

## APPROVED

## TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. – Twinfield School Library

**PRESENT:** Patrick Healy, Monica Light , Michael Nobles, Jill Wilson, Dan Gadd; **Administration:** Rob Billings, Business Manager; Mark Mooney, Principal; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal; Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; **Student Representatives:** Erin Hall, Kristen Martin; **Absent:** Anne Nadel-Walbridge

**Call to order:** Patrick Healy, Chair 7:00 p.m.

### **Public Input**

Rachel Lamagna was present to discuss her request for kindergarten waiver.

### **Consent Agenda**

- a. The group reviewed the Agenda and revised it, adding to **Board Discussion** – a report on Together Mentoring Program and eliminating from **Board Action** – item b. *Approve Pre-K, Kindergarten waiver Request*. Monica Light moved to accept the Agenda as amended, Dan Gadd seconded - unanimously approved.
- b. Approve May 28, 2013 minutes – Amendments: under **Board Discussion** – 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet item should read \$3,500 grant received from *Agency of Education*. Dan Gadd moved to accept the minutes as amended, Jill Wilson seconded – unanimously approved.

### **Reports**

- a. **Student Representative Report** - Kristin Martin, Erin Hall
  - This week students are involved with J-term activities. On Thursday, students will present final J-term projects to the full high school.
  - This past week students took final exams.
  - The Softball team is in the semi-finals and will be playing tomorrow in West Rutland.
  - High School Graduation will be on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, with Project Graduation activities planned following the ceremony at Smuggler's Notch.
- b. **Superintendent Report** -Nancy Thomas
  - The Climate Survey response rate from parents has been low with total responses close to 40%. The results of survey comments will not be ready for end of the school year as hoped, but will be presented later.
  - Pat Knoerl is working on the Senior Survey.
- c. **Principal Report** - Mark Mooney
  - J-term is going well with great feedback from students and teachers. Students are engaged and attendance has been good.
  - Sarah Pulaski, Grade 3 Teacher, will be reassigned to the Math/Literacy Interventionist position. The search for a Reading Specialist continues with interviews next week. The Special Educator position is on hold as our candidate works to receive permission from his current school board and superintendent to opt out of his contract for the coming year.
  - For the 2013-2014 school year, the Middle School Allied Arts schedule will be adjusted to allow more student choice. There will be 4 teachers on the 1-2 team and 3 teachers on the 3-4 team due to population. There will be a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities Course, which integrates English and Social Studies. Dual enrollment will be available in High School English for juniors and seniors offering college credit. One of Trevor Tait's courses will work with Friends of the Winooski to build a river access point.

- Student Morgan McKiver was appointed to the State Board of Education for a two year term, she is one of two students representatives across the state.

## **Board Discussion**

### **a. Together Mentoring – Merrick Grutchfield**

- Merrick, outgoing director, introduced Pam Quinn, new director, who will begin work on July 1. Pam is an involved parent and community member with background in education and child advocacy.
- Merrick expressed gratitude to Twinfield Union School Board for the \$5000 contribution to the program for FY14.
- Merrick also thanked the Advisory Board and acknowledgement Mark Mooney, Maryanne Allen, Maria Foreman, Alice Day, Christina Kimball and Nancy Thomas.
- Accomplishments in FY13 include, the creation and implementation of literacy mentoring in grades K-3. Fifteen students were served this year. Everybody Wins Vermont, a community based program for parents to learn about mentoring opportunities early on in grades K-3 is currently supporting 35 students.
- Goals for FY14 will be to expand services into grade 4, transition to a new software program and fostering Middle School and High School mentoring.
- Mark acknowledged the difference this program has made for countless students, stating that Merrick's spirit will be missed.
- Nancy acknowledged that this has been a model program recognized by outside evaluators, stating appreciation for Merrick's energy. Nancy welcomed Pam to the position.

### **b. Committee Reports**

- Finance Committee
  - Rob Billings is asked to proceed with obtaining information on municipal leasing options for the lease of two school buses and the Twinfield Lighting Efficiency Project.
  - The committee will ask Rob Billings to pursue approved upgrades/replacements, etc. as may be identified during the June 25 facilities walk thru.
- Facility Committee
- This was a goal setting meeting
  - Reports due by September 1 on 5-10 year spending.
  - Spending Plan due by October 1 on 5-10 year spending plan.
  - Plan due by November 1 for 15-20 year expenditures.
  - On the June 25 facility walk-thru the committee will look at spacing issues in classrooms and maintenance needs.
  - A decision is needed as to what to do with the old school building.
  - Short term goals are to review the Facility Use Policy and present it to the Policy Committee.
  - The Policy and Facility Committees will meet at 6:15 on June 25.

### **c. Pre-K, Kindergarten entrance timeline waiver requests**

- Rachel Lamagna was present to request a waiver of the September 1 cut-off for entrance into pre-school. She spoke to her daughter's advanced learning skills, maturity and need to enter pre-school sooner than later.
- Nancy explained that the state wide recommendation for Pre-K and Kindergarten entrance age cut off is September 1.

- Nancy also stated that the supervisory union does have a procedure in place for process and timelines, however no policy in place at the moment. A policy will be created after all recommended policy work is complete.
- The pre-school team, Mark Mooney, Pat Knoerl, and Nancy Thomas have met to address the challenges of waiving the entrance age.
- Currently, there are 22 Pre-K students enrolled. We are obligated to allow space for possible special needs students under Title I. Kindergarten has 16-17 students per classroom who are eligible for entrance for 2013-2014 school year. At this time we do not have space to add students to either program.
- Nancy will provide written decision for Rachel and then give her an opportunity to appeal that decision to the Board at a subsequent meeting.
- Rachel asked if her daughter would be allowed to be screened and to tour the school prior to end of school year in preparation for the possibility that she will receive waiver approval.
- Mark and Nancy agreed to the screening and tour.

c. New Hires

- Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, recommended the following candidates and distributed Resumes of candidates for the 1-2 and 3-4 Elementary Teacher positions.
- Mark spoke about the candidates
  - Christina Brailey is the grade 1-2 candidate who is currently a long term substitute in grade 3-4.
  - Cindy Scott is the grade 3-4 candidate who is from this community, served as a long term substitute and is a strong candidate.
  - Stephanie Ainslie is the grade 3-4 candidate who received great reviews, another strong candidate.
- Michael Nobles moved to accept all three candidates, Jill Wilson seconded - unanimously approved.

d. TLC – Anthony Willey

- Nancy informed the group that 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant funding was not received this year due to federal sequestration.
- Due to lack of funding Anthony Willey will no longer be program director. Due to low participation, the Cabot TLC Program will close.
- Twinfield Union School has a higher participation rate and is a crucial program to support needs of our students and families. Anthony Willey, Christina Kimball and Rob Billings have worked to develop a new business model which will allow the program to continue.
- Carrie Ricker will serve as Site Director for Twinfield, Rachel Popoli will remain with the program. Additional staffing will be put into place. All TLC staff would become Twinfield Union School employees.
- The new model will require families to register and pre-pay at a rate of \$14 per child, per day. Based on survey results, 22 families are interested in participating and willing to pay in advance. Anthony and Carrie are also working on alternative grant funding options.
- Rob Billings reported that projections indicate this new model could sustain itself going forward. If the program does not sustain itself it can be ended at anytime during the school year.
- Nancy asked for Board approval to move the new program model ahead.
- Michael Nobles moved to accept the model, Monica Light seconded – unanimously approved.
- Mark Mooney acknowledged the quality work of the TLC program and thanked Anthony for his service.

**Executive Session** – for negotiations and personnel

- The Board went into executive session for a negotiation issue at 8:45 p.m. and returned at 8:53 p.m. – No action taken.
- The Board went into executive session for a personnel issue at 8:54 p.m. and returned at 9:20 p.m. – No action taken.

**Board Action**

- a. Approve New Hires - approved
- b. Act on TLC Plan – approved

**Future Agenda items** -

- a. Tax Anticipation Note
- b. Facility walk-thru, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.
- c. Committee reports from Facilities Committee and Policy Committee

**Adjournment** – 9:22 p.m.

**Future Meetings**

1. **WNESU Board**: To Be Determined
2. **Twinfield School Board**: Tuesday, June 25 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Twinfield School Library

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber