

Approved

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday – February 14, 2012

School Library

Present: Patrick Healy, Pat Boyle, Monica Light, Michael Nobles, Amy Darling, and Jill Wilson

Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Carol Amos, Associate Principal; Mark Mooney, Principal; Pat Johnson Knoerl, Curriculum Coordinator and Rob Billings, Business Manager

Call to order: Michael Nobles, Chair. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

Public Comment

- a. Dick Lashoones asked the board if the FY13 budget would be updated in response to the Legislature approving a new tax rate. Michael explained that the House Committee has approved a bill that would set the base tax rate and the full Legislature has not approved it at this time. Dick shared concerns about the website; he would like the Mission Statement to be on the home page. He would also like to see a section dedicated to the technology plan. Mark explained that this is phase one of the website; he assured Dick that all of his concerns would be addressed.

Consent Agenda

- a. January 24, 2012 minutes

Monica made a motion to accept the consent agenda, the motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Superintendent Report – Nancy updated the board on staffing reassignments. Barb Cook, 5/6 teacher, has gone on a long term medical leave and has submitted her letter of resignation effective 6/30/2012. Heather Mathies, middle school math teacher, has been reassigned to the 5/6 classroom. The central office is posting positions as necessary. Nancy shared with the board that the new Volunteer Procedure is in place. This procedure was needed for volunteers that would be responsible for students without teachers present, such as overnight field trips.
- b. Principal Report - Mark followed up with Gerard Ducharme in regard to the Snow Machine Acceptable Use procedure. Mark handed out copies; there will be more to come. Mark reported practice for the upcoming drama production, Cinderella will be starting soon. Mark and the middle school team are moving ahead with integrated middle school plan. The middle school will follow a 7th and 8th grade model. The team will be visiting Essex and Cabot schools, were this model is proving to be successful. The team will also be attending the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) conference.
- c. Other Board Updates – Facility committee update- Patrick is continuing the work on a Building Use policy and procedure. He has been gathering a list of organizations currently using the building. February 20th there will be an energy sleuth being held at the school. Rich Phillips, Charlie Wanzer, Richard Steel, the Green Team and many other experts will be reviewing the eGauge data. They will also be working on energy conservation possibilities.

Board Discussion

- a. Bus Camera Purchase – The trial period for the bus camera system has come to an end. The company has given a quote of \$1,000 to purchase the six camera system. The system is currently used on one bus and would continue to be used on that particular bus. Mark shared that the camera system has had positive results in regard to student transportation.
- b. NECAP fall 2011 results: Pat Johnson Knoerl – Pat reviewed the recent NECAP results. Reading highlights: Reading performance has steadily improved and is now comparable with the state average of about 70% proficient. We have succeeded in closing the income achievement gap. Out of seven grades tested, scores dropped in four, and improved in three. Math highlights: There were more students proficient this year compared to last year in four of the seven grades tested. The percentage of low income students scoring ‘proficient’ continued to climb. The bad news is scores in Grades 3-8 took a dip and scores in grade 11 continued to decline. Writing highlights: At grade 11, 20% more students scored ‘proficient’. 30% more boys scored ‘proficient’ in grade 11. Writing at grade 5 remains low with only 7% of boys scoring proficient. Pat shared that the work the faculty has done on writing and brain research should begin to show impact on local data sooner than on the NECAP. Next year there will be local writing assessments to help monitor student performance and adjust instruction.
- c. Membrane Roof: Clarification of Criteria – Andrew Larosa, architect at Black River Design, was present to discuss the criteria of the membrane roof bid. He explained that the apparent low bidders’ understanding was to remove the membrane and build the roof on top of the current underlayment. That was not the intention of the Facility Committee; the best practice is to remove the current material. Andrew Larosa explained that three of the five bidders would do the overlay and the other two would remove the material and put the new roof down. Because of the different interpretations, Nancy’s recommendation is to go back out to bid.
- d. Michael shared that Pat is leaving the school board after 21 years of service. He presented her with two lifetime passes to all home basketball games. The board thanked her for her many years of service.

Board Action

- a. Bus Camera Purchase- Patrick made a motion to approve the purchase of the six camera system for the bus. Monica seconded, the motion carried unanimously.
- b. Membrane Roof – Pat made a motion to accept the facility committee’s recommendation to go out to bid for the membrane roof only. Amy seconded, the motion carried unanimously.
- c. Patrick made a motion that Twinfield will not enter into a contract with JA Morrissey for the membrane roof at this time. Amy seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: The board went into executive session at 8:42 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Executive Session: The board came out of executive session at 9:15, no action was taken.

Board Action

- a. New Hires –
 - i. Long Term Substitute, James Britch - Patrick made a motion to accept the administration’s recommendation to hire the long term sub for high school math. Amy seconded, the motion carried 3-2.

- ii. Long Term Substitute, Claudia Thruston - Patrick made a motion to accept the administration's recommendation to hire the long term sub for middle school math. Monica seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Board Discussion:

- a. Plan for information and annual meeting – The board reviewed the PowerPoint presentation used in previous years. The board updated the information and agreed to use the same format.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Kimball
Transcriber