

APPROVED

**TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

PRESENT: Patrick Healy, Scott Harris, Chandra Miller, Jill Wilson, Jon Groveman **Administrators:** Mark Tucker, Special Services Director; Nancy Thomas, Superintendent **Absent:** Lauren Cleary. Mark Mooney

Call to Order: Patrick Healy, Chair called the meeting to at 6:30pm.

Public Comment: A community member shared a quote from the Caledonia record that was by a Cabot community member she said “Twinfield and Danville High Schools are not sought-after high schools” and expressed that this quote does not accurately reflect the views of the communities toward their schools.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve June 13, 2017 Minutes –Scott moved to approve the minutes of June 13 as written. Chandra seconded the motion. Minutes of June 13th approved as written.

Reports

- a. Principal Report - Mark Mooney
 - None
- b. Superintendent Report –Nancy Thomas, Mark Tucker
 - Nancy stated that Mark Tucker is doing a wonderful job transitioning to the Superintendent position.
 - Mark reported that he has benefitted from the four month transition with Nancy
- c. Twinfo – Patrick Healy
 - On behalf of the school board Patrick thanked Nancy for her 7 years of outstanding service.

Board Discussion

- a. Act 46 Next Steps
 - Changes to Act 46 (Act 49) New preferred structure, definitions and alternative structure rules.
 - Three-by-one Side-by-Side – formed by merger of three existing districts (merged district) and one existing district. Must be within the same supervisory union. Meets all of the criteria formation of a unified Union school.
 - Two-by-Two-by-one side-by-side
 - Alternative structures

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- Preferred Structure Path to Act 46 Merger – June 26th-July 30th. Chosen Path Date – September 15th draft merger plan. Submit plan to the Agency of Education for review. October 15 – present Merger plan to State Board of Education. Town votes 30 days later (but before November 30)
 - Alternative Path to Act 46 Merger June 26th – July 30 Decide on Path. August 1 – September 30 draft alternative structure plan. October 1st alternative plan to Agency of Education for feedback. October 17 – November 21 present alternative plan to the State Board of Education. December 26th State Board of Education has the alternative plan for reference with the statewide plan.
 - Options for Twinfield – work with Danville and Cabot to come up with another plan. Opportunity- already have most of the work done. Challenges – the vote in Danville gave a strong indication of their lack of interest. Are the parties willing to compromise? What does Cabot want? How do the two parties feel about each other?
 - Alternative structure with Cabot – continue to operate both high schools. Hold the PBL Academy at Cabot and regular high school at Twinfield? Supervisory Union decision – propose a Supervisory Union for the new District (CCSU? Washington Central?) Ask the Agency of Education to place the new district in a Supervisory Union. Challenges – not a preferred structure – no incentives, loss of small schools grant, general Act 46 criteria, State Board of Education has seen the numbers.
 - Form a Unified District with Barre – 2 high schools (Spaulding and Twinfield) and 3 elementary/middle schools (Barre City, Barre Town, Twinfield). Challenges- does Barre want to discuss? Rule-in/out quickly.
 - Ask to join Washington Central Supervisory Union – Opportunity – straight move to a different Supervisory Union governance structure? Challenge – not clear (yet) what Washington Central is doing – are they going to submit an alternative structure proposal? Rule-in/out quickly.
 - Approach Williamstown/Northfield and ask to join their merged PK-12 District. Opportunity – No change to structure for Twinfield. Would be part of a preferred structure and so it would be incentivized. Challenge – Geography? Are they interested?
 - Reach out to other communities to see if proposed options are a possibility.
 - What do we want for Twinfield?
 - Meet with Cabot Board on July 10th to discuss next possible steps together or separately.
- b. Negotiations Update
- Dates have been set for negotiations. Two dates in August and Five Dates in September.
 - A letter of intent will be sent to the association to begin support staff negotiations.
- c. Wellness Policy
- The board read over the wellness policy.

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- Twinfield will have a wellness committee.

d. Hiring Recommendations

- There are currently two open positions in grades 5/6. The superintendent is recommending the hiring of Anna Stapleton and Rebecca Bohannon for these positions.

e. Superintendent Authorization to Hire during the summer

- It is recommended that the board authorize the superintendent to approve any hiring that will need to take place during the summer months.

Board Action

- a. Approve Wellness Policy – Jill moved to approve the wellness policy. Scott seconded the motion. Wellness policy approved.
- b. Act on Hiring Recommendations
 - Jill moved to approve the recommendation to hire Anna Stapleton and Rebecca Bohannon for open positions. Scott seconded the motion.
- c. Approve Superintendent Authorization to Hire during the Summer
 - Patrick moved to approve the superintendent to do hiring during the summer. Jon seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Executive Session: Non

Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda LeBlanc, Transcriber