

APPROVED TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – School Library

Present: Board Members: Anne Nadel Walbridge, Jill Wilson, Patrick Healy, Mike Noble, Dan Gadd, Monica Light; **Administration:** Mark Mooney, Principal, Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal, Brian Hebert, Behavior Specialist, Nancy Thomas, Superintendent, Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Coordinator

Student Reps: Erin Hall, Christin Martin

Call to order: Michael Nobles, School Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Public Input:

Sylvia Charron was introduced as the new transcriptionist of Twinfield Union School Board Meeting Minutes.

Dick Lashoones inquired when detailed NECAP information will be available to the public. Nancy explained that an over view will be presented at this meeting, followed by a more detailed presentation at the next School Board meeting in March.

Dick also inquired about negotiations. Nancy explained that meetings are occurring this week.

Dick also asked why Auditor's Report is not available. Rob explained that the formal report has Not been presented yet as the auditors have only recently completed the supervisory union audit, however, we expect to receive it soon.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve January 8, 2013 minutes – Motion to approve with correction noted by Mike Nobles, seconded by Monica Light, unanimously approved.

Reports

Superintendent Report

- Nancy Thomas reported the Teacher Negotiations Meeting is to be held on Thursday, February 14
- Mark Mooney and Nancy met with the President of Goddard College. Goddard College is interested in developing community connections with Twinfield Union School. Mark is working to set meetings between TUS lead teachers and education folks at Godard to continue conversations on innovative progressive education and the education summit this summer.
- Mark Mooney and Amy Sykas are working on emergency planning. They will be contacting a homeland security consultant to perform a briefing and walk thru of the building.
- Pat Knoerl and Anthony Willey are working on a 21st century grant requesting renewal money for after school programs and TLC. This is a very competitive grant, with less money available. We should know the result in March.
- Nancy met with Education Secretary, Armando Vilaseca and other superintendents concerning information on the changes and interpretation of guidelines for Titles I and II.
- Pat Knoerl presented some highlights of NECAP result. Reading: Grade 11, 71% students are proficient, 33% exceed the standard. Math: Grades 3-8, 55% proficient or above; Grade 11,

8% proficient. Writing: Grade 8, 66% proficient, 16% exceeded standards; Grade 11, 65% proficient.

- Nancy handed out School Board Association information on the Agenda for A World Class Education System. The Board will meet with School Boards Association Executive Director, Steve Dale in April.

Principal Report

- Mark Mooney announced the Twinfield Partners in Education elected officers at their January meeting. Parents are feeling positive about school safety.
- Emergency Response meets on a bi-weekly basis. They continue to conduct and discuss safety drills. The team will make connections fire and police.
- The TA committee is one meeting away from TA handbook completion
- The new Teacher Evaluation Plan is being implemented. Mark and Bob are meeting with staff and making positive strides in setting goals and establishing the advisory system.
- Kindness week began with PBIS involvement, as well as High School TA groups visiting elementary classrooms.
- The Grade 8 Canoe Trip is in the planning stages, more information to be presented at the next meeting.

Student Representative Report

- Erin and Christin reported that the Student council met and decided on the Spirit Week theme. Spirit Week will be held before the February break.
- The Common room is now fairly clean and being respected.
- Junior class History and English classes, along with Grade 8 Social Studies classes attended the movie Lincoln, it was beneficial to the topic they've been studying (..and it was a good movie).
- The National Honor Society is raffling teddy bear to benefit Education in Africa.
- Grade 11 will be selling Valentine's Day cupcake on February 14 to help fund the Prom
- High School and Grades 7-8 were introduced to J-term.
- The Student Council is discussing a Friday Pep Rally to support the basketballs teams games against Williamstown at the Barre Auditorium on February 16.

Faculty presentation

Brian Hebert distributed the Student Handbook. He discussed strides being made by Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, which is in its fifth and strongest year at TUS. Brian explained Positive Behavior Modeling, and the expectations of student intervention around behavior challenges in the classroom. The goal of reducing or avoiding sending students out of the classroom for discipline has met with a 90% success rate. Mark Mooney applauded PBIS efforts and would like to see a community member on the team, perhaps reaching out to TPIE members.

Board Discussion

- a. Budget Hearing preparation – Rob Billings handed out reports to be published in the Annual Report and are now posted on the website. The FY14 projection report will be completed by the end of February.
- b. Rob asked the board what information they would like to include at the February 25th Information Meeting presentation. After discussion concerning the timeliness of the Supervisory Union Audit and Auditor's Report, Mike Noble agreed to update the presentation for and distribute it for review.

c. Second Reading of Policies

- a. F21 Weapons – no comments
- b. F23 Participation of Home Study Students – no comments
- c. F24 Hazing – no comments
- d. F25 Student Attendance – brief discussion around procedure, truancy and age level
- e. F30 Prevention of Bullying of Students – Discussion requesting this policy cross reference F24 and F20, safety plan/follow up, and identifying investigators, it was decided to include that language in the procedure rather than the policy.

Project Graduation – Anne Nadel Walbridge seeking permission to begin fund raising efforts. Unanimously agreed to allow fund raising.

Dick Lashoones Addressed the board with questions regarding curriculum alignment to NECAP and consequences of low performance scores. After discussion, Mike Nobles suggested the conversation be tabled until after the Budget Vote.

Board Action:

- a. Approve Montreal Trip request - Motion to approve by Jill Wilson, seconded by Mike Nobles - approved, with Monica Light abstaining.
- b. Act on residency request- See Executive Session
- c. Approve F30 Prevention of Bullying Students - Motion by Monica Light, seconded by Anne Nadel Walbridge – Approved 5-1, Jill Wilson voting against.
- d. Approve continuation of Assistant Principal position_– Motion by Patrick Healy, seconded by Anne Nadel Walbridge – approved unanimously

Executive Session:

- e. The Board moved into Executive Session to consider two parent requests for residence/tuition waivers at 7:48 p.m. Executive Session concluded at 7:54 p.m. – Motion by Monica Light to approve both waivers, seconded by Anne Nadel Walbridge – approved unanimously.
- f. Student Discipline Issue: The Board moved into Executive Session to consider a student discipline issue at 8:58p.m. Executive Session concluded at 9:02 p.m. – No action taken.

Future Agenda items: School Improvement Plan

Adjournment 9:05p.m.

Future Meetings

1. **Twinfield Union District Annual Meeting:** Monday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. followed by Budget Information Hearing, 7:30 p.m. in the School Library
2. **Twinfield School Board:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the school library
3. **Washington Northeast Supervisory Union:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the Twinfield School library

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber