

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown
New Hampshire

Regular Meeting
September 1, 2011
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Aubrey called this September 1, 2011 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, William Baldwin (8:00 pm), Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, Louis Porcelli (7:40 pm), Nancy Steenson and Lisa Withee.

Board Members Absent

Peter Bealo and Robert Collins.

Student in attendance

Sierra Obi (7:40 pm)

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of School
Scott Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Donald Woodworth, Principal Timberlane Regional High School

Pledge

Madam Chair Aubrey led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The board reviewed the public and non-public minutes of the August 18, 2011 meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to approve the public minutes and the non-public minutes of the August 18, 2011 meeting. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Delegate and Individuals

None

Current Business

High School Academics Program

Mr. Strainge referred to the district progress chart depicting high school trends beginning the school year 2006-07 through 2010-11. The chart provides information in the areas of testing, achievement, climate, participation, identification, staff awards and other data. Under the area of testing he noted an upward trend in all testing areas until the recent bump with mathematics in 2010-11. Under achievements he highlighted the effects the economy has had on after graduation plans; resulting in an increase in two-year college applications and entrance into the military. In the area of climate he noted positive trends in substance abuse. Due to the new harassment/bullying categories and reporting standards, the number of offenses has increased. The number of students on the honor roll has decreased to which they will look at how those reporting stats were calculated over the previous years.

Mrs. Steenson questioned the calculations for two and four year college bound students noting the

percentages do not add up. Mr. Strainge agreed and noted they would look at those numbers again and verify the formula used. Mrs. Steenson noted that the number of student offenses has dropped significantly. Mr. Woodworth attributes this to several factors including a change in the culture of the high school and preparation of students entering the high school from the middle school. Mr. Strainge added that as someone who came into the district from another district, he credits much of the improvement to the team of administrators at the high school, noting each one of them puts students first in whatever they are doing at all times; students recognize they have advocates for them. The YEES program has also contributed.

Mr. Mascola asked about the percentages in NECAP and what the target goal is. Mr. Woodworth responded the ultimate goal is that every student will rate as a 3 or 4. He added they review the trends closely and work to address any areas of weakness or setback; always seeking constant improvement.

Mr. La Salle recognized that the goal of 100% is not achievable; however when No Child Left Behind was implemented eleven years ago it, in effect, put every school on notice that every single child counts and that schools must try as hard as they can to provide an opportunity of success for each one. This effort is reflected in other areas besides testing scores, i.e. suspensions, discipline issues, dropout rates, etc. It also focused on HQT – being highly qualified in a subject area.

Mr. Woodworth stated the district has built programs and improved facilities and instructional techniques as a means to move towards improvement. Regarding the dropout rate, it was noted that the change in the law (18 years old to dropout) and the GED Option program has contributed to the district's success in lowering it. Mr. La Salle explained the GED Option process and rigor of the GED test as well as the difference between just taking the test and going through the GED Plus Program.

Mr. Strainge then went on to publically thank all the individuals who contributed to the compilation of data necessary to generate the progress chart. Mr. La Salle highlighted the per pupil cost of being \$500 less than state average. Mr. Woodworth outlined the Running Start program at Mr. Mascola's request.

Mr. Strainge indicated he would continue the collection of data necessary to complete the report and present to board members as part of the District report scheduled for the next board meeting.

Madam Chair Aubrey noted the span of data in the progress report reflects a great deal of effort and time of dedicated district staff members.

Policies

Mr. La Salle presented policies BBAB, BEDG, DIA, GBE, GBEA, GBEAA, GBEBA, GDG, GDM, DGO and procedure GDO-R for first reading.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to accept the above-mentioned policies for first reading, seconded by Mr. Mascola. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle reported out on a very successful school opening, noting first day of school enrollment numbers. He also noted bussing was typical for first day operations with some route changes and new drivers. The district did experience an issue with the special education transportation operations in the area of communications made to parents to review details of the transportation procedures. In most cases, communication was made, but there was a handful of communication not completed to satisfaction. Mrs. Hodgkins has addressed the matter with Provider. Board member reviewed the opening day report as presented.

Personnel

Mr. La Salle recommended the board nominate Jennifer Cairns to the position of Pollard TLC Special Education Teacher.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to accept the nomination of Jennifer Cairns at the recommendation of the Superintendent. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. La Salle recommended the board accept the resignation of Robert Dawson, Assistant Principal at the TRHS with 18 years district service.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Dawson at the recommendation of the Superintendent. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. La Salle indicated that the resignation of Mr. Dawson began a while ago, thus no surprise to the district. They are now working through the process of moving forward with an internal candidate. They have taken the opportunity to restructure the position by moving a current administrator to the open 50% curriculum position (humanities) and hire someone for a part-time night division assistant principal.

He stated this summer's preparation for the opening of school was challenging this year with personnel and facilities issues; he attributes the districts success in getting ready to the incredible staff.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Sierra Obi reported on the first day of school; homeroom was smooth and the classrooms were exciting and everyone is glad to be back. She updated on the district's sporting teams. Feedback from freshmen was positive except for the complaint about crowded hallways.

Mrs. Steenson attended the freshmen orientation evening and the athletic awareness night. She also noted Mrs. Nancy Barcelos made the cover of the Carriage Towne News. Mrs. Withee announced upcoming facilities tour dates and the Facilities Committee meeting. Mrs. Kosta also attended the freshmen orientation although it coincided with Pollard's open house. Madam Chair Aubrey announced the upcoming Safety Committee meeting and reported on the Sandown North 10-year celebration.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll

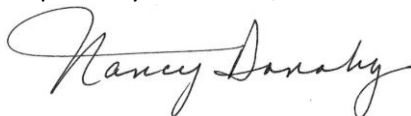
Done

Other

None

Having no further business before the board Madam Chair Aubrey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk