

Approved

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Twinfield Union School Library

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Dan Towner, Scott Harris, Amy Welti, Jack Hoffman **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal **Student Representatives:** Sally Weinstein, Jakob Dufresne **Absent:** Jill Wilson

Call to Order: Patrick Healy, chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda

Approve October 13, 2015 Minutes – Scott Harris moved to approve the minutes following the amendments (Correct spelling of Amy Welti’s last name). Dan Towner seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Approve October 27, 2015 Minutes –Dan Towner moved to approve the minutes as written. Scott Harris seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

Reports

a. Student Report – Sally Weinstein, Jakob Dufresne

- X-day is off to a great start. Some students would like to have extra free time to be used as a study hall.
- YATST group conducted a survey about Rigor, Shared Responsibility and Relationships. Data analysis will be done and student representatives will be bring a report of findings to the next board meeting.

b. Principal Report – Bob Gulardo

- Friday, November 6th Parent teacher conferences were held for students K-6. They were very well attended. Teachers in grades 7-12 worked on presentations to share information about personalized learning plans and proficiency base graduation requirements.
- Thursday, November 12th a winter sports meeting will be held for parents.
- French Trip Fund Raiser, Jimmy Kennedy Dinner will be held on Friday, November 13th.

c. Superintendent Report– Nancy Thomas

- Continued work on community engagement. Coordinators have been selected and the Twinfield team will be meeting soon.
- Other information pertains to Act 46 and will be shared during board discussion.

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Board Discussion

a. Review Goals

- Nancy Shared the board goals that were established at the board retreat which include:
 - Inform the Community about Act 46 through information meetings to be held before School Board Meetings, concerts and basketball games.
 - Define the School board role in regard to Act 46 (merger) and Act 77 (personalized learning, multiple pathways and proficiencies)
 - Define the long-term direction of Twinfield Union School
 - Stay informed on legislative issues related to education.
 - Develop a 5-10 year capital plan.

b. Budget First Draft – Christina Kimball

- Christina shared Twinfield FY17 budget draft #1 and highlights.
- Overall Changes – Teacher salary increases have not been determined yet, negotiations will start soon. The support staff salaries will increase based on the FY17 Wage Schedule. There will be an increase of 7.9% in health insurance. More teachers and staff are participating in health insurance or have changed from single plan to a family plan which has contributed to an increase. There will be a minimal increase on Dental Insurance, currently budgeted for a 4% increase. Vermont Municipal Retirement employer share has not been released the share for FY15 was 5.375% and FY16 5.5%.
- Regular Education
 - In FY16 actual salaries came in higher than originally budgeted.
 - New hires were more experienced and came in at a higher salary due to experience.
 - The FY17 Salary increase is an estimate.
 - Negotiations for teachers will start soon.
 - Tech Center enrollment has decreased.
- Regular Education Pre-K – Increased due to Act 166 Title I is no longer available to be used for Pre-K teacher. With the addition of 3 year-olds to the pre-k program the para-educator will need to be increased to 1.0 FTE. Twinfield is currently exploring possible options for increased pre-school sessions.
- Special Education – Based on needs there is an increase to support staff. There will also be an increase to assessments for salary and benefits.
- Guidance – There will be an increase in the guidance position from 1.5 FTE to 1.7 FTE. There will be staff reconfiguration with student support.
- Student Support- There will be an overall decrease due to new staff configuration.

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- Technology – There will be no increase to the Wildbranch contract. Added a Sonic Wall.
 - Fiscal Operations – There be no mentoring and so there will be a decrease in assessments. There will also be an increase in Revenue Anticipation Note interest.
 - Operations and transportation – Salaries for the employees will be moved to the Supervisory Union as required by Act 153. They will show as professional services in the Twinfield budget.
 - Debt Service – A deficit note will be retired and there will be an overall decrease in principal balances.
 - In the draft, there is an increase of \$305,000.00 from budget to budget or 4.4% increase.
- c. January Board Dates
- The budget public information meeting will be held at the beginning of the December 15th meeting.
 - Public budget forum date will be scheduled when more information is received pertaining to ACT 46 caps.
- d. Act 46
- I. Study Proposal – Nancy recommends applying for a grant to explore a study between Cabot and Twinfield. This study would explore collaboration possibilities and the possible option of applying for a waiver.
 - II. Communication Plan – Jack Hoffman is the Board point person for sharing information on Act 46. He shared possible communication ideas for parents and the community. Some of these include sharing information, sporting events and school/community activities.

Board Action:

- a. Act on Study Proposal - Patrick moved to approve a study between Cabot and Twinfield. Scott Harris seconded the motion. Study approved.

Executive Session: The Board went into executive session at 8:23 p.m. The Board returned from executive session at 8:35 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment: Patrick Healy adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber