

Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Monday January 29th, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent of Schools, Adam Steel- Business Administrator, Rob Scully- Principal SHS, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, and Stephanie Grund- Business Department

Souhegan Cooperative School Board- Chair- Howard Brown, Pim Grondstra, David Chen, Steve Coughlan, Amy Facey, Jim Manning and Dwayne Purvis (via phone)

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Howard Brown

Mr. Howard Brown called the meeting to order at 7:22PM.

Mr. Brown then asked Mr. Purvis why he was out of town and if he was alone.

Mr. Dwayne Purvis added that he was out of town on business and yes, he is alone.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Principal's Report

Principal Scully noted that he provided the highlights.

He then noted that beginning last spring, they have seen an increase in incidences with vaping. In communicating with other schools, they are discovering similar experiences occurring on other campuses. In reviewing how vaping and vaping materials are marketed in popular culture, their concern grows. Unfortunately, vapes are relatively easy to obtain, they gained momentum in an unregulated market and are promoted as a “safe” alternative to smoking.

He further discussed that there is an issue with vaping and they sent out a parent email. Parents need to be partners with us on this issue. It was a surprise by students and parents at what a big issue it actually is. He added that they believe that it is an epidemic Statewide.

Mr. Brown added that he read on a FB page that there was a problem with vaping on busses. He noted that he had sent an email to SRO Knox.

Principal Scully remarked that the regulations have changed and he believes that it is now in the category of drug paraphernalia. He added that electronic cigarettes are marketed towards younger kids. There is a lot of work to be done but it is being worked on. He noted that it is an AMS/SHS joint initiative and they already did teacher training on the topic.

Mr. Brown added that the Policy Committee will have to meet again to discuss changes.

Mr. Coughlan added that the Tobacco Policy has been updated to include vaping in late summer/fall.

Mr. Brown added that the machinery is different.

35 Principal Scully added that the current policy has been changed to include the recent technology.

36 He noted that they could add confiscate, and will check on the age factor.

37 Mr. Manning asked if age matters.

38 Principal Scully remarked that they have had parents that have requested back their child's
39 vaping device.

40 Mr. Manning asked what is the distinction with the vaping policy as there are different things
41 that can be vaped.

42 Mr. Brown asked if they are going to put up "no vaping" signs.

43 Principal Scully replied, yes, if it is needed.

44 Mr. Chen asked if it is detectable by a smoke detector.

45 Principal Scully replied, no, it is water based.

46 The Board thanked Principal Scully.

47 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

48 No Public Comment

49 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

50 A. Minutes

51 1. January 3, 2018

52 2. January 8, 2018

53 3. January 10, 2018

54 B. Treasurer's Report

55 1. December 2017

56 C. Budget Transfers

57 1. SCSD TSFR 002

58 2. SCSD TSFR 003

59 3. SCSD TSFR 004

60 D. Unanticipated Revenue

61 1. Unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$500.00 from Ellen and Robert Dutile
62 to be used for Souhegan First Robotics. (Student Activity Fund)

63 E. SCSD Expenditure Report for Quarter 2

64 F. Retirement Request

65 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1. January**
66 **3, 2018, 2. January 8, 2018, 3. January 10, 2018, B. Treasurer's Report 1. December 2017**
67 **C. Budget Transfers 1. SCSD TSFR 002, 2. SCSD TSFR 003, 3. SCSD TSFR 004 D.**
68 **Unanticipated Revenue 1. Unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$500.00 from Ellen and**
69 **Robert Dutile to be used for Souhegan First Robotics. (Student Activity Fund), E. SCSD**
70 **Expenditure Report for Quarter 2 and F. Retirement Request. Mr. Jim Manning seconded**
71 **the Motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

72 **Mr. Brown called a roll call: Brown-Yes, Manning-Yes, Facey-Yes, Coughlan-Yes,**
73 **Grondstra-Yes, Purvis- Yes (via phone), and Chen- Yes.**

74 Mr. Howard Brown noted that Mr. Chen asked to put the turf field replacement fund on the
75 agenda.

76 Mr. Jim Manning asked who would be a part of the committee.

77 Ms. Stephanie Grund, Business Department, added that she is meeting with ARD Director Mr.
78 Craig Fraley on Thursday and she can bring it up, there are different ways to go.

79 Mr. Chen added that there was significant savings on not using seed and fertilizer and they could
80 accrue.

81 Ms. Grund replied, about \$10,000-\$15,000.

82 She added that the ARD probably has connections to other athletic leagues.

83 Mr. Manning added that there is a potential market in the summer.

84 He added that it is who we attract and if you look at other clubs, they have big club tournaments.
85 He added that he knows that Hollis is looking at putting in a turf field.

86 Discussion ensued.

87 Mr. Coughlan added that he is not sure if they could market all fields.

88 Principal Scully remarked that camps might be interested.

89 Mr. Manning asked who is on the Athletic Committee (Manning and Grondstra).

90 Ms. Grund added that they can talk about it on Thursday.

91 Mr. Brown noted that the second topic is about extended learning opportunities at other high
92 schools.

93 Mr. Chen added that Hollis/Brookline is very well defined with their AP Classes and probably
94 with a 3rd or 5th period it would not work.

95 Mr. Brown suggested they hand it off to Administration so they can talk to their counterparts.

96 Mr. Steel recommended that it be passed to him, rather than Principal Scully. He added that he
97 will be telling that to all the Boards.

98 Mr. Manning added if they are going to look at AP courses to look at the entire program of
99 studies.

100 Mr. Brown added that they should look at it in June.

101 **Mr. David Chen moved to direct Associate Superintendent Mr. Adam Steel for a**
102 **comprehensive review on program of studies and investigate possible collaborative courses**
103 **with other local high schools. Mr. Jim Manning seconded the Motion. The vote was**
104 **unanimous motion passed.**

105 **Mr. Brown called a roll call: Brown-Yes, Manning-Yes, Facey-Yes, Coughlan-Yes,**
106 **Grondstra-Yes, Purvis- Yes (via phone), and Chen- Yes.**

107 Mr. Chen asked if they could have gotten to the vaping issue sooner.

108 Principal Scully replied, no, probably not.

109 Mr. Chen noted that in there was a big jump in data in the SRO reports from 2015 to 2017.

110 Ms. Facey added that there should be a series of reports that they Board receives, emergency
111 management, facilities, etc.

112 She added that she wants to be proactive and it should be staggered.

113 Mr. Grondstra agreed.

114 Mr. Manning asked for clarification on either a dashboard or other type of format.

115 Mr. Steel added that it is important to be transparent and build trust with the public. He added
116 that they will find that balance together.

117 Mr. Brown asked Mr. Purvis if he had any comment.

118 Mr. Purvis had no comment.

119 V. DELIBERATIVE SESSION PLANNING

120 Mr. Steel noted that the Ways and Means Committee will have a slide deck to present and
121 suggested the Board let them give their presentation.

122 Principal Scully noted that he will share one or two slides with highlights of where they are. He
123 added that the other schools will do something similar.

124 Mr. Brown noted that with the Mont Vernon budget is up really high this year.

125 Mr. Manning recommended that they get into the reasons with the budget and then discuss the
126 goals.

127 He added that it goes back to the foundation question “what are we trying accomplish with this
128 budget and where is it leading us over time?”.

129 Mr. Brown added his explanation.

130 Mr. Coughlan added his explanation and that they have been with maintenance mode.

131 Mr. Steel added that the default and the proposed is not that much different. Warrant article #4
132 Learning Upgrade is where they are asking the public for an investment.

133 Mr. Manning added that a lot of people do not realize what the Board is up against with costs and
134 declining enrollment. He added that the people need to understand what they are buying.

135 Mr. Grondstra noted that he would like to see the story laid out in the beginning before article #2.

136 Mr. Manning added that he knows that parents in town want to know that they value their child
137 and have a plan for them.

138 Mr. Brown then went to the default budget slide.

139 Mr. Grondstra asked if there was a way to take out \$11,000 out of the budget that is not going to
140 be a major impact.

141 Mr. Steel replied yes, at the deliberative session.

142 Discussion ensued.

143 He added that he suggests buying the \$13,000 turf field cover now rather than rent it.

144 Mr. Purvis asked about the slides.

145 Mr. Grondstra noted that they are looking at the same slide deck as the public hearing.

146 Mr. Brown suggested that they add labels on the “Appropriation Comparison” slide to make it
147 easier for the taxpayers to understand.

148 Mr. Coughlan added a State of the School slide.

149 Mr. Brown remarked that the Operating Budget: Overview slide seems a bit confusing.

150 Mr. Coughlan noted that they could change it into a table version.

151 Mr. Steel added that he was just trying to show the difference, the Board could certainly change
152 it to however they want.

153 Mr. Chen suggested that they just show the numbers.

154 Mr. Steel noted that anyone can present from the community, it is up to the Moderator.

155 Ms. Facey added that it is not a Board statement.

156 Mr. Brown added that if he was part of the public and knew that the budget vote was 5-2, he
157 would want to know.

158 Mr. Purvis added that he would want to know as well and it should be a part of the discussion.
159 Mr. Chen noted that there should be a minority report if it is desired.
160 Mr. Brown asked if they changed article #2 by \$13,000 will it change their vote.
161 Discussion ensued.
162 Ms. Facey added that they should be able to speak but one slide for each article.
163 Mr. Coughlan added that the Board is proposing the budget.
164 Mr. Brown added that Mr. Purvis and Mr. Chen can present their thoughts.
165 Mr. Coughlan remarked that most of the questions the Board can handle, but some they cannot.
166 Ms. Grund added that she can be there if need be.
167 Mr. Purvis asked about the apportionment formula.
168 Mr. Steel explained that what may be adjusted is the adequacy aid is changing and the valuation
169 is Mont Vernon \$300,000 and Amherst \$352,000.
170 Mr. Grondstra asked about slide #29.
171 VI. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN
172 **Ms. Amy Facey motioned to close the meeting at 9:16PM. Mr. David Chen seconded the**
173 **motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**
174 **Mr. Brown called a roll call: Brown-Yes, Facey-Yes, Coughlan-Yes, Grondstra-Yes,**
175 **Purvis- Yes (via phone), and Chen- Yes.**
176