

Approved

## TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday – March 13, 2012

School Library

**Present:** Michael Nobles, Patrick Healy, Dan Gadd, Monica Light, Anne Nadel Walbridge and Jill Wilson **Administration:** Carol Amos, Associate Principal and Nancy Thomas, Superintendent **Student Representatives:** Cristin Martin **Absent:** Mark Mooney and Erin Hall

**Call to order:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**Introductions:** The board and administration went around the table and introduced themselves. Nancy provided each board member with a copy of board members contact information.

### **Reorganization of the Board:**

- a. Monica nominated Michael Nobles to be Chair, Jill seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Jill nominated Patrick Healy for Clerk/Vice Chair, Monica seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Anne, Jill and Patrick volunteered to represent Twinfield on the Washington Northeast Supervisory Union board. Michael made a motion to elect Anne, Jill and Patrick for the WNESU board, Monica seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. The board agreed to maintain the current meeting schedule. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the school library. Michael made a motion, Dan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Select official newspapers and posting locations – Michael made a motion to accept the Hardwick Gazette, Times Argus and the World as the official newspapers. Anne seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Michael made a motion to accept the official posting locations as Plainfield/Marshfield post office, Marshfield Village Store, Tim's Convenience, Plainfield/Marshfield Town Clerk offices, Twinfield website, the Coop and the school, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Committee Assignments – Jill and Anne volunteered for the policy committee; Michael and Monica volunteered for the finance committee; Patrick, Michael, and Dan volunteered for the facilities committee; Anne and Patrick volunteered for the negotiations committee. Michael made a motion to accept the previously mentioned volunteers, Monica seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- g. Appointment of Pat Boyle to serve on Negotiations Committee – Patrick made a motion to appoint Pat Boyle to the negotiation committee, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- h. Monica made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to sign employee contracts on behalf of the board, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

- a. February 14, 2012 minutes

Michael made a motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

- a. Superintendent Report – Nancy congratulated the high school basketball teams, the girls for making it to the upcoming championship game and the boys for taking first place in the championship game. Nancy shared with the board that a state sponsored food service review had taken place. Nancy will forward the written review to board members when it becomes available. Christian will be reporting to the board in the spring. Nancy has been appointed as the Vermont Representative to the Northeast Rural Districts Research Alliance and Core Planning Group. The group will serve as an advisory board looking at the challenges for rural schools. Nancy handed out the Legislative Updates from the VT School Boards Association. She highlighted Multiple Pathways for Learning and Increasing Student Opportunity (S. 121 and S. 233). This bill would allow for seniors to be enrolled at both the high school and at a Vermont State college. The high school would be left to pay the tuition to the college. School Choice (S. 201) would be another concern for Cabot and Twinfield schools. This bill would allow an unlimited number of students to choose what school they want to attend. Students typically leave the more rural schools for more options in academics, arts, and/or sports in larger schools. Currently there is a limit of how many students can choose a different school, and the money for those students stay at the local district, with this bill the money would follow the student. Nancy also highlighted the School District and Supervisory Union Merger bill (H.753) which amends Act 153. Another bill would merge the current 60 supervisory unions into 16 in contrast to the locally determined approach of Act 153.
- b. Principal Report – Carol thanked the board for their service. The new Report Night is being held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Library. This is a night for parents only; there will be presentations about the reading program, Fountas and Pinnell; New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP); the new parent group: Twinfield Partners in Education (TPIE); the Twinfield Mission and the new website. The administration is also looking at how parent/teacher conferences are designed and possibly making some adjustments to the way they are held.
- c. Student Representative Report – Cristin reported on the Pep Rally that was held for the Varsity Boys basketball team. The entire school was invited. The boys won the division four championship for the second time in two years. Former drug and alcohol addicts presented to the high school health class. They discussed the effects drugs and alcohol has on a person. It was an enlightening presentation.
- d. Other Board Updates – Anne updated the board that the FY12 Spanish trip has been changed from Peru to Ecuador. There are five Twinfield students attending.

## **Board Action:**

- a. The teachers' union representatives have requested a sick bank for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Jenna Aube. Monica made a motion to authorize a sick bank, Michael seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Carol presented the board with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade canoe trip to Saranac Lake. Patrick made a motion to authorize the out of state canoe trip, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. French Trip Fundraising: Carol presented the board with a request to begin fundraising for the FY13 France Trip. Anne shared her reservations about a France trip. After much discussion about the French class going to France next year, Jill made a motion to allow

the French class to begin fundraising for a French Trip, Michael seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Board Discussion**

- a. Board Operations and Review School Board Code of Conduct – Nancy handed out the code of conduct. The board reviewed it and signed it.
- b. Energy Sleuth Report - Rich Phillips and Charlie Wanzer were present to review the data collected on the Energy Sleuth night. A group of professionals, students, teachers, and community members attended. Charlie explained that the school has a high level of base energy levels. Charlie and Rich are setting up conservation guidelines for the school to adopt. Nancy will email the guidelines to the board members. Efficiency Vermont reported that Twinfield reduced energy usage by 12% since August.
- c. The next facilities committee meeting will be held March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am at the school.
- d. Anne will be attending the next TPIE meeting in April.

**Future Agenda items:** The board would like to discuss the fundraising process and out-of-state fieldtrips at a future meeting.

**Executive Session:** The board went into executive session at 8:24 pm for a personnel matter.

**Executive Session:** The board came out of executive session at 8:35 pm, no action was taken.

**Executive Session:** The board went into executive session at 8:36 pm for negotiations.

**Executive Session:** The board came out of executive session at 8:45 pm, no action was taken.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Kimball  
Transcriber