

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

Regular Meeting
February 17, 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

Mr. Collins (7:40 pm), Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Paone, Mr. Porcelli (7:35 pm), Mrs. Steenson, Mrs. Withee and Mr. Briggs (Student Representative)

Board Members Not in Attendance

Mrs. Aubrey and Mr. Baldwin

Administrators Present

Mr. La Salle, Superintendent
Mr. Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Holland, Director of Technology
Mrs. Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Mr. Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Heuer, Technology Coordinator

Pledge

Madam Chair Kosta requested the Middle School students in attendance lead 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 February 3, 2011 (regular meeting), February 10, 2011 (deliberative session, and special meeting after the deliberative session) as written. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Delegations and Individuals

Student Council Report

Community Agent Nick Delfino reported Student Council members attended the State meeting in Raymond. The keynote speaker of this event was an attorney who spoke on the new anti-bullying law and its application and usage. He reported the group then broke into smaller groups and discussed Facebook, Internet safety and the proper use for these tools as related to school activities and social networking.

Upcoming fund raising events include a Fun Festival scheduled for March 5th where student council members will create booths with fun games for the elementary age students. The student council members look forward to a good turnout and fun for all who attend. Spirit Week is scheduled for March 7th to 12th.

Timberlane Regional School Board Student Representative

Mr. Briggs reported that Mr. Woodworth kicked off the second semester with a motivating rally outlining students' rules and expectations. He reported that the Division #1 State Challenge will be held at the Timberlane High School on Saturday February 19th, and the girls' and the boys' basketball teams are both performing well this season.

Current Business

Technology Department Report

Mr. Holland reported the focus for technology integration within the schools is usage to improve efficiency.

This has promoted the learning of 21st Century skills. He then introduced Mrs. Lois Paul, Technology Integration Specialist, who informed the Board that her mission is to enhance student learning with technology. She then introduced Mrs. Tricia Moore, English and History Teacher at the High School.

Mrs. Moore presented examples of student projects that utilized “Glogster” an online poster application together with “Movie Maker” software which creates videos. The project was presented showing the students’ analysis, impressions and thoughts of a specific song.

Mrs. Paul introduced Mr. Stephen Delcambre, Science Teacher at the High School. Mr. Delcambre demonstrated how he utilizes “Moodle” to educate students. He demonstrated his method to set up tests for students to take using the Moodle software, as well as the recording and storing of those test results and the instant feedback to students. This tool allows him to spend more time teaching and less time grading papers.

Mrs. Paul then introduced Mrs. Cathy Charmanski, First Grade Teacher at Danville Elementary School. Mrs. Charmanski demonstrated the “Mobi” laptop tablet that allows students to work interactively on a tablet at their desk that will project to a main screen in the classroom. Students are able to work as a group or independently while participating in the learning process. She reported she uses this technology in math, reading and problem solving lessons daily.

Mrs. Paul then introduced Mrs. Missy DiBenedetto, Second grade Teacher at Sandown North Elementary School. Mrs. DiBenedetto presented a document camera and demonstrated how she uses this technology in her classroom. She learned quickly that the benefits of this tool allow her to share student’s work with the class. She can zoom in and manipulate articles. This is engaging to students and they create new ways to utilize the technology. She stated she is able to educate at every opportunity and uses the tool daily in reading, writing and math. She noted the document camera aids visual learners and provides immediate feedback as well as magnifies details on the fly.

Mrs. Paul then introduced Mrs. Terri Costa, Seventh Grade Science Teacher at the Middle School. Mrs. Costa also uses a document camera in her classroom. However, she noted her camera was purchased with ARRA funds and is of a higher quality with more options than Mrs. DiBenedetto’s. This tool has students excited about learning. She introduced two of her students, Anthony Rullo and Riley McGurn, who demonstrated how they were able to access the Internet to research and document information regarding owl droppings. They obtained and created pictures of owl droppings. The students then showed how the equipment was able to show each step of their dissection of the dropping and the results. The students created a presentation with video, sights, sounds and detailed pictures of their research, documentation and dissection of owl droppings showing the actual bones of small creatures that the owls had digested.

Mrs. Paul then introduced Mrs. Erica Drenzo, Seventh Grade Science Teacher at the Middle School. Mrs. Drenzo demonstrated the benefits of the “Moodle” software as it’s applied to home school interaction. She noted the parental access capability provides a clear understanding for parents of their child’s progress. She noted the options for home school interaction allowing student access to daily lessons. Students can utilize its glossary, vocabulary, student guides, web site links, quiz features, form blogs and open discussions. The communication between home and school is bridged and students are engaged in the learning benefits this software offers them.

Mrs. Paul then introduced Ms. Michelle Desroches, Art Teacher at the Middle School. Ms. Desrocher demonstrated the “Artsonia” link from the Timberlane Middle School website. She explained that the software allows students to scan, stretch and enhance the image different ways. She then presented an “Animoto” video of students’ enhanced stretches. She noted that videos like the one presented are shown in the lunch room daily for all to enjoy.

Mrs. Paul then presented Mrs. Betti Percival and Mrs. Christy Hubley, who facilitate the District’s Distance Learning Program. Mrs. Percival and Mrs. Hubley noted that Distance Learning is provided to all students from kindergarten through high school. Students participate in interactive presentations throughout the school year. The Distance Learning Program has many uses which includes allowing older students to teach younger students on Internet safety. Mrs. Paul stated she was pleased to present this wonderful technology in all classrooms throughout the District and thanked the Board and the public for their continued support.

At 8:45 pm Madam Chair Kosta announced a five minute break. The meeting resumed at 8:50 pm.

NECAP Report

Mr. Strainge presented a report of the NECAP scores from the Middle and High schools. He noted the report reflects a comparison from the 2008, 2009 and 2010 school years. The information was broken out in groups by percentages of level in Reading and Math for grades 6, 7, 8 and 11. He reminded the Board that the testing results are not a cohort report. He then noted the importance of students being in attendance on the day of the test and the impact it has on the results. He reviewed the results, curriculum changes and other contributing factors.

Mr. Mascola expressed his concern for students who are not in attendance the day of the testing or if a student does not take a test at all and how it affects the results. Mr. La Salle noted that students with long term illnesses may receive a waiver if they are out of school for the entire testing period. Mr. Collins inquired the reason for the difference regarding the low State versus the District scores. He would like to see who made Annual Yearly Progress along with the Schools In Need Of Improvement scores and plans.

Mrs. Killen presented the elementary school NECAP results for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 for Reading and Math and 5th grade Writing. She reminded the Board that this report is a snap shot in time only.

She noted that the third grade outperformed the State and this is the first Kindergarten class to take the test. 91% achieved level 3 or 4 which she believes links back to Kindergarten. Fourth grade was mixed and the fifth grade results for Reading indicate they also outperformed the State which she contributes to the Reading Street Program. She reported the sixth grade had mixed results and noted all 4th grade Math results dipped except Atkinson Academy. Another program she noted as contributing to positive results is the Response to Instruction. She then reported that the Principal of each school will analyze the information with their staff to understand and utilize the results. She thanked the teachers and noted if the Board has any questions to please forward them to her as she will be glad to get the answers to them.

The Board inquired about the alternate assessment and elementary Math results. Mr. La Salle noted three factors to consider in the elementary results are the 1) score comparison, 2) grade level and 3) cohort groups. For the alternate assessment factors he noted consideration must be given to the number of students in this category. This number can change drastically or not at all yearly.

School Calendar

Mr. La Salle presented three drafts of 2011-2012 school year calendars. The first draft reflected a start date of August 31; and draft two of August 29 with Professional Development in November, February and April. The third draft consists of build in makeup days in the middle of the school year. He explained if the days were needed for makeup, then school would be scheduled for those days. If the days were not needed then school would not be scheduled and the students and staff would have an extended winter vacation. Mrs. Withee expressed her concern that the early start calendar would not align with Salem and Pinkerton Academy and asked if the start dates for those districts were available. Mr. La Salle noted that information was not available at this time. Mr. Collins inquired if a report can show how much time teachers are out of the classrooms. Mrs. Killen noted that most elementary time out of the classroom is spent on writing and reading. Sessions are also held after school and on some Saturdays. There are also staff meetings and systemic PLC's weekly.

Mrs. Withee noted that if the makeup days in the middle of the school year are not needed, it is a long span of time away from school during the school year. Mr. Collins noted it was a suggestion/idea to be considered. Mrs. Steenson noted her concern for working parents during that time. The 2011-12 school year calendar discussion continued without action and will be place on the next meeting's agenda.

Policies

Mr. Feneberg presented policies for a second reading and adoption BA, BJ, CCB, CE, CF, CH, CHCA, DA, DB, DBB, DBC, JLCF, CBG and JLCFA for repeal and reference.

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

Voted: To approve the second reading of policies BA, BJ, CCB, CE, CF, CH, CHCA, DA, DB, DBB, DBC, JLCF, CBG and JLCFA for repeal and reference.

Discussion:

Mr. Collins suggested changing the wording in policy DB "appropriate" to "high quality" to keep aligned with the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Collins made a motion to amend the motion on the floor, seconded by Mr. Porcelli for a vote to have policy DB replace the word “appropriate” with “high quality.” Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote to amend the motion; the motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote on the amended motion; the motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Administrator’s Report

Mr. La Salle asked that the Board review the annual report on the School Board website and provide any feedback to Mrs. Belcher. Mrs. Aubrey requested Mr. La Salle address the recent news of the State Department budget. Mr. La Salle noted that there is a move to remove the mandatory Kindergarten which he noted is a political and financial move. He reported all districts in New Hampshire currently have mandatory Kindergarten and if the State declares Kindergarten is not mandatory then State funding for Kindergarten would cease. He then noted that the impact of the cuts recommended by the Governor of New Hampshire are a proposal and would be subject to a long approval process. Some of the recommendations are for adequate aid to be funded at last year’s rate. Catastrophic aid would be a loss for the District as well as building aid. The State’s shifting of expenses from the State to the taxpayer is most concerning as is the recommendation that the State’s portion of the contribution to New Hampshire Retirement be assumed by the District, hence the tax payer.

He reminded the Board that the 2011-12 school year budget was fixed during the Deliberative Session and the proposed recommendations from the Governor would mean a \$1.3 million cut in funding. It is an important battle and should be watched closely. Mr. Collins suggested writing a letter to their State Representatives and folks should call them to highlight the impact of the results of the proposed cuts. Mr. La Salle agreed with this mind set since the proposed changes actually put the financial burden on taxpayers. Mr. Mascola agreed to submit a letter to the editor from the Community Relations Committee.

Personnel

Mr. La Salle presented the resignation of:

- Peter Fisher, TRHS SPED Teacher (8 Years with the District)

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

Voted: To accept the resignation of Peter Fisher, TRHS SPED Teacher. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Mr. La Salle requested an early release from contract:

- Jacqueline Oros, TRMS Asst Principal requested to be released as of 3/11/2011

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

Voted: To approve the early release from contract on for Jacqueline Oros, TRMS Assistant Principal on March 11, 2011. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mr. Mascola asked that Board members consider accepting the “School Board Notes” newsletter and approve up to \$2,000 for the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

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

Voted: To approve the “School Board Notes” newsletter Vol. 2 No. 1 as written with up to \$2,000 to print mail newsletter.

Amend: Mr. Collins made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to remove the words “from the Superintendent” from the first line. Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote to amend the motion which carried unanimously 7-0-0.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Kosta called the vote; the amended motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

Madam Chair Kosta stated she attended the Professional Development and Curriculum Committee meetings.

She then reported on the Safety Committee meeting attended by Mrs. Aubrey.

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Correspondence

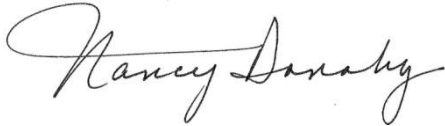
None

Other

Mr. Collins requested an update on the Reading Street Program. Mr. La Salle suggested Mr. Collins review the results of the end of the unit tests online via the SharePoint site.

With no further business, Chairwoman Kosta adjourned the meeting at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Danahy".

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk