

MINUTES
SOUHEGAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2014
BRICK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM

PRESENT:

SCSC Board Members: Steve Coughlan, Christine Janson, Mary Lou Mullens, Howard Brown, Pim Grondstra, Fran Harrow, Peter Maresco

Administration: **Superintendent** Peter Warburton, **Business Administrator** Betty Shankel, and **Principal** Rob Scully

Call to order

Mary Lou Mullens called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

Betty Shankel presented the appropriation report.

Fran Harrow made a motion that the members of the school board be authorized to sign the MS-22 form. **Pim Grondstra** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: School Board Goals

Mary Lou Mullens presented our four Souhegan School Board goals:

1) **Budget Analysis**

Discussion followed on the following topics:

Cost per pupil, special education cost, understanding school budget and explaining to public better (proactive in providing information), administration levels and if we have the correct levels, the return on our investment, teacher salaries in comparison to Amherst teachers, 8 period day and if worth continuing, and if a Coalition school cost more to run.

Rob Scully led a discussion on rotation of schedules. Further discussion on different choices to make a better school and transportation costs.

2) **Academic Excellence**

Mary Lou Mullens explained that the academic team had one meeting to analyze how to better enhance strengths and address areas of improvement, however, it was determined that when more information was addressed it became too encompassing.

Discussion followed on the following topic:

SAT scores and state testing.

3) **Professional Staff Evaluations**

Rob Scully led a discussion on staff evaluations that include: observations, mentorship, accountability and content knowledge.

- 4) **Review and Update of Administrative Hiring Policies**
Discussion on the board, administration and personnel representative commitment for using best hiring practices.
- 5) **SAU Strategic Planning**
Discussion on the progress, throughout the SAU, on our pledge of commitment to strategic planning.

Discussion: Future School Board Goals

Steve Coughlan commented that the communication team has done a great job of positive outlook and the next step would be to tie this outlook to the success of the students. He stated that the students come to us smart and intelligent...

Mary Lou Mullens requested ideas on getting the community more involved with school activities. Rob Scully commented that we could try getting more community members involved as mentors. Superintendent Warburton stated the transition of Amherst Middle School students to Souhegan could be assisted by Souhegan students sharing and possibly inviting community members to mentor. Another idea was to stay within our districts for extended work vocational placements.

Discussion: Field Trip Policy

Mary Lou Mullens led a discussion on the revised field trip policy and the newly created field trip policy addendum.

Discussion: Winter Session

Mary Lou Mullens shared a discussion she had with member of the community on possibly opening Winter Session for all classes, instead of for sophomores' only. It was noted that Lawrence Academy currently has a school wide Winter Session. **Fran Harrow** stated it is very labor intensive to organize and orchestrate such a grand idea. Fran further stated that the board is very committed with strategic planning, goals, etc. at this time and it might be a good idea to table the idea until we could commit more time.

Discussion: NHIAA New Policy

Rob Scully presented some new language for the NHIAA policy concerning off-season athletic conditioning. Rob stated the state is giving little lead and telling schools to follow their own policies. This item will be presented to the policy committee and brought back to the board for their comments and acceptance.

MOTION TO ADJORN:

At **9:09 pm Pim Grondstra** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fran Harrow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

