

APPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Twinfield Union School Library

Present: Scott Harris, Chandra Miller, Lauren Cleary, Jon Groveman and Jill Wilson **Administration:**
Mark Tucker, Superintendent

Call to order and Introductions:

- Scott Harris called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Public Comment

- None

Consent Agenda

- Approve Minutes of Nov 14, 2017 – Lauren moved and Chandra seconded to approve the minutes as written with one typographical correction. Motion carried.

Presentation Pam Quinn – Twinfield Together

- Pam introduced Lauren Drasler, the AmeriCorps worker this year. We are in year 2 of the AmeriCorps program; next year is the last of our three-year commitment. Pam thanked the central office for their work in supporting this commitment.
- Among many other activities, Lauren does extra work with middle-school students, teaches a Zumba class, and continues to look for opportunities to expand her mentoring, both in groups and 1:1
- Initiating teamwork clubs, starting in January
- Pam and Lauren outlined the aims of AmeriCorps - support for older students who are in between TLC-age and HS extra-curricular opportunities
- Pam – Mentoring Program grew from community input. Adult-to-student mentoring was the first activity. Added literacy mentoring and then peer-to-peer mentoring. Children actively seek mentors for themselves. Currently have 20 community members working with our students – most are no longer parents themselves (children are grown). Pam expressed her encouragement for continuing the contribution of the school board to the program, (currently \$10,000/year).
- Mentoring opportunities still exist. Pam looking for more male mentors who like to read to kids, commitment is 45 minutes in the morning – on the way to work.
- Big success with High School students mentoring younger students in the school.
- Big grants this year result in a \$40,000 return for the \$10,000 the Board commits. Grantors look for the school to be supporting the program before they will give.
- There are opportunities for students who are 18 to participate in AmeriCorps as a gap-year option.

Reports

Superintendent Report –

- The windstorm a couple weeks ago dropped a large branch on the Red School house. We had to hire a tree service to remove it - \$800. Some damage to the eaves of the roof, awaiting a plan to repair.
- There were problems with the boiler over the TG break that were addressed.

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- As a follow-up to last meeting's presentation by Monica, wondering whether the Board would like to see (and try to answer!) some sample questions from SBAC?
- Negotiations are still not resolved. We have invited teachers and support staff back to the table; in the meantime, we are working on scheduling Fact-Finding.
- School website conversion is running behind. Now looking at a February launch date.
- New Driver/Custodian, Mike Gibbs, started last week. If you see Rick Dutil around the building, it's because he was hired back to fill the shared driver/custodian position that was created by WNESU Board a couple months ago.

Principal Report – Mark Tucker reported in Mark Mooney's absence.

- A group of High School students participated in a "Mock Senate Simulation" at the Edward Kennedy Center in Boston.
- The VSAC Aspirations Steering Committee has two events planned for January. A TUS Alumni Panel will meet with high school students to discuss life after high school. The panel is made up of former students who have taken different paths since graduating. Also in January we will be sponsoring a trip to Castleton University. Students will go to a basketball game, get a campus tour and have some Q and A with current Castleton students.
- This coming Friday (Dec 1) our K-6 students will be participating in the Reading Against Racism Program. We will have a brief assembly and the organization will provide readers for all of our elementary classrooms.

Student Report – No report, the students were unable to attend.

Twinfo – Jon Groveman discussed the 8th-grade model government program run at TUS. Students run for office and then also elect executive positions. The students deal with real-world issues and do an activity at the Vermont State House. Jon feels that there is insufficient Civics instruction in school and Jon encouraged Public Access TV viewers to check the TUS website to learn more about Model Government.

Board Discussion

- a. School calendar and religious holidays
 - a. SBAC testing last year occurred on Passover last year. This fall, school picture day occurred on Yom Kippur.
 - b. Can we look at the Jewish holidays and other religious holidays before we schedule certain events?
 - c. Mark will look at the calendars with the Principals and discuss what we can do and what we don't have in our control.
- b. Discuss Draft Act 46 Section 9 Proposal
 - a. The Board held a wide ranging discussion of the draft proposal. There is a consensus that we need more community input and discussed best ways to gather it.
 - b. Jon volunteered to draft a one-page outline summarizing the options and outlining what we want for TUS students.
 - c. Draft 4 will be prepared for the next Board meeting. Board members have edits that will be incorporated along with notes from the discussion. Community will be invited to the next Board meeting. Scott will draft a poster, Pam Quinn and Chandra volunteered to help distribute in the communities.
 - d. Scott will present at the next Board meeting.

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- c. Transgender Student Policy – First Reading
 - a. Mark explained the importance of having a policy on this topic. It affects both schools – TUS and Cabot – and both schools have had experience with students identifying as Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming. These students have rights in law, as covered in the policy, but also need support and understanding in school and at home. Sometimes the school is tasked with helping the family come to terms with this matter.
 - b. There were no specific questions from the Board. Policy will be moved to second reading at the next meeting, and will be up for approval at that time.

Board Action – None

Next Agenda Items

- Public presentation and Q&A on Act 46 Section 9 Proposal
- First Draft Budget Review
- Second Reading – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Student policy

Future Agenda Items

- Overview of extra-curricular opportunities for students who don't participate in sports
- Discussion of "Field Notes" – is there an interest and means to revive this communication?

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Tucker
Minute taker