

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

Regular Meeting
February 3, 2011
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
Plaistow, NH

Order

Madam Chair Kosta called the meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Paone, Mr. Porcelli, Mrs. Steenson, Mrs. Withee and Mr. Briggs (Student Representative arrived at 9pm)

Board Members Not in Attendance

Mr. Baldwin

Administrators Present

Mr. La Salle, Superintendent
Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator
Mr. Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Mr. Hughes, Director of Facilities
Mr. Woodworth, Principal of TRHS

Pledge

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

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Withee, seconded by Mr. Mascola

Voted: To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2011 Regular meeting with changes. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-1, Mr. Paone abstained.**

Delegations and Individuals

Student Council Report

Community Agent Nick Delfino reported Spirit Week is scheduled Monday, March 7th through Saturday, March 12th. He reviewed the events which include Mismatch Day, Sports Day, Game Night, Dress up like a Video Character Day, and Decades Day which include the 1920's through the 1990's. The festivities will conclude on Saturday evening with students invited to attend a school dance. The board thanked him for his report.

Current Business

French Student Exchange Program

TRHS French Teacher Beth Runnels presented information for French students to coordinate an exchange program with students from Lycee Estic in Saint-Dizier, France that will allow the student of Lycee Estic to visit Timberlane in October of 2011 and selected French students from Timberlane Regional High School to visit Lycee Estic in April of 2012. She reviewed the activities of both groups and informed the Board of the educational benefits of the proposed exchange that include establishing strong bonds between the two groups as well as experiencing firsthand knowledge of the French educational process and culture.

Ms. Runnels qualified that junior and senior students would be selected for this program through an application process with the estimated cost of \$2,000 per student. Mr. Mascola inquired how the trip would be funded and Mrs. Runnels confirmed that fundraisers would be organized to finance this trip.

On a motion by Mr. Mascola, seconded by Mr. Collins

Voted: To approve the Franco-American Exchange program with travel for Timberlane students April 22 to

April 30th, 2012 with a two-day school waiver for attendance. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion carried 8-0-0.**

Department Report Facilities

Mr. Hughes, Director of Facilities reported there are 700,000 square feet of district buildings. His staff of 37 employees maintains the district's high standard within each building. Each member of his crew is flexible to address seasonal issues as well as their normal tasks. He provided the example of recent snow removal due to the unusual large amount of snow build up after repeated storms. The grounds crews have done a great job clearing the snow from the parking areas and providing a clear and safe view for drivers. He continued to report due to the extra snow fall this year the amount budgeted for snow removal has been exhausted as of January 15, 2011.

He then informed the board of future projects including Lewis Engineering who will create a report similar to the Crab Tree report for the kitchens that will address the water systems throughout the district. It will show the quantity and quality of the water in each building as well as the immediate, short and long term goals. The estimate for this project is \$40,000 but Mr. Hughes is looking to reduce that cost since the SAU office and the Performing Arts Center will not be included in the study. The report will be used for long term planning.

Mr. La Salle noted the challenges relating to the water within the district. Mr. Hughes noted the recent changes in the New Hampshire laws that relate to the standards as well as the quarterly reporting schedule which is now required monthly. Mr. Collins inquired if the estimated \$40,000 for the engineering report was for the report only and no work. Mr. Hughes replied affirmatively and noted it will be a snap shot in time.

Mr. La Salle noted the concerns for the district are the source and path of the water, the internal plumbing and conservation issues and options. He also reported that other engineering firms were not contacted for an estimate because few companies due this type of reporting; Lewis Engineering knows the district history and the buildings. No contact has been signed to date. Mr. Collins asked if the estimate is within the normal range and if it is in the budget. Mr. La Salle noted that not all schools would be done at once. He provided an example that the two schools targeted first would be Pollard and Atkinson Academy and then decisions would be made going forward as needed.

Mr. Hughes proposed another future project as the server room at the SAU office. This room houses the main computer servers for the district and it is important they run continuously. The current climate system does not operate below 30 degrees. If this climate system shuts down the servers will continue to run and the room will reach 80 degrees within twenty minutes of the failure of the climate control system which can shut down the servers. A new self contained system is needed with exhaust vented outside of the building. A new climate system design is being requested.

At the high school a new window tinting product was purchased from Vista. It attaches to the window creating a seal that reduces the heating/cooling loss. It is expected to change a single pane window's efficiency to a double pane as well as reduce the UV rays. It is an affordable option for the high school. The vendor is currently seeking grant money to help reduce the cost.

Mr. La Salle noted in the past six years the district-wide focus has been on problem boilers. Danville should have their boiler replaced with this summer's project list. Right now the district does not have the capacity for redundancy on the heating systems district-wide.

Mr. Collins inquired about the condition of roofs throughout the district; Mr. Hughes explained that the roofs are rated for a snow load to 8 pounds per cubic foot. They can hold up to 75 pounds per cubic foot. Snow has been removed where necessary. He will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Midterms and Finals Update

Mr. Woodworth reported students are on task and not leaving early since mid-terms are no longer part of the course curriculum. He presented the mid-year report noting the goals of competency assessment and the amount and accuracy of the assessment. He reported on a teachers' survey that 99% reported having the same or increased time for instruction and they are comfortable with the level of competency-based assessments. He stated a 5.4% failure rate in the 2010-2011 school year which is a reduction from the previous year. Mr. Collins inquired how the change to the mid-term assessment was communicated to

parents. Mr. Woodworth noted that students and teachers were notified and notices were sent home as well as via parents' night and the news. The survey responses were discussed.

2010-2011 School Calendar

Mr. La Salle opened the discussion by informing the board they have an option to modify the current school year calendar. One suggestion would be to change the professional development day scheduled for April 22 to a school day. This change would allow students as of today to end the school year with an early release day on June 22. Madam Chair Kosta inquired if this change would affect the attendance at the high school. Mr. La Salle noted 80% of students attend school on average on the day before a vacation. He stated that if students had scheduled plans made in advance he would be flexible on the attendance issue. Mrs. Steenson and Mr. Collins echoed that parents plan vacations when the school calendar is finalized and they should not be asked to be flexible. They are concerned since it is only half way through the winter and a change to the calendar is being presented. They requested this calendar change proposal be postponed until the next school board meeting. Madam Chair Kosta agreed to put the proposed calendar change on the February 17, 2011 School Board agenda.

2011-2012 School Calendar

Mr. La Salle presented a first draft of the 2011-2012 school calendar and noted the vacation schedules do not match Massachusetts school vacation schedules. Furthermore, Pinkerton Academy and Salem school district calendars will need to be considered to coordinate certain programs. He also noted that 2012 is a leap year so a late start is also an option.

Mr. Collins suggested creating a Calendar Committee to coordinate the information and present three options to the board. Mr. La Salle noted that feedback from the Timberlane Teachers Association (TTA) is always taken into consideration when creating the calendars. He also pointed out he is not in favor of the practice by some districts to begin and end the school year with a professional development day.

On a motion by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Mascola

Voted: To approve forming a committee to research and organize options for the 2011-2012 school year calendar.

Discussion: Mrs. Aubrey expressed her concern about a limited time frame for a committee to research, organize and present options for the 2011-12 school year calendar. Mr. Paone agreed and noted that the TTA and the district administrators should be included in this committee. Mr. Collins stated he would like the calendar discussions to transpire in a committee setting to reduce the amount of time the board spends discussing this matter. Mrs. Withee stated the importance for the board to understand each other's opinions on this matter and work together to arrive at an acceptable calendar.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion failed 1-7-0. (Mrs. Aubrey, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Paone, Mr. Porcelli, Mrs. Steenson and Mrs. Withee opposed)

Mr. Collins asked for the survey results from the report cards to which Mr. La Salle noted that parents would appreciate a scheduled half day for parent conferences in late October. Mr. Collins inquired if another half day could be scheduled for the second trimester as well for parent/teacher conferences. He also noted that if four makeup days were scheduled after February vacation and snow days were an issue, these days could be used. If makeup days are not needed, the students would have a longer vacation. Mr. Paone suggested using February vacation versus adding days to the current vacation. Mrs. Aubrey noted the calendar needs to align with Pinkerton and Salem school districts. Mr. La Salle will review the options and noted that the calendar must incorporate 180 instructional days.

Mr. La Salle noted that the only early release day proposed is the last day of school. He also stated substitutes are placed in classrooms when teachers are pulled in small groups for professional development. Mr. Collins requested the number of days teachers have been pulled from the classrooms for professional development.

Policies

Mr. La Salle presented policies BA, BJ, CCB, CE, CF, CH, CHCA, DA, DB, DBB, DBC, JLCF for a first reading and JLCFA for repeal and reference.

On a motion by Mrs. Aubrey, seconded by Mr. Mascola

Voted: To approve the first reading of policies BA, BJ, CCB, CE, CF, CH, CHCA, DA, DB, DBB, DBC, JLCF and JLCFA for repeal and reference. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the**

motion passed unanimously 8-0-0.

Mr. La Salle noted that legislation from President Obama's school food programs should include community, family and education.

Personnel

Mr. La stated he would like to present the retirement of:

- Diane Rothwell PAC Coordinator/Secretary (21 years with the District)
 - No action was required by the board

The board wished Mrs. Rothwell well in her retirement and thanked her for her years of service. Mr. Briggs extended his wishes and noted what an honor it has been to work with Mrs. Rothwell.

Administrator's Report

Mr. La Salle reviewed the criteria he considers when making weather-related decisions relative to delayed openings and school cancellations. His number one concern is the safety of the students. He must consider weather predications and the condition of the schools' parking lots and student/parent access. Additionally, he must take into account the condition of public and private roads and driveways. He reiterated again that student safety is his overriding concern.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Withee noted that Tuesday, February 15th is the next scheduled Facilities meeting that will be held at the SAU office at 8:30 am. Mrs. Aubrey noted that the Safety meeting will follow the Facility meeting at 10:30 am. Mr. Mascola reported the Community Relations Committee met this evening and will present a newsletter for final Board approval and authorization for mailing at the February 17th School Board meeting. Mr. Collins asked if the auditor's letter could be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Mr. Stokinger reviewed the auditor's information and time line schedules, of which some of the information is estimated since all the areas are not fully processed and returned to the SAU office when audited.

Vendor and Payroll

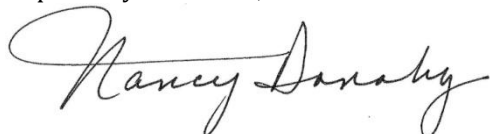
Done

Other

Mr. Collins asked to discuss the monetary transfer of funds for Pupil Personnel Services. Mr. La Salle noted that due to circumstances beyond the District's control certain areas of required services have been running over the budgeted amount and a transfer from another budget line was necessary. Mr. La Salle will provide the information from which budget line the money was transferred and additional detailed information at the next meeting.

With no further business, Chairwoman Kosta adjourned the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk