

1 Souhegan Cooperative School Board

2 Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 15 2021

4 Attendees via Zoom:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent of Schools, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant  
6 Superintendent, Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Meg Beauchamp- Director  
7 of Student Services, Mike Berry- SHS Principal, Roger Preston- Director of Facilities.

8 Souhegan Cooperative School Board: Chair- Pim Grondstra, Vice Chair- Amy Facey, Secretary-  
9 Stephanie Grund, Steve Coughlan, George Torres, John Glover and Laura Taylor.

10 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

11 Public: Isabella VanBibber, 83 B Christian Hill Road, Amherst NH, Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia  
12 Lane, Amherst NH, Stephanie Wales, 89A Seaverns Bridge Road, Amherst NH, and Tony  
13 LaBranche, 62 Merrimack Road, Amherst, NH.

14 I. Souhegan Cooperative School Board Chair Opening

15 **Chairman of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board, Mr. Pim Grondstra, called the**  
16 **meeting and Public Hearing to order at 6:00PM.**

17 Today, we will be conducting a school board meeting of the Souhegan Cooperative School  
18 Board.

19  
20 Before we get started, I'll read through a checklist to ensure that the meeting that we are holding  
21 is in compliance with the Right-to-Know Law.

22  
23 As Chairperson of the Souhegan Coop. Board, I find that due to the state of emergency declared  
24 by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's  
25 Emergency Order Number #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and its extensions, this  
26 public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to  
27 observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the  
28 Governor's Emergency Order.

29  
30 In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that:

- 31
- 32 1. We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access  
33 possible by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic  
34 meeting. All members of the committee and selected legislative staff have the ability to  
35 communicate contemporaneously in this meeting through this platform. And the public  
36 has access to contemporaneously watch and or listen to the meeting on Zoom and via  
37 phone by following the directions and links provided on our website: [www.sau39.org](http://www.sau39.org).  
38
  - 39 2. We have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.

- 40  
41 3. We are providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting  
42 if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please email  
43 [awallace@sau39.org](mailto:awallace@sau39.org).  
44  
45 4. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting will be adjourned and  
46 rescheduled.  
47  
48 5. Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.  
49  
50 6. Finally, let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states  
51 their presence please also state where they are and if anyone else is in the room with you  
52 during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.  
53

54 Roll Call: Coughlan- Home and alone, Torres- Home and alone, Facey- Home and alone, Taylor-  
55 Home and alone, Grund- Home and alone, Glover- Home and alone, and Grondstra- Home and  
56 alone.  
57

## 58 II. Public Hearing

59  
60 Chairman Grondstra noted that the following members at from Amherst, Mr. Steve Coughlan,  
61 Mr. John Glover, Ms. Laura Taylor, Ms. Amy Facey and Ms. Stephanie Grund. He and Mr.  
62 George Torres are from Mont Vernon, NH.  
63

64 The administrators that are in attendance are Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, Assistant  
65 Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele  
66 Croteau and Souhegan High School Principal, Mr. Mike Berry.  
67

68 To say that this year has been out of the ordinary would be an understatement. There have been  
69 many challenges in all aspects of running a high school that prides itself in being one of the best  
70 in the state. Adam Steel and his staff, and Mike Berry and his staff, including the faculty at the  
71 high school have done a phenomenal job keeping the school moving forward in a positive  
72 manner. Those folks as well as the Souhegan Cooperative School Board strive to ensure that  
73 when our students leave Souhegan, they are prepared to successfully navigate the next step in  
74 their lives. In a nutshell, that's our top objective; the reason why we're all here.  
75

76 As you'll see in the presentation, the proposed budget and warrant articles support our objective,  
77 allowing for changes to streamline the administration in order to strengthen our programs, and  
78 leading towards the implementation of individualized education plans for every student.  
79

80 Each section of the budget was reviewed in detail by a high school administrator responsible for  
81 that portion of the budget, a member of the Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee, a SCSB  
82 member and SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau. There were multiple  
83 meetings between the SAFC, SCSB and the Administration to ensure that all questions were  
84 answered. SCSB Member Ms. Stephanie Grund will be presenting the financial portion of this  
85 presentation later on in the Public Hearing.

86 As previously mentioned, we want all Souhegan students prepared for whatever their next step is  
 87 after high school. Here we show the characteristics of what a student should be when they  
 88 graduate. A Knowledge Constructor, an Effective Communicator, a Critical Thinker, an Engaged  
 89 Learner, a Skilled Collaborator and a Confident Global Citizen.

90  
 91 Mr. Grondstra noted the outstanding success our Seniors have had academically.

92 Scores increased substantially from when they took the PSATs in the fall of their junior year to  
 93 when they took their SATs one year later. The SAT's are typically taken in the Spring of a  
 94 student's junior year, however, due to the pandemic, the SATs were taken this past fall.

95  
 96 The percentages next to each average score shows the percent of students who scored at or above  
 97 the benchmark for college readiness in that discipline.

98  
 99 *{Benchmarks for PSAT – Reading (460), Math (510)*

100 *for SAT – Reading (480), Math (530)}*

101 *[State: 69% Reading; 44% Math]*

102

103 As shown in the bottom table, we have been seeing a steady increase in the percentage of  
 104 students scoring a 3, 4 or a 5 over the last four years on their AP exams. This past year was  
 105 especially impressive given that the students had to take the tests as 45-minute, web-based free  
 106 response exams due to the pandemic.

107

108 This slide shows the participation in our athletics programs this past fall. About 35% of the  
 109 students participated on a total of 8 teams. The level of participation and their success is a great  
 110 testament to the students' resilience during the beginning of a very abnormal school year. It also  
 111 shows the effort that the school made to improve the student experience, providing outlets during  
 112 this time.

113

114 III. FY' 22 Operating Budget

115

116 This is a summary of the budget and warrant articles.

117

118 They want to pass a budget that supports their strategic objectives, a leadership restructure plan,  
 119 and school facility improvements, such as an upgraded, secure, front entrance and new lockers in  
 120 the locker rooms. There is a warrant article to continue support of the 20-year capital  
 121 maintenance plan and a warrant article to build up funds to replace the turf field in five years.

122

123 Mr. Grondstra showed a comparison of the current FY'21 budget and capital maintenance  
 124 reserve to the proposed FY22 budget, the capital maintenance reserve, and the turf field  
 125 replacement.

126

127 Warrant Article #2 Operating Budget

128

129 **“Article 2.**

130 ***“Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate as an operating***  
 131 ***budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations***

132 *voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended*  
 133 *by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling nineteen million seven*  
 134 *hundred seventy-two one hundred three dollars (\$19,772,103)? Should this article be defeated,*  
 135 *the default budget shall be nineteen million three hundred ninety-six thousand three hundred*  
 136 *thirty-four dollars (\$19,396,334) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments*  
 137 *required by previous action of the Souhegan Cooperative School District or by law; or the*  
 138 *governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI, to*  
 139 *take up the issue of a revised operating budget only?"*  
 140 *Majority vote required."*

141  
 142 Chairman Grondstra noted that Souhegan Cooperative School Board Member, Ms. Stephanie  
 143 Grund, will be presenting the FY' 22 Operating Budget information.

144  
 145 Ms. Grund mentioned that this year has been a challenge for all of us. There are many things to  
 146 consider when preparing a budget. The driving factor should be that it ties back to the Strategic  
 147 Vision for the school and the students.

148  
 149 Our goals include aligning our administration with current and future structures within education  
 150 and our school, working on strengthening our math program outcomes, and continuing to work  
 151 toward individualized education plans for each student.

152  
 153 This is a summary of the Budget we are proposing to the voters tonight. You can see that there  
 154 is a \$1,095,594 increase in the FY' 22 Budget from the current year budget. We will discuss the  
 155 drivers for this increase in the next slides.

156  
 157 Three general categories that are increasing the budget are the New Hampshire Retirement  
 158 System rate increases, Health Insurance rate increases, the PPC Agreement as well as  
 159 Administrative salary increases.

160  
 161 The NH Retirement System rates are set by the State every two years. This year, the rates caused  
 162 a significant increase to the benefits section in all budget categories. The impact to the bottom  
 163 line is an increase of \$307,940 to the budget. This is not a rate we can control as the rate is set  
 164 for us. Another general impact to the benefits section of the budget is the 6.3% Maximum  
 165 Guaranteed Rate increase set by the health insurance company. This rate changed caused a  
 166 \$49,555 increase to the benefit costs across all budget categories. Finally, we are in the second  
 167 year of a four-year contract with the PPC. The contract was approved by voters last year and  
 168 increases the current year budget by \$206,626.

169  
 170 • Administration

171  
 172 The increase in Administration costs include the increases in the NH Retirement System and  
 173 Health care rates as well as salary increases for Administrators. Included in the Administration  
 174 Budget are the Guidance Department expenses. We would like to thank these individuals for the  
 175 extra efforts they have put forward this year to work with our students. The guidance counselors,  
 176 school social worker, and the school psychologist are working directly with students and  
 177 providing outreach support daily to help our students and faculty.

178 We are fortunate to already have an advisory system in place at Souhegan High School. All  
 179 teachers, staff, and administrators participate in an advisory. This year, advisors are meeting not  
 180 just as a group, but also with individual students to check in on how they are doing during this  
 181 school year.

182

183 On July 1, 2020, Mr. Mike Berry became the principal of Souhegan High School. He has hit the  
 184 ground running by meeting with teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents. He is  
 185 evaluating our administrative and teaching structures to make them effective and efficient and to  
 186 align with our Strategic Vision of educating students. Principal Berry is evaluating changes to  
 187 ensure the safety and education of students comes first.

188

189 • Athletics

190

191 When looking at Athletics this is a fairly consistent budget with prior years. The increase is  
 192 mainly due to the New Hampshire Retirement System increase and an increase in the NHIAA  
 193 fees. If you remove these increases, the budget would show a decrease of approximately \$10k.

194

195 • Curriculum

196

197 Curriculum is the largest cost category in our budget.

198

199 I would like to take a moment and thank our teachers for working hard and going above and  
 200 beyond this year. It is a strange and difficult year for our teachers and students. Our teachers  
 201 have to teach dual modality; meaning that they teach both remote and in-person students at the  
 202 same time. This is different than what the other schools in our SAU chose. We have teachers  
 203 who specialize in their field and are qualified to teach AP and Dual Enrollment courses. Because  
 204 of this, we do not have the ability to have teachers teach remote or in-person students only. The  
 205 teachers have to re-in vision what it means to teach. They have to re-evaluate the projects,  
 206 teaching methods, and classroom lab experiments.

207

208 The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent have said that they want to ensure a year of  
 209 growth for every student. There has been a lot of professional development and technology  
 210 purchases this year to help our teachers learn on-line teaching methods and student engagement  
 211 processes. There is very close tracking of our expenses by the Business Administrator to ensure  
 212 we are staying within our budget. We are planning for our teachers and students to be back in  
 213 the classroom next fall so we can continue working closely with our students inside the school  
 214 building.

215

216 The cost drivers for this budget category are the general budget drivers mentioned earlier  
 217 regarding the NH Retirement System, Health care rates, and the PPC agreement. When we were  
 218 reviewing the budget, there were two teacher positions that were still in the budget that were  
 219 removed because of retirements from last year. Also, we have made conscious choices to  
 220 continue teaching a variety of courses at Souhegan. Some AP and Dual Enrollment classes  
 221 might have smaller class sizes, but we feel it is important to continue offering these courses to  
 222 provide our students with a rigorous curriculum. This is one way we continue to address our  
 223 higher achieving students.

224  
225 As we review our AP and DE classes, we notice an increase in the number of students who are  
226 signing up for the classes as they see benefits of receiving college credit prior to when they enter  
227 universities after they graduate from Souhegan. This leads to another driver in this category  
228 which is cost the of professional development. We encourage our teachers to continue their  
229 education in order for us to offer more AP and Dual Enrollment Classes, as well as to ensure we  
230 work toward our strategic vision of individualized education plans.

231  
232 • Facilities

233  
234 We have had a new hire this past year in the SAU with Facilities Director Mr. Roger Preston.  
235 Mr. Preston has performed a deep review of our school buildings, HVAC, and mechanical  
236 systems. Many areas required maintenance and repairs which have been addressed over this past  
237 year and in this proposed budget. Mr. Preston, the Business Administrator, and the high school  
238 administrators have developed a long-term maintenance plan for our facilities which will be  
239 discussed fully later this evening during the special warrant article presentation.

240  
241 A significant area that the Facility Director has addressed over this past year is the HVAC  
242 system at the high school. Repairs have been made to the front-end control system that were  
243 voted on by the school board at the end of last fiscal year. During the school year, the unit  
244 ventilators in the classrooms have been repaired giving us a few more years to address the need  
245 for a new HVAC system. Because of the work performed, we are looking at extending the life of  
246 our current system for another 3-5 years.

247  
248 Two items adding to the increase in the Facility's Budget are the costs for locker replacement  
249 and the added costs for creating a more secure entrance to our school by visitors.

250  
251 The Boys Locker Room is in desperate need of new lockers. These are the original lockers when  
252 the school was built, and they are in disrepair. This budget includes \$75,000 to repair both the  
253 Boys and Girls locker rooms to ensure we are in compliance with Title IX. Mr. Preston is  
254 looking at different ways to repair both locker rooms to stay within the budget.

255  
256 The secure entrance to the school has been discussed for many years now. The discussions have  
257 included students, staff, administration, and Community Council. The report prepared by  
258 Community Council and reviewed by the School Board aligns with the need to review who has  
259 access to our school building. Currently, the visitor entrance allows anyone to walk in and have  
260 immediate access to the hallways, students, and staff. The new entrance would have a locked  
261 vestibule where visitors would have to present who they are and why or who they are there to  
262 visit before they walk into the school. The Souhegan 2.0 committee reviewed different ideas to  
263 restructure the entrance and choose this method to keep costs down, but to address a need at the  
264 school. The estimated costs for this entrance are \$250,000 which has been added to the facility  
265 budget.

266 • Special Education

268

269 Special Education budget has an increase of \$351,733. This budget is built by reviewing our  
 270 student population that have IEP and 504 plans. These are plans that define what supports and  
 271 services the student will receive through the school. The Special Education budget is built on  
 272 these requirements. It develops how many special education teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses,  
 273 and other support staff might be needed, as well as required Occupational, Physical, and Speech  
 274 Therapies. Based on the known students in the high school or those matriculating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
 275 into the high school, our budget has increased.

276  
 277 I would like to discuss that this budget could be higher. Our school district has taken the  
 278 approach to do what we can to support our students “in-house” rather than pay tuition and send  
 279 them to another school. We have done this because it saves us money and we feel it is better to  
 280 provide an education in our school and support the families. The cost of sending a student out of  
 281 district includes tuition and daily transportation. Tuition can be anywhere from \$75,000 -  
 282 \$150,000 and much more, depending on the need of the student and the type of specialized  
 283 school required. Also, daily transportation costs are approximately \$230/day. If we keep our  
 284 students in house, we can show a cost savings of approximately \$120,000/student.

285  
 286 This choice does make a difference in our cost per pupil. Our CPP will be higher because tuition  
 287 costs are deducted from all costs to calculate Cost Per pupil. Not being able to deduct tuition  
 288 makes us have to include all of the other personnel costs in the calculation causing the cost per  
 289 pupil to be higher. However, the actual cash outlay for these costs is lower and better for the  
 290 taxpayer. We will discuss Cost per pupil later in the presentation.

- 291  
 292 • Food Service and Transportation

293  
 294 The Food Service budget is a decrease of \$26,720. Our Food Service Director, Mr. John Lash  
 295 and Kitchen Manager at the high school have done a superb job in keeping costs low and quality  
 296 up. We are fortunate to have a kitchen staff that is trained to cook with raw ingredients. Many  
 297 school districts do not use raw chicken and beef to cook food for the students as additional  
 298 training is required. Our staff is trained, and Mr. Lash has worked with our vendors to provide  
 299 as much fresh produce and meat at low cost.

300  
 301 This year is the last year of our bus contract with Butler Bus. The SAU #39 Business  
 302 Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, prepared and presented an RFP for vendors to present  
 303 proposals to our SAU. Through Ms. Croteau’s negotiating skills, she has been able to secure a  
 304 bus contract with Butler Bus. The new contract and the apportionment to Souhegan high school  
 305 lowers the budget by \$33,000.

306  
 307 The offset to the decrease in regular transportation is an increase in Special Education  
 308 Transportation of \$70,000. This is due to the purchase of two vehicles to be used for Special  
 309 Education transportation of students to required programs. The current vehicle owned for  
 310 Special Education purposes have been retired due to age and mileage. Purchasing these vehicles  
 311 was compared to the cost of paying our outside vendor and found to be more economical than  
 312 the daily rate to the vendor.

- 313  
 314 • Technology

315 The technology staff has done an amazing job this year with remote learning and 1:1 laptop  
 316 distribution for all students. When teachers were struggling with including all students in remote  
 317 and in-person learning, a variety of strategies were implemented. We appreciate all of the hard  
 318 work and creativity they have put forth this year.

319  
 320 The 1:1 laptops for students allowed for as smooth of a transition as possible to remote learning.  
 321 The decrease to this budget is \$10,946.

- 322
- 323 • Enrollment
- 324

325 As you can see our enrollment has flattened for the next few year. We know what the current  
 326 AMS enrollment is and we can predict what the next few years would look like.

- 327
- 328 • Cost Per Pupil
- 329

330 Cost per pupil is a calculation that is defined by the State of New Hampshire. It's a hot topic at  
 331 most school districts. The calculation is strictly defined and hard to compare.

332  
 333 Total Costs  
 334 Less: Food Service Revenue  
 335 Less: Transportation (Regular and Special Ed Programs)  
 336 Less: Tuition paid to other schools (CTE and Special Ed Programs)  
 337 Less: Certain Replacement Equipment  
 338 Less: Summer Programs

339  
 340 The Cost Per Pupil calculations are:

341  
 342 FY20 Actual \$21,446  
 343 FY20 Projected \$21,914  
 344 FY22 Projected \$23,429

345  
 346 If you want to compare to other schools, you need to remember that CPP does not equate to an  
 347 "all in" expense approach. One school chooses to pay high tuition costs for their special  
 348 education students and they can remove the tuition and transportation costs from their  
 349 calculation. We made a conscious choice to keep our students in-house. The costs are lower,  
 350 and therefore the cost to the taxpayer is lower. However, the CPP calculation is higher. Please  
 351 be careful if you compare our costs to other school districts.

352  
 353 We all have our "eyes" on the enrollment numbers going forward. We will always be evaluating  
 354 our staffing and course offerings as enrollment changes.

- 355
- 356 • Default Budget Calculation
- 357

358 This is the walk-through from the FY21 budget to the FY22 Default budget. You can see the  
 359 drivers of the increases, again, being NH Retirement System, PPC Agreement, Special Education

360 costs, and health insurance rate increases. Because these are contractual agreements, they are  
 361 included in the default budget calculation.

362  
 363 The increase in Special Education Transportation is due to the purchase of two vehicles as  
 364 discussed previously.

365  
 366 There are additional increases in the grant funds which are costs we must budget for but are  
 367 typically covered by revenue received for these costs. We must budget for all costs that are spent  
 368 even if, we believe, it will be covered by revenue.

369  
 370 There is a small increase in the apportionment from the SAU. All SAU costs are budgeted for  
 371 and apportioned by student population to each school district. We do have a say in these costs  
 372 through review of the SAU budget during October and November when representatives from  
 373 each school board, each ways & means or budget committee, and representatives from the public  
 374 are able to review all costs. This budget is then given a public hearing in November and voted  
 375 on by all of the school boards for approval.

376  
 377 You can see the decreases of Food Services and Regular Transportation that were discussed  
 378 earlier.

379  
 380 Finally, we need to remove the warrant article from last year as it was in the beginning number  
 381 used at the top of the page.

382  
 383 This gives us our default budget calculation of \$19,396,334.

384  
 385 • Budget Calculation

386  
 387 To walk from the Default Budget to the Budget Calculation, the driving expenses are the locker  
 388 rooms and main entrance costs of \$75,000 and \$250,000, respectively. There are additional  
 389 maintenance costs of approximately \$98,000 that are added to the budget to ensure our buildings  
 390 are adequately maintained. Many of the other costs added together show a reduction of \$61,292  
 391 to the budget. With all of these increases and decreases added to the default budget, we end up  
 392 with a budget for FY'22 of \$19,772,103.

393  
 394 Ms. Amy Facey, Souhegan Cooperative School Board Vice-Chair, will now present Warrant  
 395 Article #3. Capital Maintenance Plan.

396  
 397 Warrant Article #3 Capital Maintenance Plan

398  
 399 **Article 3.**  
 400 ***“Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate the sum of one***  
 401 ***hundred sixty-three thousand dollars (\$163,000) to be added to the Souhegan School***  
 402 ***Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2005?” Majority vote***  
 403 ***required”***

404

405 Last year , both the Amherst and Souhegan school districts introduced a plan to annually set  
 406 aside funds for capital maintenance projects identified for completion over the next 20  
 407 years. The 2 districts each agreed to collectively set aside annually approximately \$650K, to  
 408 provide a consistent tax impact for the citizens of Amherst.

409  
 410 This is the second year of implementing this plan and the SCSD is requesting \$163,000 be added  
 411 to the Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) to continue to fund the maintenance plan. There is  
 412 approximately \$250,000 of work identified to be completed in FY22, highlighted in orange,  
 413 including pavement refurbishment, stadium seating, replacement of some air conditioning units,  
 414 emergency lighting battery replacements, smoke and fire detector replacements, brick repointing  
 415 on the exterior of the building, and some roof work.

416  
 417 Projects scheduled over the next 5 years are estimated at \$430k. The plan is to continue to  
 418 contribute to this fund to provide sufficient funds for the identified projects.

419  
 420 Warrant Article #4 Turf Field Replacement

421  
 422 **Article 4.**  
 423 ***“Shall the Souhegan Cooperative School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to***  
 424 ***eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) to be added to the Souhegan Recreation Revolving***  
 425 ***Fund previously established in March 2016. This sum to come from the June 30, 2021***  
 426 ***Unassigned Fund Balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. No amount to be raised***  
 427 ***from new taxation.” Majority vote required***

428  
 429 This is the first year we are looking to appropriate funds for the replacement of the turf field at  
 430 Souhegan High School.

431  
 432 The Turf Field was installed in 2016 and was funded from a private donation, and a subsequent  
 433 fundraising campaign managed by the Amherst Community Foundation. It was understood at  
 434 the time that the field would need to be replaced in about 10 years at an estimated cost of  
 435 \$800,000. The original plan was to rent the field to outside organizations and use that revenue  
 436 for the replacement.

437  
 438 Unfortunately, turf fields have become more common in our area and we do not anticipate being  
 439 able to save the required funds for replacement from rental fees. In addition, cancellations of  
 440 private club tournaments and practices due to the recent pandemic have exacerbated this  
 441 problem. Currently there is approximately \$60,000 in the Revolving Fund, which has been  
 442 generated by field rentals. The Recreation Department is responsible for managing this revenue  
 443 and reimburses SHS at a rate of 85% of that revenue. Only the revenue generated from turf  
 444 rentals go into the turf fund. Revenue collected from other field rentals are placed in the general  
 445 fund.

446  
 447 The good news is that the replacement cost has decreased significantly from the original quote of  
 448 \$800,000, and we currently have 2 bids for \$340,000 and \$500-550,000 for an anticipated  
 449 replacement in 5 years. The field is currently in great shape and continues to be maintained  
 450 exceptionally well. The plan to fund the replacement is to contribute annually to the Revolving

451 Fund starting with \$85,000 this year from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This means that these  
452 funds will only be appropriated should there be available unassigned funds at the end of the  
453 fiscal year. We will continue to request annual contributions until we have sufficient funds to  
454 replace the field, making adjustments based on Final Costs and Fund Balance.

455

456 Ms. Facey turned the presentation over to Chairman Grondstra.

457

458 Mr. Grondstra noted the Budget Summary slide and asked Mr. Joel Gordon, Chair of the  
459 Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee for his comments.

460

461 He noted that he will read an email previously sent from Mr. Gordon.

462

463 The SAFC has voted to recommend the budget as approved by the Souhegan Cooperative School  
464 Board by a vote of 5 in favor 1 opposed. Funding for the Turf Field from the Unassigned Fund  
465 Balance in the amount of \$85,000, Article #4, 6 in favor 0 opposed. The Capital Maintenance  
466 Plan, School Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, Article #3, 6 in favor 0 opposed.

467

468 Mr. Grondstra thanked the SAFC for all of their work.

469

#### 470 IV. Public Comment

471

472 Ms. Isabella VanBibber, 83 B Christian Hill Road, Amherst NH, inquired about the budget goal  
473 of “implement School Leadership restructure plan”.

474

475 Principal Berry replied that it is intended for the administration to look at the leadership  
476 structure. They are going to have one Dean of Faculty moving forward with “Domain Leaders”  
477 that can work with their teachers directly. They are clarifying the responsibilities and job  
478 descriptions.

479

480 Mr. Grondstra commented that there is another question in the queue.

481

482 Ms. Kelly Schmidt, 11 Patricia Lane, Amherst NH, questioned the financing of the intended  
483 work of fixing the Locker Rooms and the Main Entrance.

484

485 Mr. Grondstra replied that they are part of the Operating Budget for FY 22.

486

487 Ms. Lisa Eastland, 19 River Road, Amherst NH, commented that the Turf Field replacement was  
488 meant to be no cost to the taxpayers. She then asked if it does not pass this year and the long-  
489 range plan.

490

491 Mr. Grondstra replied if the warrant article does not get passed then it could be a bond. He  
492 explained that they are trying to keep a level tax rate.

493

494 Ms. Stephanie Wales, 89A Seaverns Bridge Road, Amherst NH, inquired about the PSAT and  
495 SAT results and if they are same cohort of students.

496

497 Mr. Grondstra replied, yes, they are the same cohort of students.

498

499 Ms. Wales remarked that although she is pleased with the improvement, they still have 1/3 of  
500 students taking the SAT that are not meeting benchmark.

501

502 Mr. Tony LaBranche, 62 Merrimack Road, Amherst, NH, asked for clarification in the security  
503 enhancements.

504

505 Principal Berry replied that they are looking at the Front Entrance and securing that space.

506

507 Ms. Grund added that the front set of doors would be in the locked vestibule area.

508

509 Mr. Grondstra thanked the public for attending and participating.

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511 V. Public Hearing Adjourned

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513 **Mr. Grondstra adjourned the meeting at 7:23PM.**

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