

Approved Minutes
Twinfield Union School Board
Meeting Twinfield Union School
Library Tuesday, October 8th, 2019
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Call to order and Introductions: Patrick Healy,
Chair

Board Members Present: Patrick Healy, Jamie Spector, Erin Barry, Lauren Cleary,
Janna Osman Administrators Present: Mark Mooney, Mark Tucker, Christina Kimball

**Additions to
Agenda**

- Approval of bus acquisition
- Request to add a New Business
item

Motion to approve agenda with additional items by Janna Osman and seconded by
Lauren Cleary. Motion passed.

Public Comment -
None

**Consent
Agenda**

Approve September 10, 2019 Minutes – **motion** to approve Janna Osman and seconded
by Lauren. Motion passed.

**Report
s**

Superintendent Report – Mark T. took questions related to his published
Superintendent's Report.

Principal Report, Mark Mooney- Mark M. took questions related to his published
Superintendent's Report.

Student Report – No student report, but one of the new Student Reps was in attendance. The
Board had the pleasure of meeting Kellen Farnham to her first meeting. Morgan Renz will join
us next month as the second rep.

Student Services – No formal report. Mark T. reflected on the ongoing difficulties with hiring and keeping up with the staffing demands of our needier students.

Twinfo – Lauren Cleary reflected on the role that PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions System) has on the culture and climate of the school. Twinfield has been ranked a “School of Distinction” for a number of years because of its commitment to the practices of PBIS.

Board

Discussion

a. Ramp/Efficiency VT program offerings – The party that was to present on this topic did not

appear. Mark T. said he would follow-up to see what happened. **b. Staff**

Presentation on School Activities – Chris Sheehan (HS Social Studies) filled in for

another teacher who had planned to come. Chris reflected on how he teaches history and social studies in the high school. Chris specifically does not like to offer AP US History because he feels that the course is aimed at teaching the test, and that the test focuses on the achievements of

white European culture at the expense of indigenous peoples, the slave trade, the Jim Crow era. Chris’s curriculum this year takes a broader ethno-relational view of history, and he finds that his students are engaged and take advantage of opportunities to “dig deeper” into topics that interest them. There was a brief reflection from Lauren, where she said she supports what Chris is teaching, but wishes there was a way for those students who could benefit from AP courses to get AP courses. This discussion fits into the agenda item on High School partnership in CCSU. **c. High School Partnership in CCSU** – Mark T. presented the proposal from Cabot and Danville that the Boards hold a discussion to explore opportunities for the three high schools to share resources and programs. This is NOT a discussion about merging Districts, and Mark encouraged the Board to participate with an open mind that is focused on the needs of the kids. The Board ultimately agreed by acclamation to join into the discussion. **d. Tech Center Rep** – With the resignation of Jim Barlow, TUS needs a new rep to the CVCC tech

center. Patrick volunteered. **e. Bus Driver Shortage** – Mark T. commented briefly on the difficulty that TUS is having filling a

driver/custodian position, and the need to find a part-time driver to fill a recently vacated driver position. **f. Bus Lease** – Christina Kimball reported to the Board on the two bids we received to acquire a

new school bus. Because we currently have two students in wheelchairs, the recommendation is to acquire a full-size bus with a lift and locations for two wheelchairs.

Brandon Lawrence (Facilities) wants to try out a gasoline engine bus, with an eye to improved winter operation and lower maintenance costs. **g. Request for New Business** –

Janna asked for the addition of a New Business category on the

Board agendas. This would be a way for the Board to formally capture future discussion

topics. **h. Finalize Board Retreat** – Jann passed out an outline of the three topic areas for the retreat. The

Board discussed their desire for a facilitator, and Mark T. said he would approach Otho Thompson, who has done Board and administration work for Washington Northeast SU in past years.

Board Action

a. Act on Tech Center Rep – Lauren nominated and Jamie seconded to appoint Patrick Healy as

Tech Center Rep. Motion carried. **b. Act on Bus Acquisition** – Lauren moved and Erin seconded to approve the Business Managers

recommendation for a five-year lease of a new bus. Motion carried unanimously. **c. Act on New Business request** – Future agendas will include this section.

- Global Citizenship & the Climate March
- Equity Article (distributed by Mark Mooney)
- Athletics – experience with Cooperative Sports
- Alternative Transportation – can/should we have a van to transport small student groups?
- Insulation project for main building

Adjournment – Patrick adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Future Board Meetings – Board Retreat Wednesday, October 23rd and Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, November 12th.