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**TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., Twinfield School Library**

**PRESENT:** Patrick Healy, Michael Nobles, Dan Gadd, Jill Wilson, Anh Ducharme, Monica Light;  
Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Mark Mooney, Principal; Bob Gulardo,  
Assistant Principal; Gus Dibble, Business Manager; Absent: Chrstin Martin, Erin Hall

**Call to Order** Patrick Healy -7:00 p.m.

**Public Input**

None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve December 10, 2013 minutes – Jill Wilson moved to accept the minutes as written, Moncia Light seconded – unanimously approved

**Reports**

- a. **Superintendent Report** - Nancy Thomas

- The Lighting Project is underway, wiring and occupancy sensors are installed, waiting for arrival of the fixtures later this month. A majority of this project will be complete in time for Town Meeting Day so that the public will have an opportunity to see the result.
- The board asked to review periodic updates of cost savings once the Lighting Project is complete. Nancy will work with Charlie Wanzer and Rich Philips to obtain a base-line and begin tracking after installation is complete.

- b. **Principal Report** – Mark Mooney

- First semester exams are underway, second semester begins tomorrow.
- Thursday, January 16 is an early release day, the high school staff will begin work on Global Best Practices as required by the League of Innovative Schools. Elementary staff will work on new academic reporting system to align with the Common Core. Middle School staff will work on aligning their curriculum to the Common Core.
- Twinfield Union School will be hosting an artist-in-residence, John Gailmor during the week of February 17.
- Concerts in Grades 5-8 and High School were held last week, showcasing talents of our student body.

- d. **Student Report** – None

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### Board Discussion

- a. FY15 Announced Tuition - Nancy
  - Nancy recommended a request of \$13,500
- b. Act 150 Choice
  - Nancy explained school choice lottery; school boards set the number of incoming and outgoing students desired. Nancy recommended remaining at a count of 10 for both incoming and outgoing students.
- c. Sick Bank Request
  - Nancy has received a request from the Teacher's Association of sick bank donations for an employee who has reached her limit and has a need to take time for a family member.
- d. FY15 Budget Draft #2 – Nancy provided an overview of the current draft
  - Budgeted Expenditures – increase 2.42% , \$6,849,828.
  - Local Revenues – decrease 15.73%, includes all grant and state funding, special education and athletics
  - Education Spending – increase 5.85%, basis of tax rate set
  - Equalized Pupils – decrease 1.84%
  - Education Spending per Equalized Pupil – increase 7.84%
  - Base Amount – increase 5.25%, set by legislature last year
  - Common Level Appraisal – increase Marshfield 1.98% to 87.68% / Plainfield increase 6.33% to 98.04%
  - Local Homestead Tax Rate – increase Marshfield 9.127% to \$1.7545 / Plainfield 4.65% to \$1.5691
  - State Equalized Non-Homestead Tax Rate – increase Marshfield 4.86%
  - Local Equalized Non-Homestead Tax Rate – increase Marshfield 4.86% / decrease Plainfield 1.38%
  - Health Insurance – increase 4.5%
  - Technology – Nancy introduced the members of the Technology Committee; Maria Forman, Christina Kimball, John Harrison, Jeff Everett
    - The Technology Committee noted that an increase in the technology budget represents re-alignment of budget line items into the technology budget, not an increase in equipment and software.
    - Discussion and questions ensued concerning the amount budgeted and expended in previous years. The board requested detailed expenditures for FY13.
    - Jeff Everett explained the trend of computers/tablets needing to be available for all students K-12, this is a national direction and a Common Core focus in

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technology, citing that standardized student testing is now on-line for grades 3-12.

- Monica asked if the budget is in line with the strategic plan. Maria stated that the infrastructure and replacement cycle is addressed in this budget. Jeff noted that the strategic plan works to meet the access need and end user needs.
- Monica asked for information about power school and internet costs, Nancy will provide that information.
- Monica thanked Maria and the Technology Committee for all the work they have done on the budget.
- Michael noted an overall 2.4% increase appears fiscally prudent, he would like to reduce it to 2% or \$30,000.
- Patrick asked to invite the auditors to a meeting, Nancy will follow up with auditors.

### **Board Action**

- a. Approve FY15 Announced Tuition
  - Patrick moved to accept Nancy's recommendation of \$13,500, Michael seconded – unanimously approved.
- b. Approve Act 150 Choice
  - Monica moved to accept Nancy's recommendation of a count of 10 for both incoming and outgoing students, Jill seconded – unanimously approved
- c. Approve Sick Bank Request
  - Michael moved to allow sick bank donations, Dan seconded – unanimously approved

### **Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment** 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber