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**Twinfield School Board
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Twinfield School Library**

FY16 SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FORUM

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Dan Gadd, Jill Wilson, Ahn Ducharme, Dan Towner; **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Pat Johnson-Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal; Mark Mooney, Principal; **Absent:** Monica Light, Samanth Lege, Bridget Couture

Welcome:

Patrick Healy, Chair welcomed 15 community members to tonight's public forum. Patrick stated that the Twinfield School Board is here tonight to present information from the draft proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016, to give the community background around the choices for this draft and to receive feedback from the community. Following the forum the board will meet and take all questions and comments into consideration.

Topics of Discussion:

- "We are spending more on the facility than we need to. The pie chart presented includes almost no money for facility maintenance. Boiler system is inefficient. Pellets cannot heat the entire building on a cold day. Is there a plan for the boiler? Do we have a capital plan?"
- There is currently a capital plan in place. There is \$83,000.00 included in the budget to cover facility's maintenance. Some of these items include: new doors in the elementary wing, paving projects, boiler evaluation, new thermostats, panel boxes, furniture replacement, etc.
- "Why do students leave TUS and why do they come here?"
- Currently this year there have been 6 students to visit Twinfield as potential students. These students will be included in the upcoming lottery. Big draws for students are the drama and music programs.
- "Can we do a study or form a committee to collect information about combining with other school districts?"
- "We need to have willing partners. The legislature will be looking at this very question and discussing what is to come down the pike for smaller schools and supervisory unions."
- "Can we buy a bus outright?"

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- “We are currently leasing to own the busses. We can look into what the costs are and how many years of use we are getting out of the busses once they are paid off. We are also looking into reducing some of the bus routes for next year.
- “Why were wages for custodial staff increased by 3.1% while teachers increase by 3.5%? We should bring the bottom up.”
- The board agrees and this is a point well taken. These increases are something that is negotiated and will look at this in the future.
- “We can protect culture and benefit from sharing resources.” (e.g. Cabot Music Program)
- Mark discussed some collaboration ideas between Cabot and Twinfield. Such as course work, synchronized schedule, music, drama and new sports programs.

Patrick thanked the community members for coming out this evening to give their input and to ask questions about the FY16 budget. The board will review all questions and comments from the forum and take them into consideration when making adjustments to the proposed budget.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber