

Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton – Superintendent, Adam Steel – Business Administrator, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Rob Scully- Principal SHS, Peter Gagnon- Dean of Students SHS, Kathy White- Dean of Faculty at SHS, and Karen Chininis- Director of Guidance.

Souhegan School Board- Chair- Mary Lou Mullens, Vice Chair- Howard Brown, Pim Grondstra- Secretary, Steve Coughlan, Peter Maresco and Dwayne Purvis

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Lindsay Haggerstrom- SHS Student, Katie Osterholtz,- SHS Student, Seth Facey- SHS Student, Sarah Eastland- SHS Student, Paige Karavas- SHS Student, Liz Purvis- Community Council Member, Amherst NH, Lisa Eastland- PTSA President, Amherst NH, Mike Akillian- Amherst NH, Amy Facey- Amherst School Board Member, Amherst NH, Maggie McCabe- Amherst NH, Jeanne Ludt- Past Souhegan School Board Member, Amherst NH and community members.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mary Lou Mullens

**Chair Mary Lou Mullens called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.**

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Mullens noted that this is the last meeting before the elections in March (3/14/17 at SHS)

A. Principal’s Report

Principal Scully thanked the students and teachers that took the time to come to the Board Meeting.

He then discussed that Souhegan’s Writing Center now provides one-to-one conferencing for all students at any point in the writing process and in most subject areas. He added that Writing Coaches are trained to help students become better writers through questioning their decision making process, probing for details, and asking for clarity of ideas and expression. Students can now book short writing conferences with Souhegan High School peer writing coaches online.

He remarked that The Writing Center is open for peer writing conferences with trained writing coaches Monday-Thursday during periods 5, 6, and after school.

He then explained that Ms. Ane Swift, math and Mr. Adam Theriault, English/technology have been recognized as outstanding and aspiring teacher leaders in New Hampshire. To honor and enhance their leadership, the VT and NH chapters of the National Network of State Teachers of

35 the Year, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will host them in a day of  
36 learning, networking and inspiration for teacher leaders. The purpose of this conference is to  
37 celebrate and elevate Vermont and New Hampshire teacher leaders and to support and encourage  
38 new ones through inspiring and relevant professional development.

39 He discussed that Souhegan continues to engage in the NEASC accreditation process. Recently,  
40 communication went out inviting parents to participate in the self-study survey. Students will  
41 also get a chance to participate in the self-study survey.

42 Mr. Scully then discussed the course registration timeline.

43 He also noted that AP exam registration forms have been distributed in all AP classes. Advanced  
44 Placement exams are scheduled during the first 2 weeks of May. Students enrolled in AP classes  
45 and who plan to take the exams, must register for the exams by March 6 2017.

46 He added that this year the SAT will be administered to all juniors on April 5th. Teachers have  
47 been assisting students in using KHAN academy test preparation resource.

48 He also discussed 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night and that they are getting really positive feedback.

49 He finalized his report by stating that Souhegan High School was asked to host an Innovation  
50 Studio, sponsored by NHLI. Schools recognized for their work in competency based education,  
51 performance assessments and student agency are asked to host site visits for teachers from  
52 around the state. Souhegan will offer classroom observations, teacher and student panels as well  
53 as live streaming from HYPE forum.

54 He added that Board Members are always invited to any activity.

55 He then added that they have some student representation from HYPE and then Claw.

56 He then introduced two HYPE students Ms. Lindsay Haggerstrom and Ms. Katie Osterholtz.

57 Ms. Haggerstrom and Ms. Osterholtz then discussed the Hope for Gus Foundation to raise funds  
58 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

59 They also noted for the public that the HYPE acronym stands for Hosting Young Philosophy  
60 Enthusiasts and that it will be held at UNH with key note speaker, former NH Governor Mr.  
61 John Lynch.

62 Ms. Osterholtz then discussed the Ethics Forum and that Spaulding HS is also participating and  
63 just recently Bedford HS.

64 Mr. Brown asked how many schools are involved.

65 The students discussed that there are 90 groups with 110 facilitators, but are unsure of the  
66 amount of high schools involved.

67 She added that they are Skyping in a group from Germany.

68 Mr. Purvis asked if this was only limited to public schools.

69 The students replied, no, it is open to all.

70 Mr. Maresco commented on the professionalism of SHS students.

71 Mr. Scully asked if there was an adult breakout session.

72 Ms. Osterholtz replied, yes, and described the session.

73 Ms. Mullens asked the students what the central question is this year.

74 The students both replied, that the theme is *what does it mean to be a responsible citizen?*

75 Mr. Brown asked if the attendees know the central question before arrival.

76 Ms. Osterholtz replied, yes, that they advertise it and hopes that it will spark interest and greater  
77 discussion.

78 Ms. Mullens commented that the two students are great role models and congratulated them on  
79 their work.

80 The Board thanked the students.

81 Principal Scully then discussed that the HYPE Forum has out grown each location due to student  
82 volume. He then added that he is proud and that it is a transformative experience for the students.

83 He then introduced Mr. Adam Theriault, and SHS Students Mr. Seth Facey, Ms. Sarah Eastland,  
84 and Ms. Paige Karavas to discuss SHS's Claw.

85 Ms. Eastland discussed that they had recently attended the Inauguration and the various skills  
86 they have learned at SHS. She noted that as journalists they have several categories that they  
87 report on for SHS's Claw digital magazine.

88 Ms. Mullens asked if there were any students that would like to enter the journalism field.

89 Mr. Theriault then showed the Board the SHS Claw website including the Presidential  
90 Inauguration video with other events.

91 He introduced Ms. Paige Karavas, SHS student and budding videographer. He remarked that the  
92 students are doing really well with it then showed an example of a senior video project.

93 Principal Scully noted that Mr. Adam Theriault will be awarded a Marlin Fitzwater Medallion  
94 from Franklin Pierce University. He remarked that this is important to the Strategic Plan and  
95 that the work with the Claw has enabled SHS to branch out into different opportunities.

96 The Board thanked the students and congratulated Mr. Theriault.

97  Camera Update

98 Principal Scully noted that Mr. John Robichaud, Director of Buildings and Grounds, is still  
99 working on it and they will be getting thoughts from the Community Council. He noted that it  
100 will then come to the Board.

101 The Board thanked Principal Scully.

102 B. Community Council Report

103 Liz Purvis noted that the school musical Footloose is in two weeks and will be a really fun show.

104 She then discussed a school wide cell phone policy. She described that students would turn their  
105 cell phones over to teachers at the beginning of class in return for academic incentives. She  
106 added that there is some dispute amongst students and that the proposal is very anti Souhegan.  
107 She added that there is no reason to give incentives for doing the right thing. She added that this  
108 cell phone proposal was voted down.

109 She also discussed a proposal for snow days.

110 The Board thanked Liz Purvis and added that she is welcome to stay.

111 Ms. Mullens noted that they have lost a Mont Vernon Community Council community member  
112 for personal reasons and there are no viable candidates as of this time. She then noted that she is  
113 open to stay on Community Council as a community member until the end of the year.

114 Mr. Purvis asked about the commitments.

115 Ms. Mullens then discussed the daytime meetings and time commitments and that it can be  
116 difficult for some to attend due to work conflicts.

117 **Mr. Steve Coughlan made a Motion to appoint Ms. Mary Lou Mullens as a Community**  
118 **Member to Community Council, from Amherst, effective March 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 the vote was**  
119 **unanimous. Motion passed.**

120 C. Committee Reports

121 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

122 Ms. Maggie McCabe commented on the policy *BDEH- Public Participation at School Board*  
123 *Meetings*. She then noted that she went paragraph by paragraph. She added that she is concerned  
124 that there are a lot of changes to the policy and she is concerned as a citizen.

125 She added that it is her belief that the School Board is orchestrating who they want to hear from.

126 The Board thanked Ms. McCabe for her comments.

127 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

128 A. Minutes

129 1. January 30, 2017

130 2. February 2, 2017

131 B. Treasurer's Reports

132 1. January 2017

133 C. Budget Transfer

134 1. 2017 004

135 D. Unanticipated Revenue

136 1. \$3,000.00 donation from Jane and Martin Beck to support the SHS FIRST  
137 Robotics Club. (Student Activity Fund)

138 2. \$500.00 donation from DATRON Dynamics, Inc. to support the SHS FIRST  
139 Robotics Club. (Student Activity Fund)

140 3. \$100.00 donation from Wayne and Nancy Morrison to support the SHS FIRST  
141 Robotics Club. (Student Activity Fund)

142 4. \$1,800.00 donation from Christopher and Stephanie Hall to support the trip to  
143 Europe. (Student Activity Fund)

144 E. Retirement Requests

145 F. Field Trips

146 1. Nicaragua 2018

147 2. France 2018

148 Ms. Mullens thanked the generous donors that are listed in the Consent Agenda.

149 Mr. Maresco commented that he the trips are in the Consent Agenda and that he does not  
150 remember how they got moved there.

151 Mr. Steel replied that any Board Member can pull something from the Consent Agenda for  
152 further discussion.

153 Superintendent Warburton noted that if a field trip is in the Consent Agenda that it has been fully  
154 vetted.

155 Mr. Pete Gagnon also added that these two trips have been fully researched.

156 Mr. Brown asked about the retirement dates and that they are vastly different.

157 Mr. Warburton reviewed the retirement process.

158 Discussion ensued.

159 **Mr. Howard Brown made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1.**  
160 **January 30, 2017, 2. February 2, 2017, B. Treasurer's Reports 1. January 2017, C. Budget**  
161 **Transfer 1. 2017 004 D. Unanticipated Revenue 1. \$3,000.00 donation from Jane and**  
162 **Martin Beck to support the SHS FIRST Robotics Club. (Student Activity Fund), 2. \$500.00**  
163 **donation from DATRON Dynamics, Inc. to support the SHS FIRST Robotics Club.**  
164 **(Student Activity Fund, 3. \$100.00 donation from Wayne and Nancy Morrison to support**

165 **the SHS FIRST Robotics Club. (Student Activity Fund), 4. \$1,800.00 donation from**  
 166 **Christopher and Stephanie Hall to support the trip to Europe. (Student Activity Fund), E.**  
 167 **Retirement Requests and F. Field Trips 1. Nicaragua 2018, 2. France 2018. The Motion was**  
 168 **seconded by Mr. Pim Grondstra. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

169 V. PRESENTATION

170 A. Student Presentations

171 1. SHS Claw- Student Journalism Conference

172 *See II. ANNOUNCEMENTS*

173 2. Ethics Forum – HYPE

174 *See II. ANNOUNCEMENTS*

175 3. Senior Project Documentary

176 *See II. ANNOUNCEMENTS*

177 VI. INFORMATIONAL

178 A. Coaches Evaluation Handbook and Participation Update

179 Principal Scully noted that tonight is the spring coaches' informative meeting. He added that  
 180 they have done research and have decided on a three phase evaluation for coaches starting with a  
 181 preliminary evaluation then self-assessment, and finally an evaluation portion.

182 He added that they have researched some models for handbooks and summer is the deadline for  
 183 completion.

184 Ms. Mullens asked about Mr. Dick Miller's upcoming retirement.

185 Mr. Brown asked about a parental piece to surveys.

186 Principal Scully... Student or student/parent survey

187 Mr. Grondstra asked if this is for head coaches only.

188 Principal Scully replied, yes.

189 Mr. Grondstra asked what happens to the assistant coaches.

190 Mr. Maresco then asked how to control coach misconduct and if there is anything being done to  
 191 change that. He then added that he has seen it first hand as well.

192 Mr. Scully replied, yes, they are responding and need more detail.

193 Ms. Mullens added that the 360 review is a necessary process and the sooner it is implemented  
 194 the better.

195 Ms. Jeanne Ludt asked if SHS has reviewed the stipends and if they are competitive.

196 Ms. Mullens replied that a lot of research has been done on coaching stipends.

197 Ms. Eastland asked if all athletes will get to respond to the survey.

198 Mr. Scully replied, yes, and it is still a work in process.

199 B. U.S. News & World Report Information

200 Superintendent Warburton noted that he gets the question as of why SHS is not ranked in the  
201 *U.S. News and World Report*. He then noted that the data was taken from the 2013 NECAP data.

202 Ms. Christine Landwehrle, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development discussed that  
203 they have dug into the criteria and looking at assessment data.

204 She then explained how *U.S. News and World Report* uses a 4 step assessment

205 She then placed this statement on the overhead projector for the Board.

206 *“The current US News and World Report rankings are based on the NECAP assessment*  
207 *administered in the fall of 2013. The NECAP assessment was not aligned to the Common Core*  
208 *State Standards and at that time we were already providing instruction aligned to the new*  
209 *standards. Since the assessment was not aligned to our instruction, our students performed lower*  
210 *than the state average and we were not included in the rankings. Now that our state assessment is*  
211 *aligned to our instruction, SHS has seen considerable gains in our standardized assessment*  
212 *scores in math.*

213 *If you examine steps two, three, and four of the US News and World Report rankings, we are*  
214 *outperforming other ranked high schools in NH on all three of those steps. For example, our*  
215 *College Readiness Index is 42.9, which put SHS among the top three in the state.”*

216 Discussion ensued.

217 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

## 218 VII. DISCUSSION

219 A. Deliberative Session Feedback

220 Ms. Mullens asked the Board if they had any feedback.

221 Mr. Maresco commented that he had received a negative comment from a public citizen. He then  
222 added that there was no Non-Public Session for them to discuss some details.

223 Discussion ensued.

## 224 VIII. ACTION ITEMS

225 A. Policies- 1st Readings

226  BEC – Non-Public Sessions

227  BEDC – Quorum

- 228  BEDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings
- 229  BIBA – School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
- 230  BK – School Board Memberships
- 231  IGD – Curriculum Adoption
- 232  IGE – Citizen Request for Exception to Specific Course Materials
- 233  IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction

234 Ms. Mullens noted that these policies are a first reading.

235 Mr. Grondstra asked about policy BEDC – Quorum.

236 Mr. Steel noted that there are references at the bottom of the policy.

237 Mr. Purvis asked a question about policy BK – School Board Memberships.

238 Mr. Brown noted that this is a timesaver and saves on writing it from scratch.

239 Mr. Purvis then asked about policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings, and  
 240 asked what was wrong with the current policy. He noted that the old policy encourages public  
 241 participation, whereas, then new one does not.

242 Mr. Coughlan responded that he has been a Board Member since 2003 and commented on the  
 243 policy.

244 Mr. Brown suggested pulling policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Board Meetings for  
 245 further discussion at Wednesday’s Policy Meeting.

246 Mr. Purvis added that the Board does not want to appear as not wanting public participation.

247 Discussion ensued.

248 Mr. Purvis asked about policy IGE – Citizen Request for Exception to Specific Course Materials.

249 Discussion ensued.

250 Ms. Mullens asked Mr. Purvis if he knows what other school districts are doing.

251 Superintendent Warburton noted that they try to look for policy best practices and any comments  
 252 that the Board has that they discuss that at the next policy meeting.

253 Principal Scully commented that it is the material that is usually in dispute.

254 Mr. Coughlan commented that it has not been a concern so far.

255 Mr. Purvis commented that this is for the future.

256 IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

257 Ms. McCabe asked Ms. Landwehrle when they switched to Common Core curriculum.

258 Ms. Landwehrle replied it is not the curriculum but standards and it was in 2010.

259 She added that the NWEA is also Common Core aligned as well as the SAT.

260 Ms. McCabe then commented that she disagrees with a statement in the Souhegan Voters Guide  
261 about U.S. News and World Report.

262 Mr. Brown then thanked Ms. Mullens and Ms. Maresco for their time and work.

263 Mr. Maresco thanked the Administration and Board Members and noted that his two children  
264 have had a great experience while at SHS.

## 265 X. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

266 Chair Ms. Mary Lou Mullens noted the following future meeting agenda items:

- 267 • HYPE Clip
- 268 • Community Council recommendation on cameras
- 269 • Director of Athletics, Mr. Dick Miller's update on coaches evaluation and handbook
- 270 • AP Data

## 271 XII. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN

272 **Mr. Steve Coughlan made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Mr. Pete Maresco**  
273 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed.**