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TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2016
7:30 PM

Superintendent's Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order (00:00:08)

Madam Chair Steenson called this January 21, 2016 Timberlane Regional School Board meeting to order at 7:33pm with the roll call. Eagle Scout Tyler Booth led the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance which was then followed by a special presentation of the National Anthem by Timberlane All State students (Joshua Barrows, Julia Bruedle, Noah Caezza, Jordan DiTore, Rebecca Flieder, Natalie Livingston, Amber Malkin, Nolan McGurn, Aimee O'Meara and Preston Peek).

Board Members Present

Peter Bealo, Rob Collins, Donna Green, Jack Sapia, Susan Sherman, Gregory Spero, Nancy Steenson, and Kelly Ward. Absent: Rick Blair.

Seated at the Board's Table

Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools
Deb Armfield, Executive Director of Curriculum,
Assessment & Professional Learning
Christi Michaud, Director of Data, Assessment and
Accountability
Jordan DiTore, Student Representative

Other Administrators Present

Tony DiBartolomeo, Director of Performing Arts
Jim Hughes, Director of Facilities
Don Woodworth, TRHS Principal

Other District Personnel Present

Lou Broad, President of the Timberlane Teachers Association
Ryan Richman, Vice President of the Timberlane Teachers Association

Delegates and Individuals (00:04:12)

Student representative Jordan DiTore provided an update of high school activities that included midterms, the high school book club, play projects, the TRMS Little Mermaid presentation and Project Hope fashion show. Mrs. Green took a seat at the presenter's table and asked she be allowed to speak under delegates and individuals as a citizen of the district. She then proceeded to make inquiries about district legal counsel, the authority to make legal decisions as it relates to litigation, as well as litigation updates to the school board, specifically updates involving an ongoing federal suit concerning a current staff member. Madam Chair citing executive privilege under RSA 91-A responded such questions would not be answered at this time and then asked Mrs. Green if she had other questions or comments not associated with current litigation. Mrs. Green reiterated her line of questioning and upon her refusal to stop, Madam Chair called for an immediate recess. (The meeting recessed for 5 minutes.)

CURRENT BUSINESS

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATE (00:09:15)

Eagle Scout Tyler Booth presented a PowerPoint presentation of the before and after photos of the high school courtyard with respect to his Eagle Scout project of installing four raised garden beds. He provided construction and installation details as well as volunteer man hours and project financials. He concluded by presenting a check to the school district in the amount of \$271.14 stating he wished to donate the leftover funds from the project. He then publically thanked Christine Fish, Patti Mangini, Jim Hughes, Mr. Bealo and members of the school board. Dr. Metzler accepted the donation on behalf of the school district. Board members then

commended Eagle Scout Booth for the quality of his work and the example he sets for others to work together. They concluded by pledging to maintain the project for years to come.

ALL STATE RECOGNITION (00:16:00)

Mr. DiBartolomeo reported 53 Timberlane music students qualified for All States (All State, Chamber All State, and Jazz All State) and that most of those students were present this evening to be recognized for their accomplishments. He also noted that Timberlane sends the most students to All State (12%) out of 95 New Hampshire high schools. He thanked the Board for their continuous support of the music program as well as the exceptional staff who work with the students on a daily basis. Board members then commended the students and each student was presented a certificate for their accomplishment. Madam Chair called for a short recess (8:00-8:12pm).

OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIPS (00:29:43)

Ryan Richman presented two overnight student field trips for board consideration. The first is slated for February 18-21, 2016 to Harvard Model Congress in Boston: a simulated model congress for high school students where students will role play the life of congressmen, senators and other members of government. The school fee shall be paid by fundraising and all other fees (delegate fee, hotel fee, meals) will be paid by students. The second trip is to the YMCA Youth and Government Center in Concord, NH for April 8-9, 2016. Fees associated with this trip are paid by the students. Student advisor fees for both trips are paid by the advisor. He also reviewed the itineraries of both trips along with a list of safety precautions.

It was noted that Mr. Collins recused himself from the discussion and voting on this agenda item and stepped away from the board table.

MOTION: Mr. Ward motioned to approve both field trips as presented; seconded by Mrs. Sherman.

Discussion: Inquiries were made in relation to these trips being held during school session and the impact on Mr. Richman's other students who would not be attending. Assurances were made about the quality of the substitute to be used in his absence.

With no further discussion the motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Bealo motioned for the board to donate \$3,250 towards these trips; seconded by Mr. Sapia.

Discussion: Questions about where (which school board budget account) the money would come from as well as concern of setting a precedence of funding trips in full were raised.

MOTION: Mrs. Sherman motioned to amend the motion to reduce the amount to \$1,600; seconded by Mr. Bealo.

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to amend the amendment by clarifying the specific account the funds would come from (discretionary line); seconded by Mrs. Sherman.

Discussion: Members opined on the whether or not a specific budget line needed to be identified within the school board budget.

**With no further discussion the motion to amend the amendment failed 1-5-1 (Green in favor, Sherman abstained).
With no further discussion the motion as amended to \$1,600 passed 6-1-0 (Green opposed).**

Mr. Richman thanked the board for their generosity.

POLICIES (00:59:25)

Mr. Bealo presented two policies for first reading (IHDA – Adult Education Programs and DH Bonded Employees and Officer).

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to approve these polices for second reading; seconded by Mr. Sapia.

Discussion: Board members discussed a statement in IDHA concerning the board sponsoring the program and agreed to remove that part of the statement.

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to amend the motion to approve policy IHDA with the change of striking the words “While sponsored by the board” and accepting policy DH as presented; seconded by Mr. Sapia. With no further discussion the motion to amend passed 7-0-1 (Collins abstained).

With no further discussion the motion as amended with changes to IHDA and DH as presented for first reading passed 8-0-0.

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM (01:03:08)

Preschool curriculum was presented as a second read and an opportunity for board members to ask questions. Questions were fielded relative to terminology and comments were made about some of the elements of the program appearing to be below the intellectual level of a preschooler.

The board voted 7-1-0 to approve the preschool curriculum for second read (Green opposed).

ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLE (01:06:20)

Madam Chair announced the school board’s article for the 2015 annual report is currently being drafted and is expected to be available by the deliberative session. Concern was raised over whether board members would have opportunity to review and amend before going to print. It was noted the annual report is the responsibility of the board chair and board members were asked to submit their comments of topics to be included in the report to the chair.

TRIPOD TEACHER SURVEY (01:08:20)

Ms. Armfield and Mrs. Michaud presented a PowerPoint outlining the December 2015 Tripod Teacher Survey results. The presentation included a description of the survey and its function (to provide quality feedback to be used to inform school improvement efforts), the number of participants (73 in Spring 2015 and 249 in December 2015), areas of survey (school leadership, school-wide academic press, professional development quality, professional learning communities, evaluation quality and organizational effectiveness), and plans moving forward (further analysis, reflection and response through the Timberlane Executive Leadership Academy). Discussion ensued on methods of communicating to parents, correcting inaccurate information posted to social media, and the cost to administer the survey. Board members expressed their support of the survey as a tool for improvement.

Teacher Update (01:54:46)

Mr. Broad and Mr. Richman presented a PowerPoint on the January 2016 Climate Report citing their focus would be on the area of support as an addition to the Superintendent’s three-prong approach to increasing greater levels of success in student achievement. These support measures would also include recommendations for improvement in the areas of communication, evaluation, and ongoing climate initiatives. They also presented survey stats, interpretations, and direct aspects of support. Discussion ensued on the use of the data, 360 evaluations and training as well as the confines of contractual time and professional development needs.

Legislative Update (02:28:20)

Mr. Collins presented information on two current House bills (HB1201 and HB1303) relating to withdrawal from a cooperative school district and their potential implications to Timberlane. HB1201 would change the voting process for withdrawal leaving the remaining towns in the school district no say in another town's withdrawal. HB1303 would affect the provisions of a minority report and further complicate the authority to submit a minority report; it would adversely affect the provisions for a buy-out by potentially leaving remaining towns without any reimbursement for their contributions to the withdrawing town. On a positive note, the bill could offer security for the withdrawing town from not being evicted through the current voting process. He offered to keep the board informed of hearing dates so that board members could participate in the legislative process.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (02:42:25)

None

PERSONNEL REPORT (02:42:30)

Dr. Metzler recommended the board accept the retirement letter of Gloria Caron (24 years with the district) and asked for special consideration that she receive the retirement incentive. He indicated she has extenuating circumstances that warrant her retirement.

MOTION: Mrs. Sherman motioned the board accept with great appreciation the retirement of Gloria Caron and to offer her the full retirement incentive; seconded by Mr. Ward.

Discussion: The January 1st deadline was noted as the reason for ineligibility.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 8-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (02:44:18)

Mrs. Sherman noted the upcoming Wellness Fair on March 16, 2016 from 3-5pm at the high school.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS (02:45:05)

None

MINUTES (02:45:10)

Minutes presented for approval were the January 7, 2016 regular board meeting and the January 14, 2016 special meeting.

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to approve the January 7, 2016 minutes as presented; Mr. Sapia seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed 8-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to approve the January 14, 2016 minutes as presented; Mr. Ward seconded.

Discussion: Board members discussed the notation referencing a not recommended vote of the school board as it relates to recommendations on the district warrant.

With no further discussion the motion passed 7-1-0 (Green opposed).

With no further business before the board, Madam Chair Steenson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Belcher
Recording Clerk

Approved by the School Board on February 18, 2016.