

1 Souhegan Cooperative School Board

2 Tuesday, May 22, 2018

3 Meeting Minutes

4 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Associate Superintendent/Business Administrator, Christine
5 Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, and Stephanie Grund-
6 Business Department.

7 Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Jim Manning- Chair, Pim Grondstra- Vice Chair, Steve
8 Coughlan- Secretary, David Chen, Amy Facey, and Dwayne Purvis.

9 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

10 Public: None

11 I. CALL TO ORDER

12 **Chair Mr. Jim Manning called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.**

13 II. CONSENT AGENDA

14 A. Minutes

15 1. May 3, 2018

16 B. Treasurer's Report

17 1. April 2018

18 C. Unanticipated Revenue

19 1. \$500.00 donation from the Amherst Lions Club to support FIRST Robotics
20 Team. (Student Activity Fund)

21 D. Budget Transfers

22 1. TSFR 2018 005

23 2. TSFR 2018 006

24 3. TSFR 2018 007

25 4. TSFR 2018 008

26 E. Approval of Math Program Evaluation Proposal

27 Mr. Chen noted that he had some questions about the Consent Agenda.

28 He discussed that Line 74 in A. Minutes 1. May 3, 2018 should be taken out as the motion about
29 the Math Evaluation Proposal was never voted on.

30 He then asked about the donation amounts they have received for HYPE.

31 He then noted that last year he had asked for more information on the accounting.

32 Ms. Grund added that HYPE has its own account.

33 Mr. Steel added it is a revolving activity fund.

34 Mr. Chen added that at some point he would like to know how much it actually costs and is not
35 against the program.

36 **Mr. Pim Grondstra motioned to accept the A. Minutes 1. May 3, 2018, as amended, B.**
37 **Treasurer's Report 1. April 2018, C. Unanticipated Revenue, 1. \$500.00 donation from the**
38 **Amherst Lions Club to support FIRST Robotics Team. (Student Activity Fund), D. Budget**
39 **Transfers 1. TSFR 2018 005, 2. TSFR 2018 006, 3. TSFR 2018 007, 4. TSFR 2018 008 and**
40 **E. Approval of Math Program Evaluation Proposal. Ms. Amy Facey seconded the Motion.**
41 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

42 Mr. Chen asked about Community Council presentation and if it should be in the May 3rd, 2018
43 minutes.

44 Mr. Steel added that any group can come and give a presentation to the Board.

45 Ms. Facey asked if it can be an attachment.

46 Mr. Steel replied, yes.

47 Discussion ensued.

48 Mr. Steel noted that Community Council gave the whole presentation and in this case the
49 minutes are accurate. He added that Mr. Chen's point is well taken in the future.

50 III. INFORMATIONAL

51 A. SCSB Expenditure Report for Qtr. 3

52 Mr. Manning added that it is attached.

53 Mr. Steel discussed that there is \$302,000 surplus and that is net of everything they have done so
54 far.

55 Mr. Chen asked about what else is included in the expenditures.

56 Mr. Steel replied, that it is net of everything they have done this year.

57 The Board thanked Mr. Steel.

58 IV. FY19 SCSB PRIORITIES FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

59 Mr. Manning noted that he has put together a presentation of priorities for discussion.

60 1. Our Learning Community-Develop a long term budget that is sustainable and supports the
61 strategy-specifics committees and KPI

62 2. Deeper Learning- implement mastery learning to include a program of studies review-
63 specifics committees and KPI

64 3. School Climate and Culture- implement a long term safety and security plan- Specifics,
65 committees and KPI

66 4. Learner Agency- Develop a thoughtful framework for governance- Specifics, committees and
67 KPI

68 Mr. Manning noted that this is the starting framework and asked the Board to take a look at
69 them.

70 Ms. Facey asked where would teacher leader effectiveness and evaluation fall. She just wants to
71 make sure that it is incorporated in there.

72 Discussion ensued.

73 Mr. Chen noted that he likes the word “community”

74 Mr. Manning then discussed the 4 colored boxes and wants to make sure that there is alignment
75 with the SAU strategy.

76 Mr. Purvis added that there is a category for governance.

77 Mr. Manning asked the Board where they think the level of critical importance is.

78 Mr. Purvis asked how do they do the right thing and keep everyone happy.

79 Mr. Grondstra commented on looking at it in terms of implementation.

80 Mr. Chen asked how close are they to rolling out Mastery Learning.

81 Mr. Steel replied, they are continually rolling out Mastery Learning there are different
82 checkpoints along the way.

83 Ms. Landwehrle added that there are a lot of components and it will take at least 3-5 years to
84 fully implement.

85 Mr. Chen asked about grading.

86 Ms. Landwehrle noted that she is also looking for Board support when talking to parents.

87 Mr. Manning remarked that they need to also keep in mind that it is a New Hampshire
88 Department of Education requirement.

89 Ms. Facey commented on the work that the AMS teachers have done with Professional
90 Development.

91 Mr. Grondstra commented on the 9th and 10th grade courses and transitioning to the upper grades.

92 Mr. Manning added that he would like to have enough discussion about the priorities.

93 Discussion ensued.

- 94 Mr. Chen asked about the difference between deeper learning and mastery.
- 95 Mr. Manning added that there is a competency based grading committee.
- 96 He then asked Ms. Landwehrle for her thoughts.
- 97 Ms. Landwehrle replied that Proficiency and Mastery are often similar terms but may look
98 different in other districts. The Grade 11 benchmark is looking at Proficiency. For the grading,
99 they are looking at a 4-point scale. They do not use SAT scores to measure for graduation.
- 100 Mr. Chen added that he is wanting to understand it better.
- 101 Ms. Landwehrle explained that you cannot pass a course without showing mastery in a subject.
- 102 Ms. Facey added she understands it as they are extracting work habits from their grades and that
103 it is all about learned material. She noted her support as well.
- 104 Mr. Manning commented on the current grading system and added his support for competency
105 based grading.
- 106 Ms. Facey added her support for Empower and remarked that it condensed the standards to make
107 it easier to understand.
- 108 She then noted that the SAT is aligned to the standards. Teachers will know by the question what
109 students need help with, they cannot do this without technology.
- 110 Mr. Steel commented on competency.
- 111 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they follow the Common Core State standards, which are the
112 standards that the State of NH follows, and there are two pathways in those standards. They
113 follow the integrated pathway which combines algebraic concepts along with geometric
114 concepts.
- 115 Mr. Manning commented on growth and deeper learning.
- 116 Mr. Steel emphasized that he wants Souhegan to be the best. He added that they have a planned
117 retreat for administration for greater discussion.
- 118 Ms. Facey remarked that she appreciates Mr. Steel's comments and that she knows that it takes
119 the whole SAU (staff and leadership) on board to achieve success.
- 120 Mr. Steel added that there are a number of things that they have already started that have helped
121 but they are also counteracting declining enrollment.
- 122 Mr. Manning discussed the priorities.
- 123 Mr. Coughlan commented that SAT scores should not be the sole measure of success.
- 124 Ms. Facey discussed consistency with Advisory, and Division 1. She noted that Advisory is not
125 consistent but is a foundational piece of the high school.

- 126 Mr. Steel remarked that he is hearing from superintendents across the State that schools need
127 more mental health counselors.
- 128 Discussion ensued about guidance and support.
- 129 Mr. Chen commented on culture at SHS.
- 130 Mr. Coughlan remarked about values.
- 131 Ms. Facey added that she has heard that teachers need more tools on helping students with some
132 problems, such as vaping, etc.
- 133 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they do have a great resource at AMS that they can tap into.
- 134 Mr. Chen commented that they need benchmarks with other school districts.
- 135 Mr. Manning asked about learner agency.
- 136 Ms. Facey noted that it is more than culture.
- 137 Mr. Coughlan commented on a graduate.
- 138 Ms. Landwehrle suggested that it should be called “cornerstones” to see if they can infuse deeper
139 student agency.
- 140 Discussion ensued.
- 141 Mr. Coughlan remarked on the value of the Mission.
- 142 Ms. Facey commented that they keep in mind the culture and that they are a community.
- 143 Mr. Manning reviewed the priorities that the Board had discussed.
- 144 Mr. Chen noted that he has concerns with the proposal.
- 145 **Mr. Steve Coughlan motioned to approve the Math Evaluation Proposal for \$22,000. Ms.**
146 **Amy Facey seconded the motion. (5-1) Motion passed. Mr. David Chen opposed.**
- 147 Mr. Chen discussed that he is opposed and noted his concerns. He added that there is something
148 fundamentally wrong with the math program that has been holding them back since 2004/2005.
149 It is not one class but a set of classes.
- 150 Mr. Coughlan added that there are three pieces to this.
- 151 Mr. Chen added that it is not the students but there are a bunch of things it could be.
- 152 Mr. Manning recapped Mr. Chen’s concerns.
- 153 Ms. Landwehrle replied that there are three things, curriculum, textbooks and third, teachers
154 have received extensive professional development. She added that it could be in the classroom
155 and a problem with implementation.

156 Ms. Landwehrle added that the last question is around mindset. There is research that says that
157 mindset is very important and has significant impact on student achievement.

158 Ms. Facey added that this study will give them really valuable data.

159 V. NON-PUBLIC SESSION- RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

160 VI. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN

161

162 **Mr. Pim Grondstra motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. Ms. Amy Facey seconded**
163 **the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**