

UNAPPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BUDGET FORUM & BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Twinfield Union School Library

Present: Patrick Healy, Scott Harris, Jill Wilson, Jon Groveman, Chandra Miller, and Lauren Cleary
Administration: Mark Mooney, Mark Tucker and Christina Kimball

Call to order and Introductions: Patrick Healy, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Budget Forum

Christina presented the proposed final budget to community members in attendance. The overall spending changes for FY19 represent a 2.27% increase in Education Funding per Pupil. The Governor's target cap for this was 2.5%, so the TUS budget is below the recommended spending increase.

There was a lively discussion with attendees explaining how a \$242K budget decrease in spending can still result in a tax increase, along with the need to publicize the success of the school that warrants these unavoidable increases.

Patrick closed the budget forum and opened the formal Board meeting at 6:50, and called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00.

Public Comment - none

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of January 9, 2018. Scott made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Jill seconded. The motion carried.

Reports

- a. Superintendent Report – Mark encouraged Board members who have not had a chance to do so to look closely at the stream of information coming out of Montpelier regarding school funding. Early reports from around the Statehouse suggest that there are no serious conversations underway regarding changes to Act 46. The Agency reports that 72% of the school-age children in VT are or soon will be part of a unified school district, suggesting that the balance has been tilted well in favor of status quo. Also hearing mixed reports as to when we will get further direction on the Section 9 proposal. Mark believes that VPR misreported that the decisions will be made by end of June, but that is the deadline for the Secretary to submit her recommendations to the State Board. We received the first draft of the website redesign (all three sites). Finally, the boiler inspection was scheduled for today, but the appointment may have been missed due to weather issues.
- b. Principal Report - Mark Mooney reported on kindness challenge. Winter term went very well. Lots of student interest and participation. Strong interest in the newly launched drama program. Our two students who were displaced from Puerto Rico were able to return home. They will be missed but the school is happy that they are home.
- c. Student Report - none
- d. Twinfo – None

UNAPPROVED

Board Discussion

- a. Finalize FY19 budget – Scott commented in support of the community feedback regarding selling the budget. We need to highlight the positives (e.g., the overall spending reduction) in light of the potential tax increase. Lauren emphasized finding a way to explain the complexities in a simpler form. Jon appreciates the approach where we reduced costs without reducing programming for kids. Patrick moved to approve the budget as presented, which represents spending of \$17,403.60 per equalized pupil, which is equivalent to a 2.27% increase in Ed spending per pupil. Scott seconded. Carried unanimously.
- b. Support staff agreement – Mark reviewed the salary and healthcare cost sharing terms of the agreement. Patrick moved and Scott seconded for the Board to ratify the agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.
- c. Options for sharing info on teacher negotiations. Patrick explained to the Board that he was seeking their consensus on sharing the Boards’ position on resolving the contract negotiations. Jill suggested that if we do this, we should provide an overview for the Board members as well as posting it on the school website. Two teachers in attendance questioned whether the Board is allowed to share this information; Mark replied that the Boards’ counsel had previously said it was okay, but he agreed to reconfirm with the counsel.

Board Action

- a. Finalize FY19 budget - Patrick moved to approve the budget as presented, which represents spending of \$17,403.60 per equalized pupil, which is equivalent to a 2.27% increase in Ed spending per pupil. Scott seconded. Carried unanimously.
- b. Support staff agreement - Patrick moved and Scott seconded for the Board to ratify the agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.
- c. Options for sharing info on teacher negotiations. – No action taken at this time.

Executive Session

Patrick made a motion at 7:30 pm to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Scott seconded, the motion carried, and the Board went into Executive Session at 7:31. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:00. No action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Tucker