

APPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Twinfield School Library

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Monica Light, Dan Gadd, Dan Towner, Jill Wilson, Anh Ducharme; Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Mark Mooney, Principal; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Student Representatives: Christin Martin; Absent: Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal; Erin Hall, Student Representative

Call to Order Patrick Healy – 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve February 11, 2014 Minutes
- b. Approve March 11, 2014 Minutes

Jill Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda, Monica Light seconded – unanimously approved

Reports

a. Superintendent Report - Nancy Thomas

- During last Thursday's early release, Pat Knoerl worked with teachers to review NECAP results and make instructional plans based on those results. Other teachers worked on grade expectations.
- Math workshops with Mahesh Sharma continued last week with teachers attending a variety of workshops at LAPDA and in collaboration with Williamstown schools.
- Nancy thanked board members who attended the VSBA meeting on March 17 to join the discussion on the School Governance Bill 883. Nancy asked the board to consider what the passing of this Bill would mean for Twinfield Union School and consider collaborative opportunities with other districts. Nancy will provide a link to the bill for board members.

b. Principal Report – Mark Mooney

- Mark commended the work of high school seniors with the elementary grades (PBIS Pals), noting that the modeling of positive behavior has made a noticeable difference in the tone of interaction between all students of all ages.
- Look Up! – to see the new energy efficient lights recently installed in the Library. The entire lighting project should be complete within a week or two.
- Grade 8 held a successful "Jimmy Kennedy" fund raising breakfast for their Adirondack canoe trip.

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- TPIE will be holding the Elementary Talent Show on April 10, 2014. Representatives from TPIE will attend the board meeting on April 8 with an update from the group.
- Tomorrow is Club Day in the cafeteria, many students are involved in clubs such as ping pong, magic card, and chess, after school.

d. Student Report – Christin Martin

- SADD held a blood drive on March 24, high school juniors and seniors, along with community members donated 35 pints of blood.
- Softball season has begun, with new assistant coach, Principal Mark Mooney. The students are pleased with the coaching staff addition.
- During last Thursday's early release day, the senior class worked with grades 5/6 on poetry.
- Third quarter ends tomorrow.

Board Discussion

a. Marshfield/Plainfield Energy Group Solar Request – Facility Committee

- The energy group met with the Facility Committee to introduce how to expand solar power in Marshfield/Plainfield by installing panels on Twinfield Union School property.
- Twinfield could approximately receive half its energy via solar panels, experience price stabilization and benefit from net metering, including solar incentive dollars.
- This could also be an opportunity for students to participate in the project.
- The group is asking for approval to explore further, to send a team to Crossett Brook to research their project, do a request for information, get proposals of financing options, etc.
- The Facilities Committee approved the exploratory steps.

b. Heating Fuel Balance Questions – Oil vs Pellets

- Patrick asked what we are spending on heating.
- Nancy replied that Rich Phillips has analyzed the information, looking at BTU's. Twinfield Union School is burning 58% pellets and 42% fuel oil. On very cold days both pellets and oil are burned to keep the building warm, in addition to heating water. Further research will be done to see if less oil can be used.
- In 2009, and again in 2011, Norm Etkind from the School Energy Management Program, performed an energy assessment and recommended that an Energy Engineering Assessment be done to identify needed repairs and/or replacement of equipment.
- Heating expenditures will be reported at the next budget information review to the board.

c. Facility Committee Report – Patrick Healy

- Patrick re-capped the Solar project presented to the Committee as outlined above.
- Facility Committee will work to establish a 5 – 10 year plan by the end of June 2014 for the following:
 - Equipment plan - address repairs and replacement needs
 - Capital Improvement plan – address heating, sports fields, parking lots, classrooms, etc.

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- Facility and Policy Committees will work to create a Facility Use Policy by the end of June 2014.
- d. Board Procedures and Code of Ethics – Nancy Thomas
- Nancy reviewed the Vermont School Board Association Code of Ethics and asked board members to sign the document.
 - Mark Money asked to consider establishment of Group Norms for conducting board meetings.
 - Dan Towner asked to review the 'light Roberts Rules of Order' procedures outlined in the Essential Work of Vermont School Boards .
 - The board will discuss and address Group Norms and Roberts' Rules of Order at their next meeting.
- e. Hiring and Termination Procedures – Nancy Thomas
- Nancy reviewed the Vermont Statutes under Title 16 of Education Law regarding hiring and termination responsibilities of the Superintendent and Board of Directors.
 - Mark explained the internal steps of the hiring process for teachers, coaches, support staff.
 - Nancy explained the evaluation, grievance, due process procedures and board hearing process of employee termination.
 - Patrick asked for the termination steps to be spelled out for the board members.

Presentation

Fall NECAP Results – Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director

- Pat reviewed the results of the NECAP testing of Grades 3-8 and 11.
- In Math grades 3-8 below state-wide average, grade 11 met the state-wide average.
- Reading grades 3-8 met state-wide average, grade 11 above state-wide average.
- In Writing grade 5 below state-wide average, grade 8 met state-wide average, grade 11 above state-wide average.

Board Action

a. None

Executive Session – For Personnel Issue – the group went into executive session at 9:05 p.m. and returned at 9:20. No action taken.

Adjournment - The Board adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber