

APPROVED

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Twinfield Union School Library

PRESENT: Board Members: Patrick Healy, Dan Gadd, Jill Wilson, Anne Nadel-Walbridge, Monica Light.
Absent: Michael Nobles. **Administration:** Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Rob Billings, Business Manager; Mark Mooney, Principal; Bob Gulardo, Assistant Principal; **Student Representatives:** Christin Martin, Erin Hall

Call to order - Patrick called the meeting to order at 6:30

Public Input – There was no public input

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve April 23 minutes – Dan Gadd moved to approve, Monica Light seconded – unanimously approved

Before continuing with the meeting, Patrick stated that he and Nancy have discussed the Policy Committee, Nicole Mace will attend the May 28 meeting to present Roles and Responsibilities of School Board Members on Policy Committees. Nancy distributed the WNESU Proposal for Policy Renewal of August 14, 2012, which was agreed to by the WNESU Board on August 23, 2012. Nancy asked the group to review it in preparation for Nicole Mace's presentation.

Reports

a. **Student Report** – Christin Martin, Erin Hall

- Christin reported that grades 8 and 11 took Science NECAPS week.
- This week grade 11 students have been coming to the library at 8am to read to kindergarten students.
- On Thursday, May 16 there will be a bike rodeo at Twinfield Union School, National Honor Society students will help younger students learn bicycle safety.
- The Prom was held on Saturday May 11. It was a success.
- Erin reported that j-term offerings were decided upon two weeks ago. Students are excited about it.
- National Honor Society will spend some time next week to green up the campus.
- On May 21, the High School will hold a variety show grades 8-12 participated in a chorus retreat to practice today.

b. **Superintendent Report**-Nancy Thomas

- Negotiations mediation was successful for the Teachers Association, The Cabot School Board ratified the Collective Bargaining Agreement at their meeting on May 6. Negotiations for the Support Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement will next week.
- Nancy attended the Prom on Saturday, Twinfield students did a good job setting it up.
- There is no quorum for the upcoming WNESU Board Meeting on May 16, Nancy will work to re-schedule a meeting in the next couple of weeks in order to reach a vote on a Speech Language Pathologist candidate.

- Nancy informed the Board of teachers leaving at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Heather Mathies is resigning to move closer to family; Mary Goodyear is retiring to Maine;; Linda Trono is also retiring.
- Five teaching positions are open at Twinfield Union School. Nancy, Pat Knoerl and Mark Mooney are working to assure that appropriate attention is being paid to student needs as they work to fill these positions.
- Nancy distributed the Vermont Code of Ethics for School Board Members, asking for them to sign-off on it. Patrick moved to accept the Vermont Code of Ethics for School Board Members, Anne seconded-unanimously approved

c. **Principal Report** - Mark Mooney

- Last week, prior to the Junior Prom, a mock crash was demonstrated for Cabot and Twinfield students.
- Science NECAPS were administered to grades 8 & 11 students.
- A bike rodeo will be held on May 16 to educate students on bicycle safety, this exercise leads up to the May 23 Walk and Roll to School. The school's Wellness Committee planned activity. school busses will drop 5-12 graders at the covered bridge, k-4 graders will be dropped at the Onion River Camp Ground, escorted by faculty members along the rail trail, they will walk and roll to school. Students who are driven to school will be dropped off at the bottom of the school driveway to walk up the hill to school.
- Final exams will be held during the first week June.
- J-term is organized, glad to see that students are excited about the last week of school. On Thursday June 13 from 1pm-1:15pm, student will make presentations and have a j-term celebration.
- Strong candidates have been applying for the 2013-2014 open positions, which include: Grades 1 & 2 Teacher, Grades 3 & 4 Teacher, Reading Specialist, Special.

d. **Financial Report** – Rob Billings

- With a few weeks remaining in Fiscal year 2013, we are taking steps to not make unnecessary expenditures. The budget will close to the good.
- Rob explained the year end closing process, which is a modified accrual basis.
- Discussion took place concerning substitutes and food budgets.
- Rob asked the group to feel free to call or e-mail him with specific questions

Presentation and Discussion - Lighting Energy Use, Charlie Wanzer and Students

- Physics students (The Physics Crew) presented LIGHTING PROJECT 2013 to recommend upgrading school lighting, reduce our carbon footprint, save taxpayer dollars.
- This project has been undertaken by students, teachers, lighting experts and efficiency experts; and was begun in the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.
- Students demonstrated the need for lighting upgrade and an option to switch to volumetric lighting, creating a 16% reduction in electricity usage
- Working with Efficiency Vermont, The Kiley Company and Vermont Energy Education Program, the students identified the expense and savings of approximately \$11,306. In the first year.

- The Physics Crew asked the board to consider commitment of the administration to sign an Incentive Agreement of Interest with Efficiency Vermont, allowing them to continue consulting with the school. The board discussed involving the Finance and Facility Committees, and agreed to approve the Incentive Agreement between Efficiency Vermont and Twinfield Union School.
- Nancy and Rob will meet to discuss, Nancy will report back to the board.

Board Discussion

a. Project Graduation - Anne Nadel-Walbridge

- Anne requested board approval for a volunteer bus driver and chaperones for the evening of Project Graduation. Monica moved to approve, Dan seconded-unanimously approved.

b. Communications Committee

- Patrick asked for thoughts on forming a Communications Committee.
- Anne noted that this committee would be a short lived committee to start the school year for the purposes of outreach, creating liaisons between the Board and the community, maintaining the website, newsletters, press releases and radio time

c. Committee Work

- After much discussion about timelines, it was decided that, beginning on May 28, Committees will meet from 6:15pm-7pm, the regular board meeting will be held from 7pm-9pm.
- Finance Committee will meet May 28 6:15pm-7pm, Nancy will bring information from Efficiency Vermont to the Committee.
- The Committee assignments are: Finance: Michael Nobles, Monica Light, Jill Wilson; Facility: Dan Gadd, Patrick Healy and Michael Nobles; Policy: Anne Nadel-Walbridge and Jill Wilson; Negotiations: Patrick Healy; Communications: Anne Nadel-Walbridge, Monica Light and Jill Wilson.

Exec Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:10pm for Negotiations. The Board returned at 8:18pm.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:19pm personnel issue. The Board returned at 8:30pm.

Board Action

Ratify 2013-2014 Teacher's Collective Bargaining Agreement - Approved

Approve Teacher Hiring – The candidate for consideration declined the offer

Diploma Signing – Completed during the course of the meeting

Adjournment 8:30pm

Future Meetings

1. Twinfield Union School Board : Tuesday May 28, 2013, Twinfield Union School Library

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber

