

**APPROVED**

**TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015**

**Twinfield Union School Library**

**PRESENT:** Monica Light, Jack Hoffman, Dan Towner, Scott Harris **Administrators:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Christina Kimball, Business Manager; Mark Mooney, Principal **Absent:** Patrick Healy, Jill Wilson, Samantha Lege, Bridget Couture

**Call to Order:** Monica Light, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve March 10, 2015 Minutes – Dan Towner made a motion to approve the minutes following amendments (include in minutes that following the auditor’s report Christina informed board that the deficiencies have been addressed, Reason for Jack Voting against Drug and Alcohol Policy and correct the spelling of Scott’s last name.) Jack Hoffman seconded the motion. Minutes approved following the amendments.

**Presentation:** Fitness Course Proposal by the Wellness Committee

- Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Screening (EPSDT) program is Federaly funded and makes sure that children are receiving early and appropriate health services.
- Vermont Health Department oversees some of the program management including Medicaid Administrative Claiming. This is the method in which the funds are generated.
- Each quarter of the fiscal year two reports are generated at the Supervisory Union level (Medicaid Administrative Cost Report and The EPSDT Salary and Fringe Benefit Report.
- The Supervisory Union receives 85% of the funds generated and 15% of the funds go to the state to cover administrative costs.
- The purpose of the funds is to support long term improvement of health outcomes for our children.
- The funding has been in place for 15 years. And since that time the Supervisory has used very little of these funds and accumulated a large fund balance. Currently a fund balance of \$37,000.00
- The Wellness Committed presented a proposal to install a Fitness course at Twinfield and highlighted how this would benefit the school and community.
- Who will benefit: 5<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade physical education classes, TLC students, Middle School Recess, High School Students on break, Classroom physical and wellness activities, Sports teams, Activity Club, Community during non-school hours.

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- Will work with grounds crew when equipment is put in to make sure that a maintenance plan is in place so that the grass is trimmed properly and well maintained.
- SU has checked with insurance company and liability insurance has been approved.

## Reports

### a. Superintendent Report - Nancy Thomas

- Official Notice from the League of Innovative Schools has been released.
- Had first LIS phone conference this week.
- Looking to do a calendar change because of snow days. Looking to move professional development day on May 21<sup>st</sup> to the end of the year and May 21<sup>st</sup> will be a full day of school.
- This summer planning for community involvement activities will begin.
- 8 Applicants from Twinfield to go to Barre Tech Center/ Central Vermont Career Center.
- 10 Students applied to go to Twinfield in the School Choice Lottery and currently there are 13 Twinfield Students who have applied to attend U32 or Montpelier High School.
- Within the last week enrolled several English Language Learner Students and will be hiring new staff.
- Preschool Collaboration with Head Start for next year.
- Liz Pereault the school secretary has resigned. Her position will be posted.
- Request for sick bank use by Para-educator

### b. Principal Report – Mark Mooney

- Thursday and Friday will attend a conference with LIS. Will develop an action plan over the next month.
- Have started the Smarter Balance Testing which replaced NECAPS. There were some glitches and hoping to have those worked out.
- Posted positions on SchoolSpring for Athletic Director, Middle School Math and High School Art. Higher process is underway.
- Baseball and Softball started this week. Practice is taking place in the gym right now. Looking for more interested baseball players.

### c. Student Report –

- None due to absence.

### d. Financial Report-

- Added an ELL Teacher at a cost of about \$11,000.00
- Have not had any long term subs this year.
- Regular Ed to the good \$10,000.00
- Currently appears that we are over budget by \$29,479.00 but this is due to a mistake under encumbered amounts. Actually over budget by an estimated \$19,000.00. This is for benefits packages.

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- Library and Technology on Track.
- Everything on track under health.
- Large Savings in Principal's office because field notes went from paper copies to electronic.
- Fiscal Operations are right now track.
- \$9,000.00 energy savings this year.
- Have been working closely with Efficiency Vermont to replace equipment damaged by the power surge earlier in the year. It is really a blessing in disguise.
- Surge protectors, well pump, motors, oven and steamer have all been replaced. Oven and Steamer are now gas and not electric.
- Two air handlers were installed in the gym as well as update software that runs the equipment. This was a \$24,000.00 project was able to pay with \$16,000.00 from insurance incentives and cost Twinfield only \$8,000.00
- Circulator pumps will be replaced and are completely covered by insurance.
- Sandy from Efficiency Vermont is really pleased working with Twinfield!
- Dean Deasy has done a wonderful job helping the school through this difficult time.

### e. Twinfo – Christina Kimball

- Christina shared information all of the upgrades that are underway at Twinfield since the power surge that occurred in November.

## **Board Discussion**

### a. FY 16 Financing of School Bus

- Clark's won the bid for the bus. 5 year lease option at an interest rate of 3.95%. First payment will be due within FY16 budget. \$83,196.00 Tot
- In the future will look into comparing the benefits and draw-backs of buying a bus vs. leasing.

### b. Dual Enrollment

- Act 77, multiple pathways and proficiency based education. Next year it is mandated that all schools must offer a dual enrollment option for Juniors and Seniors.
- Twinfield has had this available for a number of years through the Renaissance Program.
- This year dual enrollment students are able to get a voucher and the cost of the courses is covered. Next year Twinfield will be required to cover half the cost of the courses.
- Currently have one student who is attending college full time this year as well as several dual enrollment students.
- Budgeted for 10 dual enrollment students next year.

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- Students may take 2 College Courses before graduation.
- b. Policy Revisions: First Reading – G9 Grade Advancement, G11 Acceptable Use of Internet, G1 Animal Dissection, H7 Title I Parent Involvement.
  - Currently reviewing required policies and looking to replace old policies with new ones that include recommended language from the School Board's Association.
  - Jack suggested including in Policy G9 that Retention is discouraged and based on research retention is not beneficial to students.
  - Monica asked that a sentence be included in Policy G11 pointing out that the school encourages safe internet use and will not censor students as long as they are being respectful, responsible and not view vulgar or inappropriate material.
  - Scott expressed that this may open up the opportunity for someone to push the envelope and say, "define vulgar or lewd."

## **Board Action**

- a. Act on Fitness Course
  - Dan Towner made a motion to approve the placement of the fitness course with the expectation that a maintenance plan as well as equipment rules and expectations are developed prior to groundbreaking. Scott Harris seconded the motion. Placement of the fitness course approved by board.
- b. Act on FY 16 Financing of School Bus
  - Jack Hoffman made a motion to approve the financing of the bus. Dan Towner seconded the motion. Financing of School Bus approved.
- c. Approve Sick bank use
  - Dan Towner made a motion to approve the opening of the sick bank. Scott Harris seconded the motion. Use of the sick bank for para-educator approved.

**Executive Session** : None

**Adjournment** : Meeting adjourned by Monica Light at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber