

APPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Friends Meeting House, Plainfield

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Dan Towner, Scott Harris, Jack Hoffman, Amy Welti; **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Mark Mooney, Principal; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Mark Tucker, Special Services Director; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; **Absent:** Jill Wilson

Call to Order: Patrick Healy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: School Improvement Plan

Action: Scott moved and Dan seconded approval of the 2014 – 2016 School Improvement Plan. Approved unanimously.

Board Discussion:

Principal, Mark Mooney shared the plan to share information regarding the Personalized Learning Plans (PLP's) being initiated this fall.

- The Board will hear the message to be delivered on parent nights
- The Board is encouraged to attend one of the parent nights

1. How do we connect with our community?

Jack shared ideas from the Community Engagement meetings and suggested events with food

- Community needs to understand penalties
- The board will provide an "Act 46 Event" to inform – plan it prior to a school board meeting, no more than an hour. Invite legislators to help answer questions.
 - Make Child care available
- Jack suggested being available before basketball games, and December concert
- Mailing to invite community, Front Porch forum, school newsletter
- Develop a short list of talking points
- Board will develop plan at next meeting, NOV 10th

2. On what schedule will we review policies? What other policies would the board want to add?

- Need to add a wellness policy
- Proficiency Based Graduation policy
- Regular review timeline: Nancy suggested a 4 year plan where 25% reviewed each year (5-8 Policies) and consider additions. After completing the budget, in March and April. Add this to Board work calendar.

3. What do we need for board development?

- Some board members would like a better sense of what the school day looks like
- How transportation system works
- Board works to have a firm understanding of Act 77
- Rewrite vision and mission in spring/summer
- Define the board role in Act 46, Act 77, and how these inform long term planning
- Understand operations better (budget, facilities, contracts, benefits)

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4. How will board stay informed on legislative issues?

- VSBA sends out weekly newsletters (should it be on board agenda to touch base about it.)
- Board members take turns updating or jigsaw VSBA newsletter

5. What needs to be done in union negotiations in the next two years?

- Due to significant future changes in the Health Insurance offerings through VEHI, the next negotiation for teachers will cover one year and the following year will address the insurance changes.

6. Are there other areas that the board needs to focus on this year? No

7. What are the budget goals for this year? What are the factors affecting the budget?

- Act 46 Cost containment caps
- Act 166 Preschool expansion to include offering services to all 3 and 4 year olds. Nancy and Christina presented information showing that if there are enough students who enroll, the tax rate could be lowered by adding another session of preschool. There will be an information session on November 17th.

8. What board level decisions need to be made and what is the timeframe? No others were suggested.

Goals for the TUS Board for the coming year:

Goal #1 – Inform the Community about Act 46 through Information meetings to be held before School Board meetings, concerts and basketball games. Timeline: Fall '15 and winter '16

Goal #2 – Define the School Board role in regard to Acts 46 (merger) and Act 77 (personalized learning, multiple pathways and proficiencies) Timeline: Present to end of '15-'16

Goal #3 – Define the long-term direction of Twinfield Union School. Timeline: Spring /summer '16

Goal #4 – Stay informed on legislative issues related to education. Timeline: Jan '16- May '16

Goal #5 - Develop a 5-10 year capital plan (Pete Ackermann and Christina Kimball are preparing draft)

9. Topics to be discussed at future meetings:

- Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
- Transportation
- Long range planning
- More informed on operations, negotiations, special ed., Act 77 (PLPs & PBGRs)
- Enrollment – long range projections

Adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Patrick Healy adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

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Nancy Thomas, Superintendent