

85 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to accept Principal of SHS, Mr. Rob Scully's, resignation**
86 **effective July 31st 2019. Mr. Pim Grondstra seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous,**
87 **motion passed.**

88 Superintendent Steel added that their next step would be to find an interim principal in order to
89 have appropriate amount of time. He then discussed that Mr. Bill Hagan, was previously at
90 AMS, then Salem HS, and has been at Bedford HS for the past 9 years and retiring at the end of
91 the year. Mr. Hagan knows this community and Principal Scully will stay on through July. He
92 then added that they are fortunate to have someone of his caliber.

93 Before he makes his official nomination, he is looking to gather feedback from the Board.

94 **Mr. David Chen motioned to accept the nomination to hire Mr. Bill Hagan as Part-Time**
95 **Principal of SHS effective July 29th 2019. Mr. Pim Grondstra seconded the motion. The**
96 **vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

97 Mr. Coughlan noted that the Board knew about this in a previous Non-Public Session and they
98 have had time to meet with Mr. Hagan. He just wanted the public to know.

99 Mr. Steel agreed and noted that this was well thought out and planned. He thanked Mr. Coughlan
100 for bringing that up.

101 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel.

102 Mr. Manning asked for Public Comment.

103 III. Public Comment

104 Ms. Lisa Eastland, 19 River Road, Amherst NH, President of the SHS PTSA, added that they are
105 in desperate need for volunteers for Project Graduation. If they cannot get enough volunteers,
106 then they cannot run the program.

107 She then added that she heard that there is an uptick in summer school enrollment when
108 transitioning to a CBE system. She did not see anything in the Budget and asked Ms.
109 Landwehrle what was the plan going forward.

110 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are not sure how much of an uptick they will have. She and
111 AMS Principal, Ms. Bethany Bernasconi, are taking a deep look at items such as honor roll, etc.
112 They also get Title I funding and are looking at how that program can help. She believes that
113 they are in good shape with the budget.

114 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

115 IV. Principal's Report

116 Principal Scully mentioned that he has a few highlights for the Board.

117 This year's Senior Project Presentation days were May 23rd and May 24th, when all seniors
118 present their learning journeys to a public audience. The Amherst and Mont Vernon communities
119 were welcomed and encouraged to attend to participate first-hand in the accomplishments,
120 visions, and passions of the next generation.

121 New Hampshire Student Film Festival- two Souhegan students were recognized by The New
122 Hampshire High School Short Film Festival. Ms. Lily Hipp received a 1st place recognition and
123 Ms. Ashleigh Brewster was a finalist. These animations included almost 100 hours of
124 commitment to produce. The students were recognized in Concord last weekend.

125 End of Year Events: Senior Class Trip- Thursday June 6th, Graduation- Friday June 7th

126 He added that you might remember the goal of Inspiring Expertly Trained Teachers. He then
127 read part of an email regarding Learning Specialist, Ms. Mo Greene *"On behalf of the Review
128 Panel, I am very pleased to inform you that your submission "Neurodiversity in the Classroom"
129 has been accepted for the Twenty-sixth International Conference on Learning, at Queen's
130 University Belfast, Ireland"*. They are incredibly proud of Ms. Greene for this special
131 recognition.

132 He added that he will archive all of these special teacher recognitions.

133 In regards to Student Agency, Marketing students in Ms. Holleigh Tlapa's classroom are
134 learning about service and nonprofit marketing through authentic opportunities in our local
135 community.

136 Additionally, The Souhegan High School Interpretation Committee convened on May 20th. The
137 Committee Members are students: Mr. Tony Labranche, Ms. Sarah Tupper, Faculty: Mr. Kevin
138 Proctor, Admin: Principal Scully, Board: Ms. Laura Taylor and Facilitator (non-member): Ms.
139 Natalie Berger.

140 He then noted that he added links to their agenda and minutes so that the Board can see their
141 work.

142 Ms. Berger guided the Committee through a protocol framed by this purpose: introduce members
143 to, each other, their roles, responsibilities and the text of the Constitution.

144 He then reviewed their next steps:

- 145 • Reconvene before the end of the year to clarify/coordinate understanding of roles and
146 purpose
- 147 • Clarify Board's charge (dispute) that will be the first real-time issue
- 148 • What would the change be? Is it a clarification or an amendment?
- 149 • Strategy for edification of student body and community about the Constitution
- 150 • Target to meet before the June school board meeting?
- 151 • Consider a future State of the Community Day could have a Constitutional Convention
152 aspect

153

154 He then paused and asked for questions.

155 He added that he will update the Board in June.

156 Mr. Manning asked about this going to Mr. Mike Facques. He added that he knows that he
157 reviews Government in the curriculum.

158 Principal Scully noted that is a great question and will reach out to him.

159 Mr. Coughlan commented on the purpose of the Constitutional Interpretation Committee.

160 Mr. Torres asked if there was a place to look at the document.

161 Mr. Manning replied that he can send him the link, it is on the SAU #39 website.

162 Mr. Coughlan added that it is in the Board Policies.

163 Mr. Manning remarked that they will discuss the National Honor Society.

164 Principal Scully noted that he brought a hard copy and will be back in June with an update. He
165 wanted to give them a sense of what they are putting together and this is a draft.

166 He then reviewed the document and explained the table and the concept. He remarked that he
167 will put it on the Trello Board.

168 Superintendent Steel asked about the ratio of girls to boys. He then asked if it was a
169 national/regional trend.

170 Principal Scully replied that they will have to really look into it.

171 Ms. Taylor commented that it is a little alarming to her as well. She then asked if the
172 administration was concerned and asked what are they doing to evaluate the explanation.

173 Principal Scully replied that right now they will be looking at the research and this is the tip of
174 the iceberg in looking at that. They will be looking at the CBE route, instead of the traditional
175 route.

176 Mr. Manning asked if they see in these cohorts' significant differences in standardized test
177 scores.

178 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she can speak to NWEA and the answer is no. Gender is the same
179 with achievement and growth. She will be happy to pull additional data for the Board.

180 Principal Scully noted that he will have more of an update in June.

181 Mr. Manning noted that some agenda items were questions from parents. He added that several
182 parents that contacted him.

183 The Board thanked Principal Scully.

184 V. Committee Updates

185 Ms. Taylor noted that Community Council passed a proposal for weighted GPA's for advanced
186 placement and dual enrollment whenever GPA's are calculated. This is for the class of 2023, the
187 current 8th grade class.

188 Mr. Chen asked about dual enrollment.

189 Ms. Taylor added that this is for weighted GPA calculation.

190 Mr. Chen noted that he thought that the State provided a stipend.

191 Ms. Landwehrle added that is for STEM and they get reimbursed.

192 Mr. Manning asked if that vote was close.

193 Ms. Taylor replied, yes, it was close and the students were the strongest in voting. She added that
194 she was very proud of them.

195 There were no more committee updates and the Board thanked Ms. Taylor.

196 VI. Consent Agenda

197 **Mr. Pim Grondstra motioned to approve the Consent Agenda 1. Draft Minutes of April 16,**
198 **2019, 2. Unanticipated Revenue #1 681.00, 3. Unanticipated Revenue #2 500.00, 4.**
199 **Unanticipated Revenue #3 5,000.00, 5. Unanticipated Revenue #4 3,003.22 (Check for**
200 **\$8,833.00 split between ASD), 6. March 2019 Treasurer's Report, 7. April 2019 Treasurer's**
201 **Report, 8. SCSD Consolidated Board Report, 9. SCSC TSFR 2019-003, 10. FY 2020 LEA**
202 **General Assurances Cover Letter, 11. Approval of Chair to sign NHDOE General**
203 **Assurances for FY20. Mr. Steve Coughlan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous,**
204 **the motion passed.**

205 VII. Policies First Reading

206 Superintendent Steel noted that this is a first reading.

- 207 Ms. Landwehrle further explained that it is not a typo and that they were approved at the SAU
208 level but did not get to the individual boards.
- 209 Mr. Chen asked about Policies DBI, DJE, DK, DKA, DKC, EEAA.
- 210 Mr. Manning recommended that they go over each one individually.
- 211 DBI- Mr. Chen added that it should be from one account.
- 212 DJE- Mr. Chen asked if there are any exceptions to these numbers. He added that he thought that
213 they made exceptions. He added that it should be more clear.
- 214 Superintendent Steel replied that it the policy states "*when feasible*". He then gave an example
215 and noted that it reflects the current practice.
- 216 Mr. Chen asked about bids.
- 217 Mr. Torres gave an example of current practice in his company.
- 218 Mr. Steel explained the difference between single source contracts, bids, quotes (variation
219 between items), and proposals (for professionals).
- 220 Mr. Manning added that they want flexibility in policies.
- 221 DKA- Mr. Chen asked why do fixed salaries have to be approved in the manifest. He added that
222 you should do it once.
- 223 Mr. Steel replied that it must happen. Tax dollars cannot be expended without School Board
224 approval; it is State Law.
- 225 Mr. Torres commented that he understands where this is coming from. He then added that it is
226 up to them to find out that knowledge.
- 227 DK- Mr. Chen asked about having one signer and they have two, is that by law or policy.
- 228 Superintendent Steel replied, policy. He then gave an example.
- 229 DKC- Mr. Chen asked about the designee.
- 230 Mr. Steel replied that it would be Assistant Superintendent Landwehrle. It is a unique situation in
231 that he is still the BA, in that case, he feels very comfortable with SAU 39 Board Chair, Ms.
232 Amy Facey.
- 233 Mr. Chen noted that is what he thought it should be, it should say for the "SAU #39 Chair to
234 sign".
- 235 Discussion ensued.
- 236 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they can pull the DKC- Expense Reimbursement and send it back to
237 Policy Committee.
- 238 EEAA- Mr. Chen mentioned that there was a typo. He then added that he thought that they made
239 a change with the timeframe.

- 240 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they can go back to the minutes.
- 241 Mr. Chen added that the cost of storage is very low cost now. He added that the discussion at the
242 SAU was about cost.
- 243 Ms. Taylor mentioned there is another typo, very first paragraph, in that it says “*Amherst*”.
- 244 Ms. Landwehrle asked him if he would like it pulled to check minutes and changed at the SAU
245 level.
- 246 Mr. Chen replied, yes.
- 247 Mr. Chen asked about live surveillance and thought they had a policy about not giving out
248 information.
- 249 Mr. Steel noted that he is comfortable with how it is written.
- 250 Mr. Manning then asked for Board feedback.
- 251 Ms. Taylor added that she can see both sides.
- 252 Mr. Coughlan commented that this doesn’t disclose anything.
- 253 Mr. Manning replied that he finds this to be ambiguous enough to make it a non-issue.
- 254 Mr. Manning noted that Policy DKC will be going back to the Policy Committee for further
255 review and then fixing some typos.
- 256 VIII. Deeper Learning
- 257 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they have a current 7th grade AMS student that wants to take
258 Core Math II here at SHS. That one student would be walking over to take that class and there
259 would not be too much impact on their schedule. Years ago, they used to send students over and
260 it did stop.
- 261 With permission from the Board, they are looking to allow this one 8th grade AMS student to
262 take Core Math II.
- 263 Mr. Torres gave his support as long as it doesn’t create any disruption. They should support that
264 as a Board.
- 265 Ms. Taylor asked how did the student come to be in accelerated math.
- 266 Ms. Landwehrle replied that the student came from a CBE system and will be an 8th grader next
267 year.
- 268 Ms. Taylor asked about other students in the future.
- 269 Ms. Landwehrle added that they would come to the Board for each student. With
270 reconfiguration, it may change in the future when feasible and appropriate.
- 271 Mr. Coughlan asked about other concerns with age or maturity level.
- 272 Principal Scully replied that he has no concerns.

273 Ms. Landwehrle noted that if this did not work out that student can also do VLACS. VLACS
274 starts at 6th grade now.

275 **Mr. Pim Grondstra motioned to allow the AMS student take Core II Math for the 2019-**
276 **2020 School Year barring any issues. Ms. Laura Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was**
277 **unanimous, motion passed.**

278 Ms. Landwehrle thanked the Board and noted that she will let the parents know.

279 IX. Non-Public Session

280 None

281 X. Meeting Adjourned

282 **Mr. Pim Grondstra motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51PM. Mr. Steve Coughlan**
283 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**