

Approved

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday – September 13, 2011

School Library

Present: Patrick Healy, Pat Boyle, Monica Light, Amy Darling, Jill Wilson **Administration:** Mark Mooney, Nancy Thomas, Carol Amos, Rob Billings, and Pat Johnson Knoerl **Absent:** Michael Nobles, Christin Martin, and Erin Hall

Call to order: Patrick Healy, Vice Chair 6:35 pm

Twinfield Together Mentoring Program: Merrick Grutchfield

Merrick thanked the board for the invitation for tonight's presentation, the in-kind contributions, and the overall support of the program. Merrick presented a slide show that included pictures of the mentors and mentees along with projects they have worked on. This is the third year of the program at Twinfield. This program serves students in fourth through ninth grade. Currently there are 14 matches and a total of 22 matches over the course of the program. Merrick's goal is to have 25 matches per school year. Twinfield Together Mentoring participated in a nation wide evaluation program last year. An independent consultant group from Connecticut conducted extensive interviews and Twinfield's mentoring program received an excellent review with many commendations. Jane Bradley, Nancy Everhart, Betsy Brigham, Donny Osmond, and Jack Hoffman are on the Mentoring program advisory board.

Superintendent Nancy Thomas highlighted how the mentoring program helps us to fulfill our mission as a school. The positive relationships these students build with adults and peers aid them in becoming successful students.

Alice Day, school nurse, described how this program has impacted the students that she see's on a daily basis. She shared that some of these families struggle with substance abuse, mental illness or an incarcerated parent. Some of these children would never have the opportunity to do the activities that they are with their mentors; such as kayaking, going to the movies, or even learning how to do laundry.

Associate Principal Carol Amos shared that parents are hearing about the program and coming forward to see if their child could participate in the program.

Advisory Board member, Nancy Everhart shared how proud she was of Merrick and the mentors and the work they have put into the program.

Executive Session- Nancy requested an executive session for the purpose of a contract issue. The board went into executive session at 7:10 pm.

Executive Session- The board came out of executive session at 7:20 pm, no action.

Consent Agenda

- a. August 23, 2011 minutes
- b. Approve revision of Policy F20: Prevention of Harassment

Monica made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Pat seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Superintendent's Report - Nancy reported a great start to the new year. Nancy thanked the board for their support in the recent change to the school calendar. Nancy shared with the board that excessive absences have been a problem for Twinfield and there will be a focus on limiting student absences. Last year there were 253 excused absences. She would like to encourage the kids and staff to be in the classroom together. The information regarding attendance will be put in the Fieldnotes again as a reminder to parents.
- b. Principals' Report - Mark and Carol visited every classroom on the first day of school. Mark reported that students are showing up on time for TA. There will be an open house on October 12th starting at 6:00 pm. The teachers will be sharing their curriculum and expectations with parents. Mark will also be promoting a parent group on open house night. Mark met with the National Honor Society to talk about ways our school can help the communities that were hurt by Irene. Carol reported that the new dress code has been received well, only a couple of verbal warnings have been given. Mark reported the secondary block scheduling is working well. Monday, Thursday, and Friday have eight periods which are 41 minutes. Tuesday and Wednesday have seven periods, two of which are 82 minute "blocks".
- c. Student Representatives Report – Nancy handed out the student representative's written report.
- d. Financial Update: Rob handed out the FY11 Pre-audit results. Rob shared that there is currently a \$60,000 surplus. Rob also shared with the board the format of financial reporting they can expect going forward.
- e. Other Board Updates - Nancy handed out a request from Darcy Buret for maternity leave from March 2012 through the end of the school year. She will be using accumulated sick time. Nancy suggested holding a second board meeting on September 27th at 6:30 pm for the purpose of considering offering the early retirement option.

Board Discussion

- a. Truck repair or replacement – Richard Steel and Rob shared with the board that the plow truck is in need of some repairs before it can be inspected. The repairs came in at an estimate of \$5,200.00. The trucks value is at \$4,200.00. It is Rob and Richards recommendation to look at buying a new school truck. Richard brought a quote for a one ton truck that has a dump body; the quote was between \$35,000 and \$40,000. The board requested more quotes with different specifications, i.e. no dump body vs. having a dump body, etc.

- b. School Improvement Plan – Pat Johnson Knoerl – Pat handed out the improvement plan to the board members. The planning team includes Mark Mooney, Carol Amos, Laurence Carnahan, Pat Johnson Knoerl, Maureen Davis, Maria Forman, Deb Gonyaw, Debra Stoleroff, Krista Larrow, Mary Goodyear, Heather Flinn, Julie Shedd, Ehren Miller-Norguiera and Charlie Wanzer. This Plan is required for schools which have been identified through the state testing process as in need of improvement. The Improvement Plan includes six measurable goals, the objectives, and the strategies or activities to meet the goal. Each goal has a specific timeline and administrator and/or teacher that is responsible for that particular goal. Pat highlighted some of the activities that are already taking place in the school.

Board Action

- a. Sign Merchant Bank Resolutions. Pat Boyle made a motion to approve the Merchants bank resolution, Amy seconded, the motion carried unanimously.
- b. Appoint Truant Officer - Postponed
- c. Approval of School Improvement Plan. Pat made a motion to approve the School Improvement Plan, Monica seconded, the motion carried unanimously.
- d. NECAP scheduling – The administration suggested the same NECAP scheduling as last year; in which only the students that are being tested to be present on the first day of NECAPS. This is to have the staff and space available to those students that need special accommodations. It also creates a better testing environment. The board approved the NECAP schedule. This means that grades pre k-2,9,10 and 12 will not have school on October 4, 2011.

Future Agenda items:

- a. NECAP Walk-through with Pat Johnson Knoerl
- b. Early Retirement Incentive

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Kimball

Transcriber