

Souhegan Cooperative School Board
Thursday, March 03, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Administrative Team: Peter Warburton – Superintendent, Betty Shankel – Business Administrator, Rob Scully- Principal SHS, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services, Peter Gagnon- Dean of Students at SHS, Karen Chininis- Guidance Director, Gigi Klipa, and Chris Brooks- SHS Ethics Teacher/ Ethics Forum

Souhegan School Board- Chair- Mary Lou Mullens, Vice Chair- Howard Brown, Secretary- David Chen, Jeanne Ludt, Christine Janson, Steve Coughlan, Pim Grondstra (arrived at 6:24pm)

Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

Public: Lisa Eastland, Amherst NH, Liz Purvis- SHS Community Council, and Lindsay Evans- SHS Student, Maggie McCabe, Amherst NH, and Dwayne Purvis, Amherst NH.

I. PUBLIC HEARING – to accept donations

Ms. Mary Lou Mullens opened the Public Hearing at 6:47pm.

Ms. Betty Shankel discussed that for donations over \$5,000 the Board is required to hold a Public Hearing.

She added that there are two donations 1. \$5,000 for Robotics - donated by Monarch International, Inc. and 2. \$5,000- for Ethics Forum-HYPE - donated by the University System of New Hampshire.

Ms. Mullens asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Mr. Steve Coughlan added that the Board is grateful and appreciative of the donations.

Ms. Mary Lou Mullens closed the Public Hearing at 6:49pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mary Lou Mullens

Ms. Mary Lou Mullens called the Meeting to Order at 6:08pm

Chair Mary Lou Mullens welcomed the public to the March meeting.

She noted that Board Member elections are on March 8th and there are three seats available.

46 She then discussed that Ms. Christine Janson is not running again and wanted to recognize her
47 for her years of service, including 2 years as Chair.

48
49 Ms. Janson replied that she loved her position on the Board.

50
51 Ms. Mullens thanked Ms. Janson for being Secretary for the SAU as well, along with her
52 involvement with various committees. She noted Ms. Janson's great attention to detail and added
53 that the Board will miss her.

54
55 II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

56
57 A. Principal's Report

58
59 Mr. Rob Scully thanked Ms. Janson for her work on the Board and noted that she will be missed.

60
61 He thanked Ms. Karen Chininis and Student Services for their help with the SAT. He then
62 thanked the Student Body, Faculty and Staff and noted that Fang Fest went well.

63
64 Mr. Scully then discussed that Thursday, March 10th at 6:30pm is 8th grade Parent Night. He
65 noted that parents can get a good sense of the experience at SHS.

66
67 He then discussed the PACE Update and noted that they are right on target for their goals.

68
69 He then read the quote from Governor Maggie Hassan-State of NH- State of the State Address-
70 February 4th 2016 as follows:

71
72 "Across the country, New Hampshire is recognized as a leader in competency- based education.
73 Through our PACE pilot program, seven school districts and one charter school are now
74 reducing the level of standardized testing in favor of more locally managed assessments that are
75 integrated into the student's day to day work-a model that is expanding nationally based on our
76 success."

77
78 He discussed that the SAT was held yesterday (Wednesday, March 2nd) for juniors and it went
79 very well. He added that they used the annex and reconfigured the classes to make it work. He
80 noted that students felt that they were well prepared.

81
82 Mr. Scully then discussed the Kingpost Bridge Replacement Project with the Amherst
83 Conservation Commission.

84
85 He discussed that the project to design Kingpost Bridge Replacement is under way. He added
86 that current students and staff will work with alumni to design a replacement bridge to be
87 constructed in the Joe English Conservation Area.

88
89 He then discussed that there were several visits to SHS that occurred recently.

90

91 He noted that on February 29th, students and teachers from the Parker School (Danvers, MA)
92 visited SHS. He added that the visit was inspired by a meeting at CES Fall Forum, and that they
93 observed various aspects of the student experience, specifically Community Council.

94
95 Mr. Scully then discussed that on March 1st SHS was visited by the NH Learning Institute
96 (NHLI). He added that the NHLI is a non-profit organization created by the Coalition for
97 Business and Education, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education

98
99 He added that the visit was an opportunity to meet with teachers, administrators and students and
100 learn about the innovative projects in NH schools. He noted that he will keep the Board updated.

101
102 Mr. Scully then discussed that a group of students from Hollis/ Brookline will be coming on
103 March 7th to observe and discuss student government.

104
105 He noted that on March 9th- 10th a group of teachers, administrators and district office personnel
106 from East Syracuse, Minoa HS (Syracuse NY) will be visiting SHS.

107
108 He added that they will be visiting to discuss/observe their math program.

109
110 Mr. Brown asked Mr. Scully how large is the enrollment at that MHS.

111
112 Mr. Scully replied about 1,200-1,500.

113
114 Mr. Chris Brooks then discussed the HYPE program at SHS.

115
116 He noted that it began through the Ethics Forum which is outside of the classroom. It's been
117 primarily seniors due to time schedules. The HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts)
118 program began in 2009 by SHS seniors and they came up with the idea of bringing districts
119 together with a good citizenship outcome.

120
121 He added that they had started with 150 students for the conference and they are now up to 1111
122 students at this time.

123
124 He noted that the good work that is being accomplished by the students is a testament to the
125 school and the District.

126
127 He discussed that this year's HYPE conference is hosted by UNH, in Durham, NH. He added
128 that UNH with a renewable grant pays for the food and rooms. He added that they help with
129 transportation expenses as well. He then discussed that any student that wants to go can for
130 attend for free.

131
132 He noted that they have run into a problem as they are running out of space with 1,111 students.
133 He discussed that they break into groups for activities and discussion.

134
135 He noted that they are up to 28 school districts across NH, VT, ME and MA that are involved
136 with the HYPE program.

137
138 He discussed how they have been working with Spaulding HS and they also train facilitators, and
139 they need facilitators for the program.

140
141 He then discussed that recently they won a Pulitzer Arts Grant (\$30,000) to produce a
142 documentary about tracing the students' leadership experience and highlights SHS, Spaulding
143 HS, NH and the HYPE program.

144
145 Ms. Lindsay Evans then discussed that she got into contact with the Union Leader and they
146 offered to be a corporate sponsor. He noted that they wanted to meet and help with the
147 advertising with the event. She added that the students are now working on getting more
148 corporate sponsors. She discussed that she is on the Grant Group and that they reached out to
149 Dartmouth and hopefully they can get involved.

150
151 Mr. Chris Brooks noted that the students have raised over \$51,000 for this event. He noted that
152 the students are working really hard with this project.

153
154 Ms. Ludt thanked Mr. Chris Brooks for all of his time and effort with the students.

155
156 The Board thanked Mr. Brooks and Ms. Evans for their involvement.

157
158 Mr. Scully then discussed the SHS Jazz Festival and the Ocean Bowl Competition.

159
160 Ms. Mullens asked the Board if they had any questions for Principal Scully.

161
162 The Board thanked Mr. Scully for his report.

163
164 B. Community Council Report

165
166 Liz Purvis, SHS Student and Community Council Member, discussed a few proposals that
167 Community Council had been discussing.

168
169 She first discussed a proposal for switching gold days and white days. She noted that it did not
170 pass.

171
172 Second, she discussed another proposal for having a small celebration after a team won a
173 championship or another group achievement. She discussed that it would be similar to the
174 freshman first day of school. She noted that it can bring a greater sense of community to SHS
175 and that it is still the beginning of discussion.

176
177 Third, she discussed a proposal stating that any student who wants to go on a field trip can with
178 the permission of all of their teachers. She added that there are mixed opinions and that one
179 teacher can stop a student from going on a field trip. She noted that it is still in discussion at this
180 time.

181
182 Ms. Mullens noted that the Parker School viewed the Community Council during their visit.

183
184 Liz Purvis discussed that they were impressed with the structure of the Community Council.
185
186 She added that a group from Hollis/Brookline will be visiting and observing on Monday, March
187 07, 2016.

188
189 Ms. Mullens thanked Liz Purvis for her report.

190 C. Committee Reports

191 1. Stadium report

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194
195 Mr. Howard Brown discussed that the Policy Committee met last Monday and they discussed the
196 School Board ethic and evaluation Policy and that it will be brought to the SAU meeting for
197 further review on March 31st.

198
199 Mr. Chen discussed that they will be meeting about the stadium on Monday (3/6/16) and can
200 give the Board an update next month.

201
202 Ms. Mullens thanked Mr. Brown and Mr. Chen for their reports.

203 204 III. PUBLIC COMMENT

205
206 Ms. Maggie McCabe discussed that there are some items relating to college readiness that have
207 been published in the Voter Guide and the Amherst Citizen that she believes are untrue.

208
209 Ms. Mullens then discussed that they are consistently ranked in the top 10% for college
210 readiness.

211
212 Ms. Maggie McCabe then discussed that she has concerns that the Board and Administration are
213 self-assessing the District.

214
215 Superintendent Warburton discussed that most high schools in NH look at the CRI column
216 (College Readiness Index) which they have done traditionally and that they are currently ranked
217 at #7 (7 out of 84 high schools). He added that is well within the 10% margin and that some
218 years it has been #5 or #4.

219
220 Ms. Maggie McCabe added that they are not officially ranked, and by using a subset that it is not
221 being truthful.

222
223 Mr. Warburton then discussed that it is a statement that he has to disagree with.

224
225 He then discussed that they look at CRI separately and that is an important number.

226
227 He then stated that there is nothing invalid or untruthful about the Board or Administration using
228 that column (CRI).

229
230 Ms. McCabe noted that there are a lot of ugly things that have been going on in regards to the
231 recent election.
232
233 Ms. Mullens then noted that Ms. McCabe's 3 minute time is up.
234
235 She then reviewed Superintendent Warburton's message by stating that they are not being
236 untruthful by stating that they are ranked #7 in the (CRI) and many high schools in NH use the
237 (CRI).
238
239 Mr. Dwayne Purvis then thanked Ms. Christine Janson, Ms. Jeanne Ludt and the Board for their
240 efforts and reducing the Budget. He added that it was a difficult year and challenging to resist the
241 negativity in Amherst at this time. He then added that there are some citizens that are negative
242 towards SHS and that he will vigorously defend SHS.
243
244 He congratulated the Board for their accomplishments and noted that he is happy to send his kids
245 to SHS.
246
247 Ms. Lisa Eastland reminded the Board that the documentary "Most Likely to Succeed" will be
248 shown at SHS on March 24th in the SHS auditorium. She added that it is about how to educate
249 students in the 21st century. She noted that the event is free to all viewers.
250 Ms. Mullens thanked Ms. Eastland for her work bringing the documentary to SHS and asked if
251 the notice is included in parent emails?
252
253 Ms. Eastland noted that they did send out parent emails about the event.
254
255 Liz Purvis, junior at SHS, noted there are many students that support the Budget, School Board
256 and the Administration.
257
258 She added that she attended the Deliberative Hearing and has concerns that there are programs
259 such as music, language and sports that will be cut due to the FY' 17 Budget.
260
261 She added that as a student she feels that she needs to voice her concerns and there are many
262 others that want to as well. She then stated that she took a 7- week language course at Harvard
263 and it was all because of SHS education and opportunities.
264
265 The Board thanked Liz Purvis.
266
267 IV. CONSENT AGENDA
268
269 A. Minutes
270 1. January 13, 2016 (Public Hearing)
271 2. February 4, 2016
272 B. Unanticipated Student Activities Revenue
273 1. \$5,000 - For Robotics - Donated by Monarch International, Inc.

- 274 2. \$5,000- For Ethics Forum Hype - Donated by University System of New
 275 Hampshire
 276 3. \$500 – For First Robotics - Control air, Inc.
 277 4. \$500 - Shaw’s Supermarkets - Souhegan Sabers Girls Ice Hockey
 278

279 **Ms. Christine Janson made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda items A. Minutes 1.**
 280 **January 13th, 2016 (Public Hearing) and 2. February 4th, 2016 B. Unanticipated Student**
 281 **Activities Revenue 1. \$5,000 - For Robotics - Donated by Monarch International, Inc. 2.**
 282 **\$5,000- For Ethics Forum HYPE - Donated by the University System of New Hampshire 3.**
 283 **\$500 – For First Robotics - Control air, Inc. and 4. \$500 - Shaw’s Supermarkets - Souhegan**
 284 **Sabers Girls Ice Hockey. Mr. Pim Grondstra seconded the Motion. The vote was**
 285 **unanimous, Motion passed.**

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 287 V. PRESENTATION

288
 289 A. NWEA

291 Ms. Christine Landwehrle discussed the NWEA MAP Results for fall 2015.

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 293 She discussed the NWEA MAP overview and score interpretation.

294
 295 She discussed that the exam adapts to each student’s learning level and then generates a RIT
 296 score for each student. She detailed that the RIT score is (a grade independent score which
 297 indicates the level of question difficulty a given student is capable of answering correctly about
 298 50% of the time.

299
 300 She then discussed that it allows for measuring and monitoring of student growth from year to
 301 year. It establishes a student’s instructional level and identifies areas to focus on for growth.
 302 She concluded by stating that it allows comparison of a student’s academic progress with other
 303 students.

304 She then reviewed the NWEA MAP Reading for fall 2015. She reviewed the grade levels 7-10th,
 305 Student Count, Mean RIT, and the Percentile.

306
 307 Ms. Landwehrle noted that the NWEA is different than the Smarter Balanced Assessment as they
 308 are looking at certain standards, she remarked that it is a very different picture.

309
 310 Ms. Landwehrle discussed the NWEA Math Mean RIT Scores for grades 7th- 10th, Student
 311 Count, Mean RIT, and the Percentile. She added that there was huge growth, and there was very
 312 strong assessment data for math.

313
 314 Mr. Chen made a comment about the assessment of the NEWA and asked Ms. Landwehrle if he
 315 could discuss it further with her at a later date.

316
 317 Mr. Steve Coughlan asked when the SAT results will be made available.

318
 319 Ms. Karen Chininis replied, mid-May, however she is not certain.

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Ms. Mullens made a comment that the NECAP assessment is no longer used.

Ms. Landwehrle noted that the NECAP was aligned to old standards and that is why it has gone away. She added that the Smarter Balanced Assessment is more aligned to what they are teaching, the new standards.

Ms. Mullens thanked Ms. Landwehrle for her report.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Deliberative Review

Ms. Mullens noted that they wanted to go over a few things from the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Scully discussed that the SHS work that they are doing is aligned with the NH DOE, State of NH and the national level. He then discussed that they are aligned with where education is heading.

He then discussed the Instruction including Teacher leader Effectiveness, Professional Development and Curriculum Development.

He then reviewed the Student Experience which includes competency based education, next generation learning and the program of studies.

He then discussed the Post-Secondary Intentions, with Souhegan, Bedford, and Hollis-Brookline. He then discussed how they come up with the results. He added that sometimes students will choose two year colleges and then transfer credits to a larger university.

Ms. Mullens discussed the Budget Process and stated that they use a zero based budgeting. She noted that they review budget factors, goals for enrollment, class size, co-curricular participation, CPP and facility improvements.

She added that the Board is informed year round about the Budget from the Budget Study Committee.

She then discussed the projected enrollment update.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Mullens noted that they have had higher than projected enrollment.

She discussed the proposed FY 17 Budget is \$17,583,870 which is a decrease of \$723,388 or 3.95%.

She then reviewed the Annual Percentage Change of Budget, and that it is a decrease of -3.95%.

366 She then discussed the Annual Budget Amounts for FY 11' - FY 17'.

367

368 Ms. Ludt commented on the Budget amounts.

369

370 Ms. Mullens discussed the Underlying Core Values and Objectives.

371

372 She then reviewed the Average Cost per Pupil comparison.

373

374 She then discussed the FY 17' Budget Priorities for Facilities including the Secure Storage
375 Facility -\$75,000, Paving Project per schedule and funding method recommended by the Town
376 of Amherst CIP (Capital Improvement Project Committee) \$150,000 and Masonry and Joint
377 repairs- \$25,000.

378

379 She discussed the Budget Reductions for FY 12 through FY 15.

380

381 She noted that as a results of their efforts in respect to the average class size and change in
382 average teacher facing ratios.

383

384 Ms. Mullens then reviewed that the FY 17' proposed Budget is less than the FY 12 Budget by
385 5.14% or (\$954,266). Cost Per Pupil for FY 15, most current, is reduced from FY 13' by \$1,232
386 per pupil.

387

388 She then discussed the FY 1'7 Budget Changes in the category of Personnel

389

390 She then discussed the Default Analysis, and the consequence if the Budget is voted down that it
391 will be a reduction of \$422,921.

392

393 Ms. Mullens then discussed the Tax impact summary of a 330K home in Amherst (\$33.00) and a
394 300K home in Mont Vernon (\$66.00).

395

396 She then reviewed the summary and added that the reduction of -3.95% from last year was the
397 greatest reduction in 24 year history.

398

399 Ms. Mullens then noted the Ongoing Future Budget consideration including facilities usage
400 analysis, curriculum program review, and reallocation of staff to meet student needs with
401 minimum required staffing.

402

403 She then discussed the Cost per Pupil growth for FY 08' to FY 15'.

404

405 She then went over the Home Sales Comparisons- 2014 vs. 2015. She noted the average number
406 of sales and that people are drawn to Amherst because of the schools. She added that the sales
407 prices are increasing at a decent level.

408

409 She then discussed that School Tax Burden Comparisons for the towns of Brookline, Windham,
410 MV, Bedford, Hollis, Amherst and Bow. This is the school tax on average priced homes.

411

412 Ms. Mullens then reviewed the Bedford vs. Amherst school tax burden. She added that the
413 additional Bedford cost is an extra \$122.86.

414
415 She concluded with the discussion of why is the tax burden a better measurement than cost per
416 pupil. She added that the cost per pupil ignores the higher cost of bond payments, transportation,
417 food service losses in other districts. Second, that CPP ignores all revenues obtained by our
418 school districts in the form of grants, reimbursements for special education, tuitions healthcare
419 savings etc. Third, that the tax burden measure compares your actual taxes paid in other towns.

420
421 Discussion ensued.

422
423 Ms. Ludt asked if there was a way the Board can put a link of this presentation on Facebook and
424 Twitter.

425
426 Mr. David Chen made a comment about the girls' basketball team.

427
428 Discussion ensued about co-curriculars.

429
430 Ms. Lisa Eastland discussed the information she knew about Athletics from her involvement on
431 the Athletics Committee.

432
433 Ms. Mullens discussed that it is Ms. Jeanne Ludt's last meeting with the Board and her Birthday
434 as well.

435
436 Ms. Mullens thanked Ms. Jeanne Ludt for all of her School Board work and involvements and
437 noted that she has done a wonderful job.

438
439 Superintendent Warburton thanked Ms. Jeanne Ludt and Ms. Christine Janson for all of their
440 hard work with the School Board. He noted that they will be greatly missed.

441
442 He then discussed that he wanted to apologize to Ms. Maggie McCabe for his tone during Public
443 Comment.

444
445 XI. CLOSE/ADJOURN MEETING

446
447 **Ms. Christine Janson made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:30pm. Ms. Jeanne Ludt**
448 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**