

Approved

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2012

School Library

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

Call to order: Michael Nobles, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve April 10, 2012 Minutes
- b. Approve April 24, 2012 Minutes
- c. Accept Faculty Resignation- Gavin Blumenthal, EEE Teacher

Anne made a motion to approve the board minutes as presented, the motion carried unanimously.

Patrick made a motion to accept the resignation of Gavin Blumenthal with regrets, Monica seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Superintendent Report – Nancy updated the board on the roof project. Rob Billings and Richard Steel met with the roof vendors last week to create a schedule for the roof project. The two vendors will be able to share resources such as trash removal.
- b. Student representative Report – Cristin shared that the science NECAP tests were today for 11th, 8th and 4th grade. Cristin shared that there is a new display in the Art gallery and that a week from Thursday is the opening night of Cinderella. The prom is being held at the Barre Elks club and will have an Alice in Wonderland theme. The Spanish trip is over and the students and chaperons returned safely. The trip was a huge success. The French Trip fundraiser, “Digging for Donations” has started.
- c. Principal – Mark is going on the 8th grade fieldtrip to the Adirondacks. U32 football coaches will be coming to talk with parents and students about Twinfield students playing for U32. The administration is looking at a program called ECO- Educating Children Outdoors. It is a program through the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier. The program will start in the Kindergarten and increase one grade every year after. The program will not add to the curriculum but will enhance the current curriculum. Pat Johnson, curriculum coordinator, is talking with other schools that are already doing it. The new parent group (TPIE- Twinfield Partners in Education) has offered to volunteer to support the program. The farm to school program is hosting a garden work party this weekend. Mark shared with the board that Twinfield Graduate, Jasmine Rand, will be here Friday at 1:30 pm for an assembly on her journey from Twinfield to becoming a successful lawyer. She lives in Florida and is currently working on the Treyvon Martin civil case. Mark shared that there will be a press conference held at the school after the students have gone home. After the board discussed the matter of a press conference being held at the school, the board left it up to Mark to determine if it was appropriate.
- d. Carol shared that the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) group has put together a special week long focus on the Twinfield rules. At the end of the week there

will be an ice cream social, the students will have to “earn” the cup of ice cream by reciting the TUS rules.

Presentations and Discussions

- a. Twinfield Together Mentoring Program- Merrick Grutchfield thanked the board for their past support of the program. Merrick shared with the board a new part of her program that focuses on Literacy mentoring. Community volunteers would read to students in K-3rd grade during lunch once a week. Merrick has secured funding to pilot this program through the Mentoring Collaborative. Merrick has been working with Pat Johnson, the administration and the elementary teaching staff on how to implement the program. She hopes to launch the literacy program in October. Cutler Library has offered to host a pizza party this summer to inform community members/ volunteers about the program. Merrick explained how the most successful Mentor/Mentee matches happen at an early age. Ideally the match would continue through the years. Merrick explained that currently the Mentoring Program Coordinator is a .45 FTE position; the Twinfield Together Mentoring advisory board would like to increase it to .60 FTE position. Michael volunteered to be the board contact for Merrick and she will be communicating with him as needed.
- b. School Nutrition Program- Christian wanted to thank his staff for all their hard work. Christian shared with the board that the state review of his program had taken place and was a huge success. They reviewed a week’s worth of menus for nutritional value. He shared that Twinfield has been ahead of the curve as far as local, healthy foods being served. The state also reviewed the free and reduced application process, there were no concerns there. Currently Twinfield is over 50% of students qualifying for free and reduced meals. What that means is that Twinfield can now provide summer meals to Marshfield and Plainfield communities. It also means that the afterschool snacks can be reimbursed at 100% of the cost. One corrective action that was noted on the state review was to update the school Wellness Policy, which the administration has already done. Christian explained the Grow a Row program. Forms were sent out to families asking if they would like to grow an extra row of vegetables in their garden to donate to the school cafeteria. Christian shared that he will be visiting Cabot School to look at how they use their salad bar and if it is something Twinfield can make happen. Christian is part of the energy committee; they are implementing some energy efficiencies. The food service advisory committee purchased an ice maker. The food service advisory board is on board to subsidize a new dishwasher. A new state and federal requirement is to provide clean, cold fresh water. Christian is looking into a water cooler for the kitchen.
- c. The board would like to see the Grow a Row form and Fieldnotes on the website.

Policy Revisions:

- a. The board was presented with the following policies for the first reading: Child Nutrition and Wellness, F28, School Facility Use, H3 and Harassment of Employees, D12. The policies will be on the next agenda for adoption.

Board Action:

- a. Approve 2012- 2013 School Calendar – Monica expressed some concerns around the early release. After discussion, Patrick made a motion to accept the calendar with minor changes to early release dates. The motion carried, 4-0-1.
- b. Approve Math Middle school hiring – Patrick made a motion to hire Claudia Thurston for the middle school math position, Dan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. 4th grade one year position - Monica made a motion to accept the administrations' recommendation to hire Christina Brailey for the one year 4th grade long term substitute, Jill seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Project graduation has requested transportation. Patrick made a motion to authorize use of a school bus and driver for transportation for the project graduation trip. Monica seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: The board went into executive session at 9:11 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Executive Session: The board came out of executive session at 9:17 pm with no action.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Kimball
Transcriber