

APPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Twinfield Union School Library

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Dan Towner, Jill Wilson, Scott Harris, Jack Hoffman **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas Superintendent; Mark Mooney, Principal; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Pat Johnson-Knoerl, Curriculum Director **Absent:** Samantha Lege, Bridget Couture, Amy Welti

Call to Order: Patrick Healy

Public Comment: none

Presentation:

Synapse Presentation - Charlie Wanzer, Julie Shedd, Joanna Fowler, Chris Sheehan, Kayla Toher

- Synapse combines Social Studies, English and Science content areas for grades 9 and 10.
- The course implements new approaches to learning.
- Synapse emphasizes 21st Century Skills. (Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration)
- There are longer learning blocks and integrated classes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of September 22, 2015 Minutes - Dan Towner moved to approve the minutes following amendments. (Correct the spelling of Amy Welti's name) Scott Harris seconded. Minutes approved.

Reports

- a. Student Report
 - None
- b. Principal Report – Mark Mooney
 - One to One computer use is going well. Students are being very responsible. There were some issues with bandwidth use. Students brainstormed ideas to fix the problems.
 - WIN blocks are up and running at the Elementary level 50 minutes a day.
 - Added a Math option for X-day. Students are going to Cabot and Cabot students are coming to Twinfield on X-day. Some offerings are Haunted History and Robotics.
- c. Superintendent Report – Nancy Thomas
 - Act 46 work and insurance issues are frequent focus of administrators.
 - A community engagement meeting was held since the last board meeting. There were many great ideas brainstormed and the group is looking forward to implementing them.
 - VSBIT – Is providing 4 days of training on risk management – Nancy and Mark Tucker are attending.
 - AOE has assigned a new education effectiveness coordinator, Megan Grube, who will assist the schools with education quality standards and other grant related issues.

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d. Financial Report – Christina Kimball

- Overall the spending is well within the budget.
- There is overspending in Special Education Instruction because two additional para-educators needed to be hired.
- Currently within 4% of the budget.

e. Twinfield- Patrick Healy

- Patrick will share information at the next meeting.

Board Discussion

a. Bus Request Update

- Patrick Tibbets attended the meeting to again voice concerns that his road had been deemed unsafe for the bus to travel.
- This decision was made after Mark Mooney and an experienced driver traveled the route and also spoke to a member of the road crew. Nancy confirmed that there are many roads that Twinfield buses do not use and a number of students who are not picked up at their homes, but at other pick up points.
- Mark will work with the family to brainstorm alternate options.

b. Initial Budget Discussion (Act 166 & Act 46 caps)

- Act 166- Universal Preschool, Nancy is proposing the addition of a part time Pre-K teacher to increase options for 3 year olds. Twinfield can offer an extra session of pre-k or tuition students to other approved pre-k programs.
- Title 1 money can no longer be used for Pre-K because Pre-k for 3 and 4 year olds will now be a state requirement beginning in August 2016.
- There is interest in challenging the cost containment limits imposed by Act 46. Twinfield and Cabot will continue to explore possible options regarding the merger requirement.

c. School Improvement Plan

- The revised School Improvement Plan includes math, literacy and high school work that both Cabot and Twinfield are doing. These items included work with League of Innovative Schools and professional development at the elementary level.
- The board will review the school improvement plan in more depth and will discuss and approve at the next board meeting.

d. Early Retirement Incentive – Support Staff

- Any support staff who has worked in the district for at least 15 years will receive 50% of salaries over 2 years and one year of dental insurance.
- Nancy recommends against offering an early retirement option for support staff at this time. There will most likely be no savings to the school.

e. Retreat Planning

- Scheduled for October 27 from 6:00-9:00 pm at Friends Meeting House in Plainfield.
- Focus will be setting goals for the board based on the board's priorities.
- Discuss budget goals for next year as well as the budgets in the future.
- There was a suggestion to save time at the end of the retreat to plan action steps toward meeting set goals.

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Board Action

- a. Approve School Improvement Plan
 - Tabled for the next meeting.
- b. Act on Early Retirement Incentive – Support Staff
 - Scott moved to not offer any slots for an early retirement incentive for support staff. Dan Towner seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Executive Session : None

Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber