

**APPROVED**

**TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 9, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – School Library**

**PRESENT: Board Members:** Patrick Healy, Dan Gadd, Jill Wilson, Anne Nadel-Walbridge, Monica Light.  
**Absent:** Michael Nobles. **Administration:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director; Rob Billings, Business Manager; Mark Mooney, Principal; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal;  
**Students:** Christin Martin. **Absent:** Erin Hall

**Call to order:** Patrick Healy, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Public Input**

Mary Lou Wells – Distributed a WCAX news article outlining the need for Vermont to amend the process of identifying and releasing ineffective teachers. She asked the board to support those efforts. Patrick stated this item would be on a future Twinfield School Board agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. March 12, 2013 minutes - Corrections: Mark Mooney and Rob Billings were incorrectly listed as Board Members in the Attendance paragraph. Jill Wilson asked to include the reason her vote against the Bullying Policy was because she did not think it is strong enough. Anne Nadel-Walbridge moved to accept the March 12 minutes as amended, Patrick seconded – unanimously approved.

**Reports**

- a. Student Representative Report - Christin Martin
- Christin reported that the move to grading by quarters should help to bring up grades.
  - Students on the French Trip leave Saturday, April 13, 2013.
  - Softball & Baseball teams are having a good start to their seasons with their first games coming up soon.
  - Several community members, including board members, Anne Nadel and Erin Hall, and other students are involved in the musical Oliver.
  - Students are excited about the choices for J term to be held the last week of the school year.
- b. Superintendent Report - Nancy Thomas
- Legislative update-Nancy attended a Superintendents Association meeting recently and updated the Board on an early education bill that proposes to expand opportunities for 3 & 4 year olds, allowing parents school/provider choice.
  - Climate Survey-Twinfield and Cabot schools will be enrolling with the National School Climate Center to purchase a Climate Survey. Pat Knoerl researched the survey and reported that it is a valid and reliable instrument. The timeline will be to administer the survey this spring, with results back to us within two weeks of submission.
  - 2013-2014 School Calendar - A change in this year's school calendar reflect the move of early release days from Wednesday to Thursday. Nancy also discussed Chittenden County schools' proposal for a different school year schedule, offering 7 week blocks of school time with breaks between each block and a shorter summer break. This model could consolidate time and attention during those breaks for supplemental services, the shorter summer break could reduce educational regression.
- c. Principal Report - Mark Mooney turned the floor over to Bob Gulardo who presented the report.
- Team of five from Twinfield will attended suicide prevention training at the end of March.
  - The K-8 Race to Read Program is underway. Race car driver Troy Kingsbury brought his race car to Twinfield, students met the challenge to read 15 books and by doing so, they were eligible to sign the hood of the race car.
  - Spring sports are under way and all coaches have been hired.
  - The first phase of teacher evaluation process has been completed. Teachers are now working to complete goals with their individual advisory teams.
  - Third term grades closed April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents will receive progress reports April 8. Grade 7-12 parents will be notified of students failing.
  - J term is scheduled for June 7, 10, 11, 12.

- The Smarter Balance practice assessments are being administered to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This assessment is aligned with the Common Core State Standards in Literacy and Mathematics.
- Parent teacher conferences will be held Friday April 12, 2013
- Parents of high school juniors will be invited to attend career/college planning night next week.
- Twinfield's Emergency Response team is meeting regularly to assess preparedness for various school emergencies.

**Board Action:**

- Approve request for out of state field trips:
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade canoe trip in NY early June - Community member, Mary Lou Wells asked why the canoe trip does not occur in Vermont. Mark explained the uniqueness of the New York experience as lead by Trevor Tait which makes the trip very worthwhile and educational. The trip was approved with Monica Light abstaining due to insufficient information about the trip.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Ticonderoga – Anne Nadel-Walbridge moved to approve Monica Light seconded – unanimously approved.
- Approve Faculty List for 2013-2014-Nancy Thomas distributed the Professional Personnel List - unanimously approved.
- Approve Principal Contracts-Nancy Thomas asked the Board to continue the contracts of Mark Mooney, Principal and Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal – unanimously approved.
- Act on Request for Leave of Absence- This agenda Item was withdrawn.

**Board Discussion**

- Annual Report, Meeting and Hearing: changes/suggestions- After review and discussion it was agreed that 1) font and narrative styles must be consistent throughout; 2) publish the School Report in February; 3) The Board will review the report prior to sending it to the printer.
- Annual Work Calendar–This is used for board awareness of upcoming tasks.
- Committee Organization-To be conducted at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Rob Billings will be present for Finance and Facilities Committee assignments. Nancy Thomas asked for Policy Committee members, (a shared committee with Cabot School Board); Jill Wilson and Anne Nadel-Walbridge volunteered.
- VT Code of Ethics for School Board Members-Patrick Healy asked the Board to study and discuss at the next meeting.

**Future Agenda items:** School Improvement Plan, Green Team presentation, teacher evaluation and discipline procedures and regulations, School Board Code of Ethics

**Adjournment** 8:47pm

**Future Meetings**

- Washington Northeast Supervisory Union Board:** Tuesday, April 18, 2013 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Twinfield
- Twinfield School Board:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Twinfield School library

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber