

46 Mr. Grondstra discussed Article 2, the proposed Operating Budget of \$18,058,502
47 and the default budget of \$17,864,643. He discussed the budget elements including
48 the 2nd year of the agreement with staff, books and supplies, the federally mandated
49 special education program, and funding to support buildings and grounds. The
50 proposed Operating Budget is an increase of \$140,809 and 0.79% greater than the
51 FY14 adopted budget. Mr. Grondstra discussed changes in the budgets over the last
52 seven years.

53

54 Mr. Coughlan discussed how the budget breaks down in the major categories that
55 are tracked by the Department of Education. 63% of the budget is spent on direct
56 instruction of the students. 75% of the budget is impacting students including direct
57 instruction, special education, supports for instruction, and co-curricular activities.
58 9% of the budget is the management piece including school administration, SAU
59 administration, and school board expenses including lawyers and minute takers.
60 10% of the budget is to support the facilities including buildings and grounds,
61 paying for the new roof, and technology. 2.7% of the budget is Food Services, which
62 is paid for by the people who buy the food. 3.8% of the budget is Transportation,
63 which is the busing for the students. 0.1% of the budget is Adult Education, which is
64 required by law and is paid for by the users.

65

66 Mr. Coughlan discussed the increases in the budget. The bond principal and interest
67 are included in this proposed budget. There was \$346,926 added to the budget.
68 After the one time Expendable Trust deposit there was a cost obligation of
69 \$281,926 before working on the budget.

70

71 Mr. Coughlan discussed the higher enrollments than projected and that the school
72 will be seeing increases next year in enrollment. The school will see a reduction in
73 enrollment in FY16 and FY17.

74

75 Mr. Coughlan discussed the budget considerations including Program of Studies,
76 Evolving of Curricula including textbooks for the new Math program, adoption of
77 new state standards, and the supervision/ evaluation program review. He stated
78 that the program review is for administration and teachers and is in process now
79 and will take three years.

80

81 Ms. Janson discussed the changes in the budget including the reduction of 3.5
82 employees, including 2.5 teaching staff and 1 paraprofessional. All programs have
83 been maintained.

84

85 Ms. Janson discussed the revenue estimate. There were budget savings in special
86 education and catastrophic aide. She discussed other sources of revenue and the
87 increases and decreases over last year. Last years FY14 revenue was high because
88 of a return from LGC. The estimated tax rate for this FY15 budget is \$8.18 in
89 Amherst and \$8.25 in Mont Vernon. She discussed what the estimated tax
90 implications would be for a \$330,000 home as shown in the presentation on slide 15
91 and 16.

92 Mr. Coughlan discussed the default budget. The default budget is calculated by using
93 a formula give by the state. Slide 17 in the presentation shows the specifics of the
94 calculation. The default budget is \$17,864,643. He discussed the default analysis
95 including the required bond payment. Slide 18 in the presentation shows where the
96 cuts in the default budget will be in order to make the bond payment. The default
97 budget would have a tax impact of \$8.08 for Amherst, a savings of \$0.10, and \$8.14
98 for Mont Vernon, with a savings of \$0.11.

99

100 Mr. Chen read a statement prepared by Tom Silvia. The Advisory Finance
101 Committee vote was 5 to 2 to support the proposed operating budget. The
102 committee thanked the board and administration for their hard work. The 5
103 members that support the proposed operating budget like that the increase of
104 0.79% is below last years' inflation rate, enrollment is increasing, the teaching ratio
105 is 79:1 versus the school's target of 80:1, the debt service costs, there is a reduction
106 in staff by 3.5 positions and the budget keeps the facility in good order. The two
107 members that voted not in favor of the proposed operating budget did so because
108 they felt the Special Education costs were too high and the costs for staffing that is
109 non-teaching and non-administrative has not decreased.

110

111 Mr. Chen discussed the history of the budgets and the trends. This year and next
112 year the enrollment goes up. The board needs to plan for the eventual decrease of
113 enrollment, which is a long-term issue. The number of courses and programs need
114 to be examined on a regular basis and the planned adjustments need to be made.
115 The board will need frameworks to help support this.

116

117 Ms. Mullens made a correction that the non-certified staff was decreased by 3.9
118 positions last year and one position this year.

119

120 Mr. Brown discussed the Facilities Maintenance Trust, which is money saved for the
121 emergency repair of the facilities if something happens. The money can be used
122 only for what it is meant for. He explained the other two trusts the district has,
123 which are the Unfunded Liabilities for Retirees Trust and the Special Education
124 Trust. Neither of these trusts will have money added to them. Jim Miner
125 recommends keeping the Facility Maintenance Trust at \$100,000. Mr. Brown
126 explained how the Trust could support replacing the track in two years if money is
127 added this year and next year. The tax impact of this article is \$0.03 for Amherst
128 and \$0.04 for Mont Vernon.

129

130 Mr. Chen stated that the Advisory Committee unanimously supports this article.
131 This article is a "no brainer" because it helps to protect and offset the budget from
132 impact.

133

134 Ms. Mullens discussed slide 26 and the total tax impact of the Operating Budget and
135 the addition of money to the Facilities Maintenance Trust.

136

137 Ms. Mullens asked for questions from the audience. There were no questions. She
138 asked citizens to support the school in maintaining the quality of instruction for the
139 students. She reminded the public of the Deliberative Session at 9am on February 1st
140 and to vote on March 11th.

141
142 Ms. Mullens closed the Public Hearing at 6:45pm.

143
144 **REGULAR MEETING**

145
146 Present

147
148 **Souhegan Cooperative School Board:** Mary Lou Mullens, Howard Brown, Christine
149 Janson, Steve Coughlan, Pim Grondstra

150
151 **Director of Curriculum** Nicole Heimarck

152
153 **Minutes Recorder:** Howard Brown

154
155 **CALL TO ORDER**

156
157 **Mary Lou Mullens** called the meeting to order at 6:55 P.M.

158
159 **Discussion Change of School Calendar**

160
161 Director of Curriculum **Nicole Heimarck** stated that two scheduled staff in-service
162 days were cancelled due to inclement weather. These two days were set up to
163 instruct staff on Common Core State Standards. **Nicole** proposed changing the
164 school calendar to make up one day on February 17th and one day in June (day to be
165 determined). Discussion.

166
167 **A motion made by Steve Coughlan to approve February 17, contingent on all**
168 **other SAU 39 boards approving, for the first makeup day of Common Core**
169 **Standards training. Motion was seconded by Chris Janson. Unanimously**
170 **passed (5-0-0).**

171
172 **ARTICLE 2**

173
174 *Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating*
175 *budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other*
176 *appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the*
177 *warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein,*
178 *totaling \$18,058,502? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be*
179 *\$17,864,643, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by*
180 *previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the*
181 *governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and*
182 *XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.*

183 ***Majority vote required to pass.***

184

185 **A motion made by Steve Coughlan to place on the warrant, Article 2 as**
186 **presented at the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Pim Grondstra. No**
187 **discussion. Unanimously passed (5-0-0).**

188

189

190 **ARTICLE 3**

191

192 *Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District vote to raise and appropriate up to*
193 *\$65,000 from the year-end undesignated fund balance (surplus) if available on July 1,*
194 *2012 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the School Maintenance*
195 *Fund previously established in March, 2005?*

196 ***Majority vote required to pass.***

197

198 **A motion made by Steve Coughlan to place on the warrant Article 3 as**
199 **presented at the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Pim Grondstra. No**
200 **discussion. Unanimously passed (5-0-0).**

201

202 **VOTE TO SUPPORT WARRANT**

203

204 **ARTICLE 2**

205

206 **A motion was made by Steve Coughlan to support the passage of Article 2 as**
207 **presented at the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Pim Grondstra. No**
208 **discussion. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).**

209

210 **ARTICLE 3**

211

212 **A motion was made by Steve Coughlan to support the passage of Article 3 as**
213 **presented at the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Pim Grondstra. No**
214 **discussion. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).**

215

216 **REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

217

218 **A motion was made by Steve Coughlan to adjourn the meeting. The motion**
219 **was seconded by Pim Grondstra. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0). The**
220 **meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.**

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