

**APPROVED**

**TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Twinfield School Library**

**PRESENT:** Patrick Healy, Monica Light, Dan Gadd, Jill Wilson; Administration: Nancy Thomas, Superintendent; Mark Mooney, Principal; Gus Dibble, Business Manager; Student Representative: Christin Martin; Absent: Erin Hall, Bob Gulardo, Michael Nobles, Anne Nadel-Walbridge

**Call to Order** Patrick Healy – 7:03 p.m.

**Public Input**

None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve October 9, 2013 Minutes – Correction to attendance, Erin Hall was not absent. Jill Wilson moved to accept the October 9, 2013 Minutes as amended, Monica Light seconded – unanimously approved.

**Reports**

- a. **Superintendent Report** - Nancy Thomas

- Nancy introduced the new Business Manager, Gus Dibble to the Board.
- The bus lease agreement has been finalized, the new buses are on the road.
- Nancy will follow up on the status of the Lighting Project start up.
- Nancy will attend the VSBA/VSA Annual Conference on October 24-25, 2013.

- b. **Principal Report** – Mark Mooney

- NECAP make-up tests will be completed this week. Over all testing went well, students put forth a good effort. Test results should be available in January.
- A drama production of Annie Get Your Gun is being discussed for the Spring. Mark is looking for support from the community to help director Caleb Pitkin.
- Soccer play-offs are this week. Both the boys and girls teams have represented Twinfield well this year.
- Thursday, October 24, 2013 will be the second early release day, the agenda will include a follow up to the Developmental Trauma In-Service; Rigor, Relevance & Relationships; Curriculum Committee Presentation on the Common Core; PK-6 meeting; TA meeting to work on learning targets.

- c. **Student Report** – Christin Martin

- NECAP testing was successful.
- On Thursday SADD will do a presentation on bullying awareness.
- NHS will be inducting new members on November 14, 2013, A raffle for a turkey basket will be held to help raise funds for NHS.

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- Quarter grades will be coming out in a couple of weeks.

### **Board Discussion** – Budget consideration for FY15 and beyond

#### a. Legislative Changes and requirements – Nancy Thomas

- Nancy distributed a summary of Legislative changes from the 2013 session.
- Hi-lights of the summary are:
  - Flexible Pathways Initiative:
    - Dual Enrollment-allows high school juniors to receive two vouchers for current year and senior year to take course at a state college.
    - Early College-allows high school seniors to enroll full time and complete their last year in high school and the first year in college.
    - Personalized Learning Plans-will be required of all 7-12 grade students and will include plans for participating in dual enrollment or early college courses and will reflect the student's abilities, aptitude, and disposition.
  - School Lunch:
    - This makes the state responsible for the student share of the cost of lunches provided to all students for a reduce price lunch under the federal school lunch program.
  - Miscellaneous Amendments:
    - Special Education Transition-all licensed special education teachers and administrators are to be employed by the Supervisory Union.
    - Superintendent/Board Training-requires annual joint training of at least 8 hours for school board chairs, supervisory union board chairs and superintendents.
    - School Health-requires concussion plans, and training for coaches. Mark and the athletic director worked on Twinfield's plan, coach trainings are done. Patrick asked that the school's concussion plan be posted on the website.
    - Epinephrine Auto-Injectors-allows health care professional to prescribe an auto-injector in a school's name and issue a standing order for its use. Alice Day will assure this occurs and training will be done.
    - School based mental health services-this will review the supports currently in place, Twinfield currently has appropriate mental health services in place.
    - Pre-Kindergarten Access-will allow parents to enroll three & four year old children in a prequalified private or public pre-k program statewide.
  - State Standards Board and Licensing-revised the process and licensing requirements which will impact some current staff and administrators and make future licensing more difficult.

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- Teacher Evaluation System-will be expanded to tie directly into student outcomes.
  - Affordable Care Act-We are participating in the VEHI analysis, a webinar for WNESU, administration, board, representatives of CTA, TEA and staff associations will present the analysis results and explain the impact of the ACA on school districts.
- b. What's working well at Twinfield? What are concerns that influence our budget planning?- Mark Mooney
- Teachers are working in a collaborative culture.
  - Middle school model is in its second year and continues with positive reviews.
  - Discipline issues are down and performance is up.
  - There are limited electives for high school students. Mark considering an increase of a .4 or .5 FTE in English teachers.
  - Math and literacy interventionists are collaborating in the classrooms, not sure if that is enough.
  - Curriculum is becoming more vertically aligned, assessment from grade to grade coming along.
  - Need to look at guidance counselor staffing, post-college and career readiness areas are in need of improvement.
  - Humanities model is working, the process has groups of students working collectively for blocks of time, nice process in place, yet takes away from electives availability.
  - Would like to investigate contracting out for buses, which would help with the lack of drivers.
  - Would like to explore a full time athletic/activities coordinator at the district level to work with both Twinfield and Cabot schools and be a liaison with Twinfield Youth Sports. Jill requested a job description for the athletic director, this item will be put on the next meeting agenda.
  - Nancy noted the phone system will need to be replaced.
- c. What do you picture for Twinfield in 5 years? In 10 years?
- Discussion about merger with Cabot School: Decreasing enrollment and increasing costs are challenges for both schools. A partnership between the schools, dividing grades between both schools could be beneficial. Cabot board discussions upcoming to address building issues, it would be worth discussions between both school boards about expanding opportunities for both schools and alternative schedules for faculty/staff.
- d. Considerations for FY15 budget
- Bathroom Floors
  - Lockers

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- 2015 Budget Timeline-the group reviewed the timeline, discussing and setting dates for the process. Nancy will update the timeline and distribute it to the Board.
- e. Communication for emergency or unpredicted changes in school or sports schedules:
  - Currently Robo-Call and Power-Announce, along with TV are utilized when school cancellations occur.
  - When sports cancellations or schedule changes occur, the Athletic Director informs the coach, the coach informs the players.
  - The group discussed using Robo-Call and Power-Announce for sports cancellations and schedule changes, and adding Board members to the Robo-Call and Power-Announce rosters, posting information on the school web-site and set up e-mail accounts for bus drivers so that they can communicate with all to coordinate transportation changes.

## **Board Action**

- a. VSBA Service Award-Nancy Thomas announced that Patrick Healy and Michael Nobles have received a five year service award for their dedication and exemplary service to the children of Vermont as board members of the Twinfield Union School Board.
- b. Accept Resignation-Marilyn Turcotte is retiring-Nancy recommends accepting her resignation.
  - Patrick moved to accept Nancy's recommendation, Jill Wilson seconded-unanimously approved
- c. Approve new hire-Marilynn Turcotte expressed interest in a new position-Nancy recommends accepting her for the new position.
  - Patrick moved to accept Nancy's recommendation, Jill seconded-unanimously approved
- d. Act on Proxy votes for VSBIT and VEHI-Nancy Thomas offered to act as proxy for the Board at the Annual meeting October 25.
  - Monica moved to allow Nancy to vote as proxy for the Board, Dan seconded-unanimously approved.

## **Executive Session**

none

**Adjournment** - 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sylvia Charron, Transcriber